

INTRODUCTION TO RADIO CONTROL RACING

The World of Radio Control encompasses many segments of modeling including R/C planes, boats, cars, and helicopters. Pylon Racing is only one very specialized part of Radio Control.

The planes seen in competition are scale model replicas of the Goodyear Racers seen at such events as the Reno Air Races. Typical wingspan of these models averages four feet with an area of 450 square inches. Weight must be a minimum of five pounds.

Each radio which is used to control the planes is tuned to a specific frequency. As long as no two aircraft are on the same frequency, several different models may be flown at one time. Effective radio range is approximately five miles, line of sight. However, visual orientation is usually limited to less than one mile.

The engines which power these model racers are limited to .40CID and develop in the neighborhood of 2 H.P. In flight, shaft speeds turn in excess of 20,000 RPM. On Nitro-methane based fuels, these aircraft are capable of speeds between 125 MPH to 175 MPH. Although rare, radio failure is possible and all spectators are cautioned to maintain vigilance of these high performance planes while they are airbourne.

Pilots are awarded points for finishing place each heat. After all heats are completed, high point accumulation determines the winner.

PYLON COURSE

The pylon course — Ten laps in a heat, 2½ miles . . . The flagmen at the single pylon (the scatter pylon) indicate when to turn . . . Any cut requires an extra lap. Two cuts bring disqualification.

