

Jim Richmond Open

West Baden, IN

April 11-13, 2026

The 7th annual JRO was held in the beautiful atrium of the West Baden Springs Hotel, West Baden, Indiana. Unlike last year's flooding conditions, the weather for the 2026 event couldn't have been better. Records were set on each of the three days, including a world record!

Entries were up significantly this year with 32 individuals putting up hundreds of flights. The 3-day format seems to be a popular feature vs the old 2-day format. There were moments where a dozen airplanes were in the air at one time. It was quite a sight.

Highlights of the flying were:

An impressive group of juniors and seniors flying a large variety of models. Caleb Finn set a new A-Rog record of 10:10 breaking Dave Lindley's junior record set back in 1980! Dave was on hand to congratulate him! Caleb Finn also set a new junior F1D record only to have Alexander Le top it on Saturday with a fine 20:45. Alexander then had a birthday on Sunday and proceeded to set the senior F1D record on Monday with an impressive 23:33!

Hamish Christie raised the bar in A-6 with a fantastic 11:35 besting the old record by over a minute. He set this after his allotted 5 AMA flights.

There were 2 simultaneous F1D contests being flown. The Jim Richmond Open was flown without rounds allowing the 6 official flights to be taken on any or all of the 3 days available. During this event, 4 fliers hit the 50-minute mark with only 1 second separating the top 2 places. Kang Lee came out on top with Brett Sanborn right behind him. Brett set a new AMA record with a 28:54 during his series of flights. Although this would be a World record, it didn't qualify due to only 1 timer being used.

The West Baden World Cup event was also flown and adhered to 2 rounds per day for 3 days. This saw Brett Sanborn take the top spot over Emily Torkelson. During this event, Brett did set a new World Record with a flight of 28:35 with 2 timers recording the flight.

In summary, I would like to thank all the contestants that came out to support this great event and venue. And, I'd be remiss in not acknowledging the tremendous amount of work that Dave Lindley puts in to planning and organizing the entire weekend.

Rey Mazzocco, CD