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PAIN AT THE PUMP?



EVENT COVERAGE

Iguana CUP honduras2008

THE HONDURANS HOST
The Premier Event In Central America

Words and Photos: [unreadable]

ARRIVING IN TEGUCIGALPA ACTUALLY FELT SOMEWHAT NORMAL, this being the third year I have attended the Iguana cup. My friend Allister Stephan met me at the airport and we proceeded to the hotel. This year, with Bobby Watts in attendance as well, a younger group of flyers made an effort to show us a good time around the city. One of my favorite parts about this trip is the food, and this year I was looking forward to it as we really don't get anything like it in the States. Much of the food is similar to Mexican, but less spicy, and with different beans, tortillas, and cheeses. They make many different dishes with plantains; in fact, fast food restaurants often serve fried plantains as opposed to fried potatoes.





The only thing taller than the Hondurans is the...
Diligence
Montserrat
Marina Guzman
Dominica

PRESS CONFERENCE

The Hondurans are only able to put on such a great show because of their relationship with their sponsors. A press conference was held on Friday night, and it's something that must be seen to be believed. Many of the sponsors have booths and banners set up to promote their products, and the media is there to learn about the event. During the press conference, the club thanks the international pilots who come to participate, they explain what the event will be about, and they take the time to thank each sponsor. At the field, many of the sponsors have booths set up with products and girls to promote them. The sponsors include prema FM, Romantica 106.1 FM, Radio Panamericana, Z 103, television station Canal 10, La Tribuna, TACA Airlines, Espresso Americano, Distrito Hotelero Plaza San Martin, Ditel phone books, Banco Ficohsa, Rexona Women, Banco Atlantida, Nestle, Axe body spray, Suzuki, Global Corp, Infina water, Elev School, Aeropuetos De Honduras, Bull, Yummies snacks, Maggi soup, Tigo cell phones, do, and Tecate beer. It never ceases to amaze me that the Hondurans have accomplished all that they have in terms of putting on a well sponsored show.





GETTING SET UP

Friday was spent getting things organized at the flying field. We all flew a couple of flights to get used to the altitude, as the field is at nearly 4,000 feet. The humidity and temperature were high, and it really affected the model's performance. The helicopter I brought, the MSH Protos 500, had plenty of power, and its light weight helped, but it still felt very different. Bobby Watts brought his prototype Miniature Aircraft 90, and despite the altitude, the heli flew very well. Bobby is an amazing pilot and did not disappoint. Most of his maneuvers are done extremely low to the ground, and there long periods during his flight where the helicopter never comes above head high. Bobby has helped provide input on the new MA 90 sized machine, and the model looks to have lots of potential.

Six year old wonder kid Justin Chi brought a Raptor 50 blinged out with Kasama parts, as well as a T Rex 600E, a Hurricane 550 and a Beam. Justin said his favorite helicopter right now is his Raptor. With the Kasama parts and some careful

selection of components, his Raptor comes in just over 7 ¼ pounds. Justin's flying has matured a lot. He has developed a smooth style that flows more than ever before. He used to be able to do a lot but wasn't very smooth, he now carves up the sky and is developing into a much more graceful pilot.

Saturday was kind of a slow day for the event because the Honduran soccer team played Canada in the afternoon. Saturday night after the soccer game the whole city went crazy celebrating. The streets were packed with everybody honking their horns and waving Honduran flags.



CENTRAL AMERICANS REPRESENT THEIR COUNTRIES

The Iguana cup took on a new dimension this year as pilots from all over central America arrived to represent their countries. 14 pilots came from El Salvador, and they found out about the event from my previous event coverage here in RC Heli magazine. I was honored that my exposure had helped. Among the pilots from El Salvador was 12 year old Paco Caceres and his dad Frank. Paco was flying a T rex 600N, and Frank was flying a Raptor 90 3D. The father and son duo both flew well and Paco is likely the youngest 3D heli flyer in all of Central America. Eight more pilots arrived from Guatemala, and six came from Panama. Also, pilots from around Honduras attended.



Iguana Cup

2008



LOCAL 3D FLYERS

Whereas a few years ago when I first attended there were few heli pilots and basically nobody flying 3D, the Honduras had enough 3D pilots this year to name a national 3D champion. Two young hotshots, Miguel Servellon and Richard "T-shirt" were duking it out for the top spot, but in the end the loosely organized competition went to Miguel. Frank Caceres slipped in to the 2nd place position with his smooth, predictable flying. The Hondurans have recognized RC flying as a national sport, and they have excellent sponsorships, so they are excited about grooming a local pilot. Eventually, they would like to be able to send the Honduran national 3D champion to competitions around the world. The Hondurans still have a way to go before they have a pilot that will be ready for the XFC, but their 3D champion Miguel has only been flying since January, so hopes are high.

SCALE FLYERS

Hondurans have lots of people flying scale, and Hirobo machines are popular despite the lack of local parts support. Several of the flyers from El Salvador brought scale helis as well. Benny Chi (Justin's father) spent some time with Marlon Tabora and they eventually got Marlon's Huey to fly without overheating. We were even treated to a flight in a full scale Eurocopter Ecureuil, flown by Fredy Nasser.

DEMOS

Bobby Watts and Garrett Morrison put on a tandem helicopter and airplane demo that was one of the highlights of the weekend. Without any practice except briefly going over what to do beforehand, they proceeded to wow the crowd. Garrett was flying a 37% Yak 54 of his own design, and Bobby Watts was flying his prototype Miniature Aircraft 90. Garrett started the flight by doing a snap roll right above the heli on take off. Then they proceeded to fly around together. Garrett did a spin while Bobby dropped in a pirouette alongside. Garrett did a hover with smoke on while Bobby funneled around him. They crossed knife edge going opposite directions and made it look really good. In the end, Bobby did an aerobatic auto, and Garrett did an aerobatic deadstick. If they have a chance to practice and fly more tandem flights, they could put on an amazing show. Justin flew lots of demos with his Raptor, and I had fun flying my Protos.



GETS BETTER EVERY YEAR

The hobby is growing and healthy in Honduras and Central America. This year also marked the first time a woman flew in the Iguana cup. Diana DeFiallos was flying her Kyosho Caliber 5 with her husband Kike talking her through it. As soon as the event was over this year they were going to build a new, longer runway, which the jet guys will appreciate. The Iguana cup has become something I look forward to every year, and it is so much fun to have a group of friends in Honduras. Now that more people are coming from Central America, the event is maturing into the premiere model aviation event in Central America. If you live in Central America and want to represent your country, or if you just want to see a model show like no other, the Iguana Cup in Honduras should not be missed. Check out their club website at www.aeromodelismotgu.com for more information. (TDR)



