

April Fool's Record Trial, Huntsville, Alabama 1-3 April 2011

Well the first District 5 record trials for the 2011 season has come and gone and I know it has been a long cold winter this year with little boating being done over the past several months. Well I guess old man winter wanted to remind us that he can still come back if he wants to, as Friday was a rather cool day. Some winds but overcast skies, and temps. only in the 40's, and low 50's made the day just plain feel COLD!

We had a good turn out of the record trials, some from the Atlanta area, middle and east Tennessee, Florida, and some close to home from Alabama. I had forgot this was a Friday and school was in so traffic was MUCH higher than I expected and I did not arrive at the lake until 8AM, the boys had already started the unload and setup for the speed measurements. It was not long and I heard a few motors purring away in the pits getting ready to make some fast runs. I was working on my JAE 21FE prepping it for water service after a heart transplant over the winter. With David Hall pushing me up to the next level I replaced the middle of the road Leopard motor with a fire breathing Neu unit. (David has a 4S JAE that was JUST a tad slower than my JAE and I knew he would bring the heat so I had better be ready for the new challenge!) I put the new race battery pack in the JAE, taped her up and made a hot 2 lap "test". John announced the time for the run, and I had broken my old record by nearly 2 seconds! Wow that Neu motor and Hyperion LiPO's really picked up the speed! After a quick check for anything cooking inside the JAE it looked like all was well and I did not allow any of that magic smoke to get out! Well this record trials was off to a good start!

There was a good range of boats at the lake, several FE and nitro tunnel hulls, Gas Deep Vee's, Gas Cats, and the ever present riggers in Gas, nitro (and twins), and FE. Friday had cold but the winds were not real bad (not like Sunday's gale force winds) but at the same time all the drivers all had the same idea, wait for the best possible conditions to make your run! Well if we had only known Mr. Weather was playing with us, and held back the winds for Saturday and Sunday! Well at least the temps. came up and the sun was out with full force! Ron Drake put a hurt'n on the C O/B Hydro record with his new boat, shaved off just over a second off the old record.

Sat. had a very good turn out, some of our more local guys dropped by to rip up some water and measure the new boats they had built over the winter months. Several gas boats made some very close runs to the records but the high winds made life much harder for these attempts. As we have seen in the past the FE boats can drive all the way to the bottom of the lake and stick with a strong force. The poor tunnel hull was held captive by the lake and it was only after several attempts to free it (we used a drag bar pulled by the retrieve boat) the lake finally gave it up. For a while there I was thinking the lake was going to win that battle!

Sunday had a pretty bad weather report in store for us, but we had a small window of calm first thing in the morning. We arrived at the pond early (6:30AM) and the troops had already arrived and started working on boats in the parking lot! There was a small window of opportunity to make a pass with low wind and ZERO waves. The Q tunnel driven by Bill Britton set a new straight away record, that boat was flying! Then about 10AM the winds started to pick up, and by 10:30 we had full on winds and the waves started to kick up more. By 11AM the best water was long gone. Never the less Will Nichols took out his new twin gas rigger and set a new record with it. The gas twin is well rather large and weighs in with a respectable fighting weight! I pity any buoy that gets in the way...

Paul Traufler

District 5 Director

So in the end here are the new records that were set:

Bill Britton P O/B Tunnel SAW 3.639 Sec, 61.830 MPH
Bill Britton Q O/B Tunnel SAW 3.287 Sec, 68.451 MPH

David Hall N Hydro Oval 25.231 Sec, 47.560 MPH
David Hall P Hydro Oval 23.418 Sec, 51.242 MPH

Ron Drake C O/B Hydro Oval 27.718 Sec, 43.293 MPH
Ron Drake C O/B Tunnel Oval 25.561 Sec, 46.946 MPH

Julian Conde/
Mike Whitley LSG 36 Mono Oval 25.276 Sec, 47.475 MPH

Will Nichols Twin LSG Rigger Oval 24.942 Sec, 48.111 MPH

All photos by Paul Traufler



Larry working on his boats



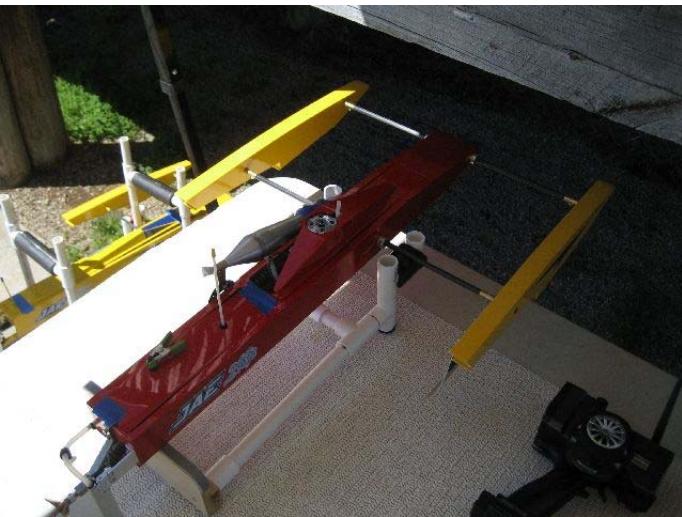
Bill Zuber's JAE GAS



David Hall's P JAE record setting boat



My JAE 12FE Ultra lite N Hydro



My JAE 21 G2



David Hall's 21 JAE SAW record boat



John Equi hard at work in the timing stand



Mike Whitley working on his mono



Will Nichols working on the gas twin hydro and a gas CAT



Mike Whitley and his Speedcraft boats, Mike set a new LSG 36 Mono speed record (Julian Conde was the driver)



Will Nichols twin gas hydro



Mark Bullard and Doc Turner out enjoying the good weather and cutting it up with new boats



Outboard gang, Jeff Widdon, Carl Van Hoten, Ron Drake, Bill Britton, Julian Conde



David Hall taking a picture of me taking a picture of him!

Doc's mono



Kip Tulous and is F mono

Bill Zuber and his Gas JAE