



Canadian F1C (free flight power) World Champion Yuri Shvedenkov also flies F2A speed.

Alex Valishev and Bill Hughes have been trying to get more European flyers to visit St Louis for the annual USA and Canadian world cups in late September. I met Bill Hughes in Landres this year and he encouraged me to visit saying that the weather was usually very stable and the RAD quite good so fast flights are possible if you have the right set up. I told them that I was interested but I would need to know that I could make more than 300 kph to justify the trip. After the UK Nationals I had run out of excuses and so booked my flight and prepared to travel. The cheapest way to transport my models was with British Airways direct to Chicago. Direct flights from London to St Louis are not possible. Based upon my previous experience I try to travel non stop so that I know my model box has the best chance of travelling with me. Alex generously offered to collect me in Chicago (he lives and works there) and transport me on the 4 hour journey by road to St Louis. The journey went fine until I went to collect my baggage in Chicago. My suitcase arrived but my model box was nowhere to be seen. According to the agent all baggage had been delivered on the conveyor but there was no oversize baggage to be seen. I was thinking then that this was a complete waste of time and money as even if the model box followed it would not arrive in time for the first competition. I visited the two oversize baggage conveyors again where I was relieved to hear that some golfers had been waiting for over 30 minutes for their golf clubs to arrive and that the conveyor belt had broken down. I hung around a few minutes and the golfing bags started to arrive followed by my model box. Phew, not such a waste of time and money after all. In future I will fit Apple trackers to my luggage so I will have a better idea where they have got to.

After that Alex picked me up in his car and drove me to his house where we decamped into Yuri Shvedenkov's SUV for the journey to St Louis. Yuri is a world F1C champion who lives in Canada and flies F2A as a second event. Both he and Alex grew up in the same town in Russia. Alex chose Control Line at the model club and Yuri chose free flight. Both families are close friends with each other again after moving to the same continent for work. Alex drove from Chicago to St Louis as Yuri had already driven 10 hours by himself to get to Chicago. I was dog tired by now and it was really odd eating an evening meal on the drive down at what was for me 2am the following morning. We arrived safely at the hotel where all the competitors were housed. The hotel was only about 2 miles from the Buder park flying site. After a reasonable nights sleep I turned out for breakfast at the Cracker Barrel restaurant where all the other competitors were eating. Conveying to the waitress my breakfast order was interesting. Mid West Americans don't understand European coffee orders and again you mustn't forget the over easy or sunny side up for the eggs!



Matthieu Perret in pylon. He achieved 300.0 kph in the US World Cup but only 4th place!



Bill Hughes achieved his best ever result in the World Cup with 301.3 kph and 303.2 kph in these two competitions.



Paul Eisner in 4th round at the Canadian World Cup - best result for 2 years - 303.5 kph.