

The 2024 Annual Report of Free Flight Indoor Committee

By Dmytro Silin, MAAC #86654, Committee Chair

In 2024 our committee has had a lot of discussions on how to promote the hobby and engage more people. One thing we all have agreed on – the importance of social media. It's easy to post some pictures and videos of your flying session. Tag your city or location and see if someone would want to come to the next one. In every column I mention our Indoor Free Flight group on Facebook. By the end of 2024 it had more than 14,500 people from all over the world! There is tons of information, discussions and pictures in it.

Two online Postal contests were held in 2024. The first one was for the WASP design originating in 1940s. It's a model that could be built from hobby store balsa. It has a very simple design and true antique looks. The event ran till May. All the information can be found on <https://indoorfreeflight.com/wasp.html> and on our Facebook group. There were 21 entries with a maximum flight time of 2 minutes and 41 seconds (flown in 55 feet site). My model flew only 45 seconds in a 20 feet hangar. The site had a lot of ducts and pipes at the ceiling. I was putting in only 40-45% of maximum turns for a safe, no touch flight. The flight scores were reset on May 1. The event, however, was extended till September 1.

There was another Postal Contest for even simpler models - Sky Battle 2024. Details can be found here: <https://www.skybattle.org>

The major update for 2024 comes from our F1D team. The 2024 World Championship took place on March 23-26 in Salt Mine, Slănic - Prahova, Romania. The venue is a Category 4 site with a maximum height of 56 meters. Quite a few World and European Championships have been held at this site since 1980s, including the 2022 World. This time our Senior team was the same as in 2022 – Vlad Linardic, Arend Borst, and Dmytro Silin. Anna Silina and Christina Borst joined us as official helpers.

Preparations went rather smoothly; everyone came well prepared. Last time we flew together was at the US Indoor National in 2023. After that only Vlad had a chance to practice in high ceiling venue – he went to the Salt Mine several times. This year our team accomplished the goal of the last 6 years – we made it to the podium and took home bronze medals! Canada F1D team was on the podium last time in 1996 (bronze) and in 1988 and 1990 before that (silver both times). Then, there was a change of generations. The new full team was finally formed in 2017. The 2018 World was a disaster for us due to unexpected bad weather. The 2020 was cancelled due to COVID. In 2022 we tried to compete for the medals but came only 5th as a team. In 2024 all the efforts in building and flying finally paid off!

Yuan Kang Lee became Word Champion for the third time. Vlad, Arend and I finished 7, 11, and 12, respectively. We all bested our official high scores. I flew 25:16, Arend did 25:24, and Vlad had 26:33 – new Canadian F1D record for Category IV. Our team’s score improved since the last Championship by 9 minutes. Not only it allowed us to win the bronze, but also, we were much closer to the 2nd place (Romania) than the 4th (UK) team was close to us. Vlad came 7th and beat two Romanians flyers. If Arend and I had flew as much as Vlad – second team place would have been within reach.

A photo album can be found here:

<https://1drv.ms/a/s!ArFV8Z2Phbz8hYILDY0Vid0HSxkgkw?e=ciOyDo>

Place	Name	Country	Flight 1	Flight 2	Flight 3	Flight 4	Flight 5	Flight 6	Score
1	Yuan Kang Lee	USA	24.22	25.21	29.41	28.06	28.57	25.33	58.38
2	Brett Sanborn	W/C	24.34	24.41	28.47	0	28.01	8.01	56.48
3	Corneliu Mangalea	ROU	26.34	25.26	28.1	28.21	25.21	0	56.31
7	Vladimir Linardic	CAN	24.14	8.53	26.01	26.33	25.38	25.12	52.34

11	Arend Borst	CAN	23.52	19.59	0.15	21.05	25.24	0.44	49.16
12	Dmytro Silin	CAN	20.2	21.53	22.15	22	25.16	9.46	47.31

This summer John Copper from Ottawa, Craig Limber from Calgary, and Arend Borst and Edmund Liem from Vancouver have joined the Indoor Free Flight Committee. Now we have representatives from zones E, H, G, A, and L!

The Committee submitted two recommendations for the AZM and AGM.

The first one is about team trials. Current MAAC policy states that national team trials must be held on Canadian soil. In Canada, we haven't had a National Indoor Free Flight Championship since 1999. Since then, we do not have access to flying sites of Category II and higher (15+ meters). In Canada we only have access to school gyms. They are usually 6-8 meters high. Access is limited to 2-3 hours once a week. The F1D World Championships are usually held in Category 3 or 4 sites, with height of 30 meters or more. Running the trials in a 6m school gym won't be representative of one's performance in high site. The Indoor Free Flight Committee had a vote and the motion to propose the rule change passed. It was a unanimous decision of all the candidates to have the trials in the same place where the next World Championship will be in two years - Kibbie Dome, Moscow, ID, USA. We get a whole week of flying for 10 hours each day.

The second recommendation was about national records. Current ruling allows setting of Canadian National Records for Indoor Free Flight in Canada, at World Championships, and as an exception in the US. Reasons for this were that we inherited AMA rulebooks and that we had a reciprocal membership agreement between AMA and MAAC. Due to the lack of high enough flying sites, same reason as for team trials, most of the Canadian records for the last 30+ years were set in the USA! We don't have a reciprocal agreement with AMA anymore. Further, a couple of years ago the FAI introduced the F1D World Cup, a Category 2 event. Later F1N class was added, the next ones will be F1R, F1L, and F1M. Right now, the Indoor World Cup has three stops

- two in the US and one in Romania. Our own Vlad Linardic runs a competition every year in Croatia. Next year it will be added to the World Cup as well. The F1D team is already facing problems with the current ruling. Several flights at Otto Hints Cup in Romania were not counted as record attempts.

This July Arend Borst had 28:16 flight at Kibbie Dome Annual in the USA. His performance was outstanding. With five flights exceeding 27 minutes, he placed 3rd. His best flight, however, can't be counted as a record attempt under the current rules. Both mentioned competitions, Otto Hints Memorial and Kibbie Dome Annual, are the FAI sanctioned World Cups, Category 2 events.

For the 2025 our Committee registered first-ever F1D Canada World Cup. It will take place during the 2025 Kibbie Dome annual event.

The Markham Indoor Flyers, as a group has existed now for about 50 years, and at present is probably the only club in Canada specifically dedicated to Indoor Free Flight. In order to increase participation in 2024, we arranged an agreement with our school board for seniors only, and with backup funds, have provided flying at no cost to our members for this year and possibly the next few. We meet almost every Friday night of the school year in Markham, Ontario, and along with sports models, almost every MAAC (AMA) class from Ministick to Unlimited including Manhattan Cabin, 50ma Electric power and Gliders, has been flown in our 25' gym this year. The Flying Aces Embryo and Scale models as well as Bostonians are popular with some flights over 2 minutes. It should be noted that our member Garry Hunter, has a web page (www.theplanpage.com) providing scans of plans and articles from old model magazines with a special area on Earl Stahl plans. E mail gthunter@theplanpage.com.



Arend Borst – 3rd place at 2024 Kibbie Dome Annual.