Flying, Driving or Boating, Horizon Hobby brands deliver RC excitement that’s second to none. **This is Serious Fun.™**

Find them all at your favorite hobby store or go to www.horizonhobby.com/storelocatorview to find a retailer near you.

Learn to Fly Quicker with Virtual Instructor

**The Bind-N-Fly Possibilities**

**Cutting-Edge Blade Team**
OW! 20,000! That’s how many people showed up at Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport in Maine for our first Horizon US Airmeet. Airmeet was conceived four years ago by our colleagues at Horizon Hobby Germany. Their idea was to bring together the best RC pilots and products with full-scale airshow acts in a festival-like atmosphere the general public could enjoy.

It worked. The annual event has quickly grown into one of Europe’s premier RC attractions. This year we decided to bring Airmeet to the US, and judging by the enthusiastic response from the public, it’s destined to become a hit here as well. Just check out the Airmeet wrap-up in this issue. You’ll see exactly what I’m talking about.

If you missed Airmeet, we hope you’ll have the chance to come visit us at this year’s iHobby Expo in Cleveland. We’ll have plenty of exciting new releases on hand, and you’ll be able to see them all during the consumer days of the show, October 13 and 14. Even if you can’t make that, I’m sure there will be regular posts on our Facebook page from the show floor, so “like” us if you haven’t already.

It’s been a big year and the best is yet to come.

Joe
The HobbyZone Firebird Stratos airplane is beautiful and sophisticated looking like it’s designed for an experienced RC pilot. Yet surprisingly it’s totally meant for the person who’s never had any experience flying. Overflowing with innovative features, what truly makes this trainer an achievement are the electronics developed that make learning to fly remarkably easier and more fun.

Virtual Instructor™ technology is a brand new concept in RC flight electronics, and it’s a standard feature of the Firebird Stratos. It works automatically, and even though the feature can’t talk like a real expert RC instructor, what it does can be seen in the air and felt by the pilot as if such a person were standing right next to you. And just like a real instructor, it not only helps prevent a lot of the mistakes common to beginners, at the same time it allows the pilot to learn from those mistakes safely. It even helps fly the model in a steady manner, which gives the pilot time to learn control and feel more at ease resulting in a flight experience that’s more fun – not scary.

Overall, Virtual Instructor technology helps prevent a crash. But it’s a benefit that makes it easier than ever to become an RC pilot. If you’ve always dreamed of flight, then the HobbyZone Firebird Stratos airplane and Virtual Instructor technology can get you flying fast.

**MY FAVORITE FIREBIRD STRATOS FEATURES**

» Easy to learn how to fly because modern electronics help me take off, turn and land better and safer even in difficult outdoor conditions.

» Long flying time on one battery charge even after multiple takeoffs and landings, so I can concentrate on building my skills.

» A really tough airplane with durable design touches like its rubber nose and breakaway wing that help my airplane survive multiple crashes.

» If I ever lose orientation, the auto wing leveling system helps return my wings to level flight by simply letting go of the sticks.

**HOBBYZONE FIREBIRD STRATOS**

Visit HobbyZone.com for more information and to watch Eric’s first flight.
The Phoenix Professional RC Flight Simulation 4 delivers stunning graphics and incredibly realistic physics to your home computer, so that you can grab some flight time anytime. Its revolutionary InfinityScape 3D landscape generator lets you fly beyond the horizon over beautiful, ever-changing terrain that you create and control. There are hundreds of aircraft to fly – including accurately modeled aircraft from brands HobbyZone®, ParkZone®, e-flite®, Hangar 9®, Blade®, and JR Helibrands. And the Phoenix virtual hangar is constantly expanding with free aircraft, flying sites and feature downloads. You also have the option of flying online with friends and instructors or with three unique AI flying buddies that demonstrate proper techniques while they fly with you.

If you want the best transmitter for your aircraft, the Phoenix Professional RC Flight Simulator V4.0 is available with a functional Spektrum® DSMX® DX5e transmitter. You can also get Phoenix V4.0 with just the software and USB cable, which is compatible with a number of transmitters such as Spektrum DX18 / DX8 / DX6i.

Phoenix V4.0 Sim is packaged two ways.

The following transmitters also work directly without an adapter:
Spektrum DX4e/DX6i/DX7s/DX8/DX18

Phoenix is fully optimized so you don’t need a cutting-edge computer to enjoy all of the features and functionality.

FREE DEMO
Try Phoenix V4.0 on your own computer.
Visit: phoenix-sim.com
NO BETTER FRIEND. NO GREATER FOE.

PARKZONE CORSAIR

Few fighters in the Pacific theater of World War II were as feared or loved as the F4U Corsair. The ParkZone® F4U-1A Corsair park flyer is a fitting tribute to this warbird icon that’s powered for spirited aerobatics. You can customize the look by applying the extra set of decals and bolting on the drop tanks. For a truly spectacular Corsair experience, add the optional flaps and retracts.

THE GENTLE GIANT

HANGAR 9 PAWNEE

This big, beautiful recreation of the famous Piper ag workhorse may look imposing, but it’s really a pushover. And, like the full-scale Pawnee, it’s one of the tamest tail draggers you’ll ever have the joy of flying. If you’ve always wanted a Giant-Scale plane but were daunted by the complexity or performance, this easy-going 80cc ARF is for you.

PARKZONE HABU 2

The ParkZone® Habu 2 EDF jet is a full-throttle thriller that’s a blast to fly at any speed. At the heart of its exhilarating performance is the phenomenal power of an E-flite® BL 15 DF 3200Kv brushless motor mated to an E-flite Delta-V® 15 ducted fan. When it comes time to throttle back and enter the pattern, the wide flight envelope and forgiving slow speed handling of the Habu 2 will reward anyone used to flying faster sport planes with picture perfect landings. For the ultimate sport jet experience, add the optional flaps and E-flite electric retracts (EFLG110 - sold separately). The Habu 2 has been designed to make installing these options quick and easy, and its Spektrum™ AR600 receiver has all the channels you’ll need.
Quique Somenzini is driven by the application of precision in everything he’s ever done with a model aircraft. His designs have taken him to championships around the globe and helped him bring home the gold from just about every RC aerobatic event ever invented. In fact, his creativity with model aircraft maneuverability has coined him the father of 3D aerobatics — which is the pinnacle form of extreme agility desired by anyone who wants high performance from an aircraft. Today, Horizon Hobby is proud to offer the first ultra micro to come standard with a powerful brushless motor system. It delivered everything an RC aerobatic pilot could want in a performance RC model. The reward of precision offered in this case is an airplane that flies a lot like the Giant-Scale model, but is convenient for the local park or a quick flight after lunch. The UMX Beast 3D, with the Horizon Hobby-developed AS3X System, unleashed a whole new level of performance in the biplane design. Not only did the little biplane become more precise, it also expanded its maneuverability envelope, and at the same time made it more stable at slower speeds. And like the bigger Beast, it’s rock-solid in midwind. I think the combination of aircraft design and the AS3X System technology makes this little airplane a real giant in the RC industry.

When inspiration strikes, the moment needs to be securely harnessed, amply supplied and properly caffeinated. Sure, a lot of ideas might look rough in the beginning, but when the mix is right, form follows function and the idea evolves into ballet, calligraphy and poetry all rolled into one. Some say it’s art, some say it’s a gift, while one person will tell you that the priority is to never let precision be compromised no matter the project.

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The Expert Edge

Teamwork Is The Big Idea

It’s no accident that the Blade® brand is the number one name in RC heli fun. Behind the development of every Blade helicopter is a team of RC heli experts with years of experience flying everything from ultra micro helicopters that fit in the palm of your hand to fully aerobatic, high-performance 3D thrill machines.

A big part of what makes Blade helis more fun is how naturally the team brings performance expected of larger helicopters to the small helicopter market with machines like the mCP X 2 and mQX. That’s an amazing achievement. Blade team engineer, Mikel Graham, stated in a recent interview, “A disturbance that might not do anything on a larger helicopter is very obvious on a machine that weighs 45 grams.” The lessons learned have earned the team a unique perspective, which helps them avoid problems and incorporate inimitable refinements to efficiently deliver a better helicopter that offers a flight experience like no other can.

Lead test pilot, James Haley, is a pusher with a helicopter. But when he takes to the sky, it’s obvious that he and the machine are talking the same language. “I like to see where the limits are,” is how James describes his approach to flight testing. But when he and his heli disagree, it’s the machine that loses. The next time out, however, there’s no more argument and the project progresses at an astounding rate. Blade team CAD expert, Brian Reed, summed up the development process simply, “…everything works in harmony before we build.”

The Blade team is expanding its line. Not only are the helicopters getting bigger, they’re incorporating innovation with a sense of style and performance that’s on course to make a big impression on you.

Meet the entire Blade team:
www.bladehelis.com/experts

The Blade Experts

The Blade team is expanding its line. Not only are the helicopters getting bigger, they’re incorporating innovation with a sense of style and performance that’s on course to make a big impression on you.

“If new technology is on the horizon, we’re on top of it.”
Mikel Graham
Avid RC Heli Pilot
Engineering Degree from MIT
Master’s Degree from Georgia Tech
Specialty: Rotary Aerodynamics
Lead Developer on the Blade 500 X

“I like to see where the limits are.”
James Haley
Avid RC Heli Pilot and World Class 3D Competitor
Blade Team Test Pilot
Specialties: Performance Testing and Design
Lead Developer on the Blade 300 X

“I make sure everything works in harmony before we build.”
Brian Reed
Avid RC Heli and Fixed-Wing Pilot
Over a Decade of Computer-Aided Design Experience
Specialties: Computer-Aided Design and Machining
Lead Developer on the Blade mQX

“I like to bring upscale styles to Blade designs.”
Raymon Robinson
Avid RC Heli Pilot and Racer
Accessory and Parts Designer
Specialty: Style
Lead Developer on the Blade 500 Bell 222 Body Set

Meet the entire Blade team:
www.bladehelis.com/experts
The Blade team has got big plans, and the amazing 500 X BNF heli is both a triumph and credit to the team’s mission of bringing high performance to a new level. At its heart is the amazing Spektrum® AR7200BX flybarless control system. This groundbreaking innovation combines a 7-channel DSMX® receiver with the BeastX system into a single, compact unit that weighs barely over half an ounce.

**ANATOMY OF THE BLADE  500 X**

- High performance tail rotor
- Remote receiver for superior protection against signal fading and reflection
- Belt-driven tail rotor
- Weighted tail blade mounting hardware
- Tail rotor grips with thrust bearings
- Aluminium tail boom
- Rigid carbon fiber main frames
- Spektrum digital cyclic servos
- E-flite high power, brushless motor
- Carbon foam tail boom support
- Flight tested Spektrum AR7200BX DSMX receiver with BeastX flybarless technology
- One-piece carbon fiber side frames
- Heavy-duty main drive gears
- One-piece landing skids
- 535mm carbon fiber main blades
- E-flite high-power 6S Li-Po battery
- Carbon tail boom support
- Spektrum high speed digital tail serve
- One-piece landing skids
- 435mm carbon fiber main blades
- One-piece carbon fiber side frames
- Composites/metal flybarless rotor head
- CNC-machined aluminium swashplate
- CNC-machined aluminium head block
- Triple ball bearing supported, hardened steel main shaft
- Remote receiver for superior protection against signal fading and reflection
- Belt driven tail rotor
- Weighted tail blade mounting hardware
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- Triple ball bearing supported, hardened steel main shaft

**SHRED THE AIR**

**REVOLUTION**

Flawless 3D performance takes more than power. You need precision and balance too. Revolution blades are constructed of cross-woven carbon fiber that gives them the lateral and torsional strength necessary to translate your heli’s power into the most aggressive response possible. And each set is weight-matched and balanced, so you experience a sense of precision that’s second to none. Sizes range from 325mm all the way up to 710mm in both flybar and flybarless versions.

For the enthusiast who demands the best in quality and performance, the Revolution brand is the leading name in RC helicopter tools, accessories and rotor blades. Revolution products are designed and built with the expert in mind to perform flawlessly and to the highest of standards.
August is an exciting time for aviation fans in Europe. The summer weather is beautiful, and it’s a time when a one-of-a-kind event happens that in a very short time has achieved legendary status across the continent. Airmeet excites the senses and brings together a collection of modelers who understand how to do an air show at a sky-scraping energy level. On August 18 and 19 it celebrated its four-year anniversary with a show that exceeded all expectations for attendance and delivery. Video and online chat about the 2012 event are approaching viral status for good reason. Airmeet is something special because of the top-level aviation entertainment it brings through both model and full-scale performances. Its energy pace and schedule run constantly from dawn till many hours after dark. And best of all it’s hosted by the RC manufacturer considered the best in the business.

The event is held on the Donauwörth/Genderkingen civil airfield and welcomes over 40,000 spectators during the two-day event. Its creator, Joe Schamuhn, told us, “It is the only event in the world where RC modelers are able to connect with a manufacturer on an emotional level.” Performers at Airmeet are welcomed by invitation only, and hundreds of requests are reviewed on an annual basis. There’s no shortage of RC entertainment with well over 70 pilots performing non-stop with helicopters, racers, sailplanes, warbirds...you name it.

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The atmosphere at Airmeet is charged with excitement. People of all ages come to shake hands with their heroes and connect with each other. Many consider the bonds formed to be like that of a family. “It’s a lifestyle people believe in,” Schamuhn reflected. Although the show is for the crowd and performers, as friends they want to make Airmeet the best event possible. And the connection is broad. Red Bull schedules a number of performers for Airmeet to entertain with both full-scale and model talent. Plans are already underway for the five-year anniversary of Airmeet in 2013. Next August, make a connection to last a lifetime.

—Air Schaf

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Marc Petrack, Michi Reitz, Andreas Ruppert and Tim Stadler
It’s not every day that a free event comes along offering state-of-the-art RC entertainment. Especially one with high-tech aircraft and cars where you can ask, “Can I try that?” and get a gleeful response such as, “Absolutely!” But that’s exactly what Horizon Hobby, in partnership with Ray and Robin’s Hobby Center, brought to beautiful New England—a giant RC extravaganza loaded with experts proud about the RC experience.

Horizon US Airmeet is very much connected to the spirit of the original Horizon Airmeet that happens every August in Germany. The four-day US event took place September 6–9 at Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport near the southern tip of Maine. It was host to hundreds of pilots and drivers, who welcomed nearly twenty thousand spectators. Full-scale air show entertainment was provided as well by internationally recognized aerobatics pilots Matt Chapman and Rob Holland.

The family friendly atmosphere delivered top-notch quality performances non-stop, including jets, helicopters, ultra micro aircraft and off-road racing. But unlike any event, it also invited the public to join in the fun. Several RC “Try Me” areas were available that featured ECK™ cars and trucks, plus realistic Phoenix RC flight simulators. And those who wanted a more thrilling RC adventure could try the teach-yourself-to-fly HobbyZone® Firebird Stratos® trainer Aerobatics champion, Seth Arnold, shared a comment one spectator made, “[Airmeet] is better than a full-scale air show. [It’s] so much more up close and personal.”

The passion for RC seemed to unite everyone. Lead event coordinator, Ray Labonte, appeared to have a constant smile on his face. “An event like this has been a dream of mine.” Labonte has hosted the successful Maine Model Jet Rally for over five years and was thrilled at the chance to team up with Horizon Hobby and create a totally new spectator experience. “Not only could so many people of all ages have fun with RC for the first time—more importantly they’d have the chance to connect with friendly, fun loving hobbyists who really make our passion something special.”

Stay tuned to Horizon Hobby for information about the next Airmeet.

———dAir Schaf

Horizon Airmeet mascot, dAir Schaf, brought good luck to both events.
The E-flite® Mystique™ 2.9 m ARF aircraft is an electric sailplane inspired by F5J-class soaring competition events popular around the globe. And like most gliders focused on performance, the Mystique 2.9 m sailplane delivers an outstanding RC soaring experience, even if all you’re looking for is a glider to enjoy on a lazy afternoon. Its size makes it great for visibility at high altitudes, and its airfoil is specially designed to interact with any lift activity it encounters. This full-house sailplane can be assembled without an electric power system for a pure sailplane experience ideal for winch and Hi-Start launch methods or soaring from a majestic countryside slope.

**FLIP IT OUT**

**BLADE NANO CP X RTF/BNF**

Flip, funnel or roll in any room of your house with the incredible Blade® Nano CP X heli. At just 29 grams (barely over an ounce), it’s the lightest flybarless CP heli in its class. It is unbelievably durable.

**THERMAL INTERACTIVITY**

**INDOOR PRECISION**

**UMX Sbach® 342 3D BNF BASIC**

The UMX® Sbach® 342 3D BNF Basic is another great Mike McConville design that amazingly provides an expertly-tuned, Giant-Scale flight experience small enough to fly in a space the size of a small gym. Integrated AS3X® technology makes it possible to perform stunning 3D and scale aerobatics with incredible precision.

**NEW MUST-HAVE ITEMS**

The Season’s Hot Products. Check them out here.

**ZIP IT QUICK**

**PRO BOAT MISS GEICO 17 RTR AND IMPULSE 17 RTR**

The Pro Boat® 17” GEICO Catamaran and 17” Impulse® Deep-V represent the true meaning of fun. Both ready-to-run models include 2.4GHz radio technology and are loaded with features typically found in larger, higher priced radio control boats – the only problem will be how to find more time to spend on the water.
Global events allow you to network with your peers from around the world, connect to experts from a variety of disciplines and create once-in-a-lifetime experiences that can only be found through Horizon Hobby. These events offer unprecedented access to top venues, drivers and pilots at activities in the most fascinating locations of the world.

**Event Calendar**

**Join the RC Celebration**

**October 2012**
- 10.11-10.14: iHobby Expo
- 10.18-10.21: Fuel On-Road Nationals
- 10.19-10.20: 2012 Seoul International Aeronautical Festival
- 10.21: Off-Road Wars Winter Championship Series
- 10.24-10.28: USRA Race of Champions
- 10.25-10.28: Monster Planes USA

**November 2012**
- 11.01-11.04: Faszination Modellbau
- 11.01-11.04: Dutch Open Indoor Challenge
- 11.02-11.04: JR Indoor Electric Festival
- 11.02-11.04: IFMAR World Championships 1/10
- 11.10-11.17: London Bridge Seaplane Classic
- 11.11: North Texas E1 Pylon Race
- 11.16-11.18: Tangerine Soaring Championship
- 11.24-11.25: Flight Show, NEC

**December 2012**
- 12.01-12.08: IFMAR World Championships; 1/8 Off-Road
- 12.01-02.12: JConcepts Indoor Nationals
- 12.07-02.09: IFMAR World Championships 1/10 IC Track

**Discover More Events And Meet Great People.**

**Friedrichshafen, Germany**
Faszination Modellbau
- November 2-4
Experience for yourself a unique show dedicated to the magical world of miniatures.

**Ocala, Florida, USA**
JConcepts Indoor Nationals
- November 3-4
The finale of a five-series, indoor off-road race championship expecting nearly 1000 drivers.

**Middelburg, Netherlands**
2012 Dutch Open Indoor Challenge
- November 2-4
Open International, Non-World Cup event for the F3P category – RC Indoor aerobatics.

**Bangkok, Thailand**
IFMAR World Championships 1/10 IC Track
- November 10-17
As soon as the ECX® brand broke onto the RC scene, the world took notice. People can’t get enough of this bold line of affordable, ready-to-run vehicles. ECX makes it easier than ever to bring home a no-nonsense RC vehicle. Each model comes with everything you need right in the box, from the transmitter to the battery charger.

Once you charge one up, all that’s left to do is grip it and rip it. The vehicles are easy to hop up with new bodies and parts too. Choose ECX for durable cars and trucks that are perfect for bashing and thrashing.

Select vehicles now include waterproof electronics, 2.4GHz radio systems and a one-hour fast charger.
Once you fire up an RC vehicle, a surge of adrenaline pulses through you. Your senses heighten and you find yourself in total control. The vehicle’s turf-shredding, pavement-roasting capabilities are yours to command.

This is why we love RC. This is why we design vehicles for people just like you, whether you’re new to RC or an experienced pro.

From the bulletproof chassis to the impressive Dynamite® .21-size power system, the Revenge Type N® 1/8-scale buggy has all the makings of an unstoppable warrior. And the high-powered performance to match. When it comes to the terrain, it has only two words in its vocabulary: destroy and conquer.

**THE UNSTOPPABLE WARRIOR.**

**NEW MUST-HAVE ITEMS**

**PRODUCTS**
DRIVE FOR YOURSELF

FIRe UP THE ENGIne — THEn GO AHeAD AND GET DirtY

1/10th TEN-SCT NITRO 4WD RTR

Based on the performance-driven Team Losi Racing® TEn-T™ platform and ROAR National Champion, the TLR® 4WD TEN-SCT™ truck includes the same aluminum chassis, race-tested suspension and superb handling characteristics in a no-holds-barred nitro version. Ready-To-Run, fire up the engine with the push of a button on the included DX2E transmitter. Go ahead and get it dirty!

NEW MUST-HAVE ITEMS

1/10th 22SCT KIT

Utilizing a similar design to the Team Losi Racing 22' buggy and 22T™ truck, the 22'SCT model is a no-compromises truck, designed to be the ultimate short course race machine. And it’s topped off with the Team Losi Racing Hi-Performance SCT Body.

JEREMY TWITCH STENBERG & JEREMY MCGRATH

Action sports icon Jeremy McGrath and Jeremy “Twitch” Stenberg, of The Stronghold Motorsports short course off-road race team, also shred the course with Losi® vehicles.

“The 5IVE-T is insanely fun! It’s just like being behind the wheel of my real truck. This is the best RC truck known to man!”

–Jeremy “Twitch” Stenberg

“With tons of horsepower at your fingertips, the 5IVE-T is the closest you can possibly get to being behind the wheel of a 900-horse-powered short course off-road race truck.”

–Jeremy McGrath

LIVING LARGER THAN LIFE
There’s nothing like taking a tranquil patch of open water and carving it straight down the center. With stainless steel rudders that dig deep and cut hard and powerful motors that unleash every amp for exceptional performance.

PRO BOAT® LINEUP 2012

For more info and to see the full Pro Boat lineup, visit proboatmodels.com
As a leader in RC boating, the Pro Boat® brand makes a small-scale version of just about everything that runs on the water. With a commitment to quality that goes far below the surface.

It takes a world-class team to build a world-class boat. And with the Pro Boat brand, you’ll find that. In hulls designed by world champion RC racer Darin Jordan. And real-world racing partnerships that bring legends of the sport to the RC world. For boats that raise the bar each time they’re lowered into the water.

Miss GEICO 29 BL
29-inch Catamaran 2.4 RTR
Bring home the excitement of the world’s premier open-water event with the officially licensed Miss GEICO 29 Catamaran.

Impulse™ 31
31-inch Brushed RTR Deep-V
Performance meets design in the race-engineered Impulse 31 Deep-V, built to deliver superb handling and insane speeds.

ShockWave® 26 BL
26-inch Brushless RTR Deep-V
Shred the waves, not your budget, with a high-performance Deep-V, built to deliver speed and stability.

ShockWave® 26 EP
26-inch Brushed RTR Deep-V
Perfect for the entry-level racer, the ShockWave 26 EP Deep-V offers the same look and feel of its brushless powered cousin.

Blackjack™ 29
29-inch Brushless RTR Catamaran
If you like catamarans, you’ll love the Blackjack 29 model—a hull that’s built to haul.
Model airplanes are just like “real” airplanes, only smaller. It all depends on how you look at it. Dreams are no different, and everyone wants their own version of a dream life. Getting there takes a lot of confidence and preparation. A bright example of a person with that “go get it” attitude is steadfast in a 22-year-old fellow living in the Bavarian region of Germany, Tim Stadler. Friendly and personable, Tim is fulfilling his dream life, which involves building and flying radio controlled airplanes. He loves to build and maintain his own aircraft. His performances contain the pinpoint precision of a pilot with decades of competition experience, yet the only proficiency judge he’s stood before has been a cheering crowd. And those are the moments that take Tim to the next level of air show brilliance. Not only is he an expert in the solo Giant-Scale performance circuit, he now travels the globe as a pilot member of a prestigious RC formation flight team—an honor that not only requires skill, but the trust of fellow formation pilots.

We checked in with Tim not long after he’d returned from a huge RC event in the States to get to know him a little more.

**HA:** When did you start in the hobby, and what is it that inspired you to become highly skilled?

**TS:** “My father has been flying RC models for most of his life and got me started when I was five years old. At the age of six is when I got my very own RC electric sailplane. Over the following years I flew many trainers. Then my father and I started travelling to as many model air shows as possible where we met a lot of very good pilots who were inspirational to me. My ambition progressively grew, and I practiced intensively every day. Back then, RC flight simulators weren’t available, so flying for real was the only way to get better.”

**HA:** What type of RC do you enjoy doing most and why?

**TS:** “Since the beginning I have had a great passion for biplanes, and five years ago I started building and flying really big biplanes such as the Ultimate and Pitts. Last year I started flying jets with the Horizon Hobby Display Team Germany, doing a synchronized flight demonstration that includes three-to-six quarter-scale L-39 Albatros turbine powered jets together in perfect formation.”

**HA:** Who has been your biggest role model not in the hobby?

**TS:** “Actually I didn’t have any role models outside the RC hobby. My biggest role model is Robert Fuchs (a very famous German pilot who is also a member of the Horizon Hobby Team Germany). I admire him for his talent as a great builder of airplanes and skill as a pilot. He always supported me and gave me great advice.”

**HA:** Your flying style displays outstanding precision. Do you compete? Have you won any award titles?

**TS:** “Thank you. That’s what I always want to hear—outstanding precision. But I don’t compete, because it requires a single list of very specific maneuvers be flown per flight. The airplane is very specialized too. I want to fly what I want and with the airplane I choose. So I choose to only visit air shows where there’s public attendance. The crowd is always very appreciative, and I can do what comes naturally—having fun with a model airplane.”

**HA:** What has been the greatest reward that your pursuit of RC excellence has given you?

**TS:** “My greatest personal reward was when I won the 2006 3W Rookie Meet. That was a freestyle competition in Europe for young pilots, and the winner got a Giant-Scale Vogel 322, complete with equipment and a contract to fly for the 3W company. I’ve really enjoyed their support. In 2011 I became a team member for Horizon Hobby, which is a lot of fun since many of the members are my friends and we travel to a number of air shows flying Horizon Hobby aircraft. I think we get better with every event and have become an amazing team!”

**HA:** What is it like to be on the Horizon Hobby Team?

**TS:** “First of all, Horizon Hobby has amazing products. I think we get better with every event and have become an amazing team!”

**HA:** Your performance at the 2012 Joe Nall event in South Carolina was impressive. Is there anything you noticed different flying in the United States versus flying in Germany?

**TS:** “The Joe Nall is an impressive event, and the five days spent there are those I will never forget. What impressed me was how especially safe all the pilots were—and there were over 1200 of them—that is, they were also very friendly at the same time. Our American hosts had to be the friendliest people ever. We flew team demonstrations, we flew solo flights, and we flew for the fun of it. The crowd seemed very pleased. In short, it was a fantastic trip! A comparable event in Germany is not conceivable, because there are just too many rules and regulations.”

**HA:** What has been the biggest challenge to become the RC pilot you are today?

**TS:** “For me it was not really a challenge but rather a long journey. When I was young, I didn’t have the money to buy expensive airplanes that had superior flight characteristics. So I had to wait a long time and make small steps. Gradually, companies started to support the talent they saw in me, which allowed me to practice aerobatics and explore 3D capabilities. It’s been a lot of fun!”

**HA:** Do you have any advice for someone looking to get into the RC hobby?

**TS:** “My advice is buy the good stuff like a ParkZone Radian or something similar. The cheap products might look like a bargain, but they typically break easily or fail in flight. There’s no fun in that; plus, you waste time when you could be flying. Choose an airfield with people who can fly well. Just watching them will teach you good lessons. You’ll also get good advice that will help you gain skills faster. Last but not least, practice, practice, practice...and above all, have fun!”
You love the convenience of ready-to-fly aircraft, but could do without the hassle of having to use different transmitters to fly them. Bind-N-Fly® aircraft make it possible to enjoy all kinds of ready-to-fly experiences using a single Spektrum™ transmitter. Each one comes out of the box with the power system, servos and a DSM2/DSMX® receiver installed. BNF aircraft are also critically acclaimed by experts in the hobby as the best resource for getting started in RC and an easy way to stay active in the hobby when the priorities of life limit your time to grab some blue sky. Right now there are over 40 Bind-N-Fly airplanes and helicopters for you to choose from by a team of developers as passionate about the hobby as you are.

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If you’re a one-radio pilot, this is ready-to-fly fun the way you always dreamt it could be.

Endless Possibilities
Pegasus Hobbies

Pegasus Hobbies is regarded by many as the largest hobby shop in southern California. With over 21,000 square feet of space in a nearly-21, custom-designed, stand-alone building, they offer a full line of hobby products from fantasy gaming and science kits to trains and every category of radio control. The store was built in a prime location of Montclair on property that’s alongside Route 10, which statistically carries over 250,000 vehicles per day – many of which crawl by the store at walking pace during the rush hours.

Partners Larry Thompson and Tom Macomber have been in the hobby shop business for the past 27 years. Business grew at a steady pace until they finally just built a custom space to suit their needs. Inside and out, Pegasus Hobbies is a showplace. “The first impression everyone has when they enter our store is wow.” Tom also admitted that he wants the customer to have a memorable experience each visit to the store. “I want them to think that they’ve arrived at the Disneyland of hobby stores.”

With over 20 members on staff, every hobby department has a specialized manager ready to offer support, so the customers not only find the right activity for them but also the right information about the activities discovered. With multiple rows of product stretching 100 feet in length, stacked to the ceiling, it’s unlikely that one visit to Pegasus can catch all they have to offer. Stock is rotated as often as possible to keep things looking fresh; even the off-road track is re-configured about every four weeks to keep the weekly racing and practice sessions exciting and fun for all. With the NHRA Motorsports Museum, Auto Club Raceway at Pomona and Auto Club Speedway only a few miles away, Pegasus is located in what many consider to be the heartland of full-scale and RC racing country with numerous manufacturers and race teams headquartered in the SoCal area. They support over 150 club and up to six major RC races per year, including the very popular Jimmy Babcock Electric Race Series, and at least six RC model airplane clubs locally. For an amazing hobby shop experience, a trip to Pegasus is sure to excite.

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