

U.S. NATIONAL

IAC

AEROBATIC
CHAMPIONSHIPS

2026



AURA
AERO

20
NORTHWEST INSURANCE GROUP, INC.

AMERICAN CHAMPION AIRCRAFT

EXTRA
AEROBATIC FLIGHTS

LIFT
FLIGHTS

MAX
Aircraft Ltd.

GAME
AEROSPACE

SEPTEMBER 20 - 25, 2026

SALINA, KANSAS

Bulletin 2

2026 U.S. National Aerobatic Championships

1. General.....	3
1.1 Schedule	3
1.2 Events	3
2. Hanger, Ramp Operations & Procedures	4
2.1 Hangar Arrangements	4
2.2 Ramp Operations.....	5
2.3 Departures	5
2.4 Recovery, Landing, Taxi to the Ramp, and Parking	6
2.5 Glider Operations	6
2.6 Holding Patterns	6
3. Contingency Airport & Aborts	7
4. Waivered Airspace	8
5. Rules & Deviations	9
5.1 Free Unknown Programs	9
6. Practice & Order of Flight	10
6.1 Practice Rules	10
6.2 Order of Flight.....	11
7. Sequence Submissions.....	11
8. Parking & Airfield Driving.....	12
8.1 Parking at Hangar 509 & 703	12
8.2 Airfield Driving.....	14
9. Banquet.....	14
10. Miscellaneous.....	14
10.1 2026 U.S. Nationals is “Cashless”	14
10.2 Communications	14
11. Questions & Assistance.....	14
12. Resources	14
Appendix A – Contest Officials	15
Appendix B – Airport Diagram	17

1. General

As I write this, we are less than two weeks away from the first day of practice at the 2026 U.S. Aerobic Nationals. It is hard to believe a year has gone by so quickly. Planning for the 2026 U.S. Nationals began before the 2025 contest had even concluded. As the summer comes to an end, the volunteers who have been working tirelessly for many months are excited to welcome you back to Salina, KS.

If you are planning to attend the contest, and have not already done so, please register ASAP. Your registration plays a vital role in our planning purposes, such as ensuring proper head counts for the various social events throughout the week and guaranteeing we order enough contest shirts and other supplies to support our competitors and volunteers. Early registrations also play a crucial role in how the schedule is constructed. It is hard to estimate the duration of a category without knowing the expected level of participation. Finally, competitors are only able to secure their official practice slot after their registration and payment are made.

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer spent amongst family and friends, maybe even attended a contest or two. For those of you returning to Salina, I look forward to seeing you again. For those of you attending for the first time, I look forward to meeting you and our volunteers look forward to supporting you any way we can. Travel safe and we'll see you all in Salina soon!

1.1 Schedule

The official contest schedule has been published to the Nationals page. Please note – this schedule is still subject to change based on various factors i.e. level of participation in each category, weather, etc. Once the contest has commenced, any schedule changes will be communicated to you by our Communications Director, Chloe Le Lievre. See communications below (10.2) for information on the medium used for Nationals. Competitors can plan for the opening briefing at 8:30 AM on September 20th. The first official contest flights will begin at 11 AM on September 20th and will be the Advanced category.

1.2 Events

We received lots of positive feedback on the events and overall atmosphere from last year. We plan to build on that energy by hosting some new events in 2026. We're also planning to give a few more free evenings for folks to prepare for their contest flights and to enjoy smaller gatherings amongst new and old friends alike. Events are free of charge for registered competitors and volunteers. Guest are welcome but are responsible for their food and beverage. Event schedule for the 2026 Nationals:

Saturday, Sept 19th – Judges Refresher Training & Breakfast – Hilton Garden Inn – 7:30AM-10AM

Saturday, Sept 19th – Key Volunteer Group Dinner – Jose Peppers – Dinner @ 7PM

Sunday, Sept 20th – Pancake Breakfast in Hangar 509, 7AM-8:30AM

Sunday, Sept 20th – Welcome Social – Big Nose Kate's – 7:00-9 PM

Tuesday, Sept 22nd – Medals Dinner 1 – The Alley – Drinks & Medals 6:30-7 PM, Pizza & Bowling @ 7PM

Thursday, Sept 24th – Medals Dinner 2 & Contest Auction – Hangar 509 – @ 7PM

Friday, Sept 25th – Ice Cream Social – Hangar 509 – 1:30-2:30PM

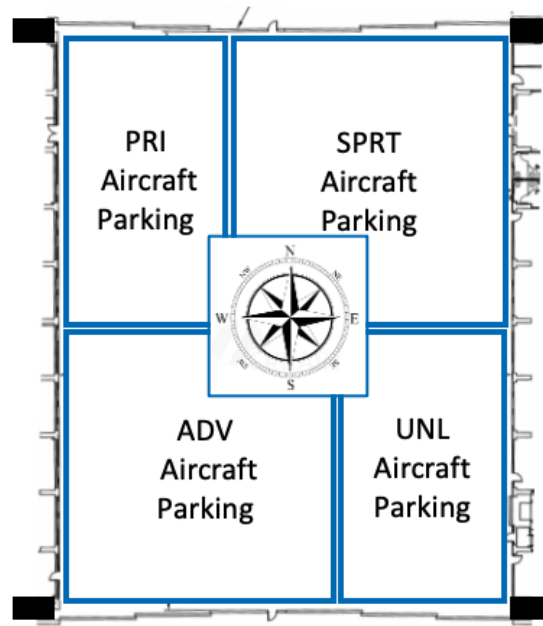
Friday, Sept 25th – Banquet – Hilton Garden Inn - Drinks 6:00-7 PM, Dinner @ 7PM

2. Hanger, Ramp Operations & Procedures

The 2026 U.S. Nationals will be headquartered in Hangar 509, which is located just North of the control tower (see Appendix B). Unlimited, Advanced, Sportsman & Primary Aircraft will use hangar 509. Gliders, tow planes, Intermediate & overflow/transient aircraft will use hangar 703, which is located East of the AvFlight FBO.

2.1 Hangar Arrangements

Hangar 509 has doors on both the North and South end of the facility. We will group categories as displayed below.

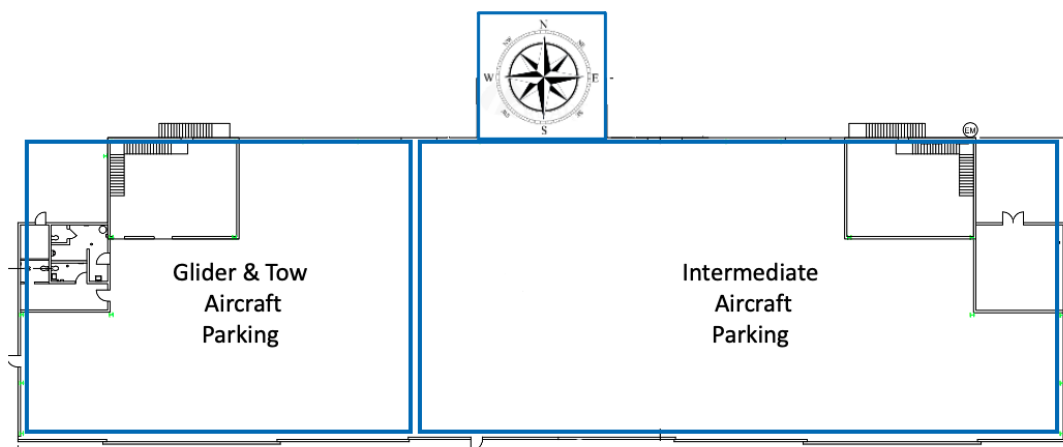


Hangar 509 Parking Concept

North Ramp – Primary & Sportsman

South Ramp – Advanced & Unlimited

Hangar 703 has doors on the South end of the facility. We will group categories as displayed below.



South Ramp – Intermediate, Gliders & Tows

2.2 Ramp Operations

Below is the Starter's arrangement for the ramp. Please note the Dead Prop Line. Anyone operating a competition aircraft to the east of the yellow line shown (located to the west of the vehicle traffic roadway) is subject to penalties and/or disqualification.



2.3 Departures

Once cleared to start/started, contact Salina Ground. Expect an intersection departure on runway 17-35 from Taxiway D. Runway 17-35 is 12,301 ft. in length and taxiway D is nearly midfield. Upon departure from Runway 17-35 expect to fly runway heading or be given an EAST crosswind turnout. Continue to climb on the runway heading or crosswind until instructed to switch to the hold/Airboss frequency. At that time, you can proceed to the appropriate hold area, likely the secondary hold. You will be instructed to change to the HOLD frequency 122.125.

Please **REMAIN** on tower frequency until instructed to change. Please check in with the airboss once you have pushed to the hold frequency. You will be instructed by the Airboss when you are to proceed to the primary hold as well as when to switch to BOX frequency (129.925). Monitor the box frequency, but do not check in. A competitor may be in the box. You will be contacted as required. If you have been on the box frequency for some time without contact, please contact the Airboss on the hold frequency. Radio contact must be established with the chief judge and you must be cleared by the chief judge into the box.

2.4 Recovery, Landing, Taxi to the Ramp, and Parking

Remain on the West side of 17-35 and depart box downwind from runway you departed, descend/climb to 1,000' AGL, and on downwind to 17-35, contact tower on **119.3**. Turn base when advised by Tower and after landing:

- Turn off runway 17 at C - do not use D, E, or F unless directed by tower
- Turn off runway 35 at B or C

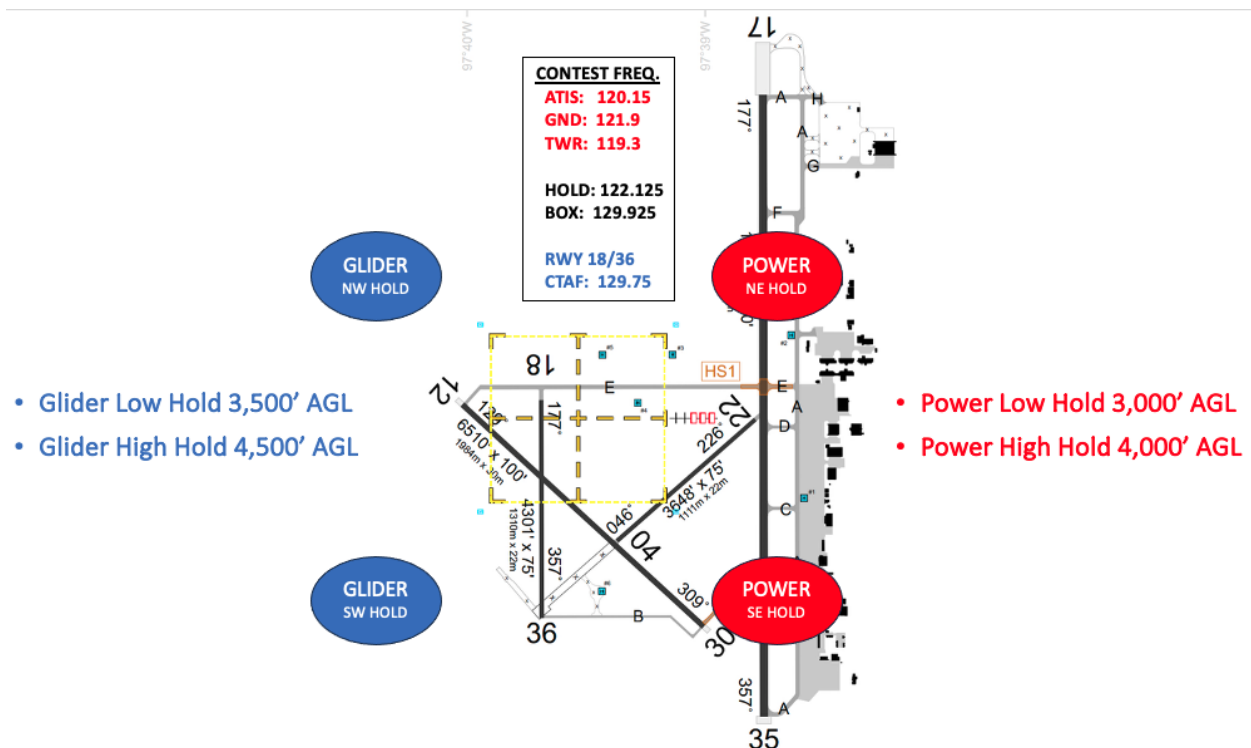
Contact Ground – **121.9**, taxi to fuel trucks by hangar 509 or to the North/Sound end of Hangar 509, as appropriate for your category.

2.5 Glider Operations

Glider operations will be briefed in detail at the opening briefing. We will use runway 18-36 for all tow plane and glider operations, as we have done previously. Runway 12-30 will also be available for crosswind situations.

2.6 Holding Patterns

As in the past, holding patterns will be used by gliders and powered aircraft. This will be briefed in detail during the opening briefing and each flight briefing. Hold locations remain the same as 2025 and this graphic is provided for general information.



3. Contingency Airport & Aborts

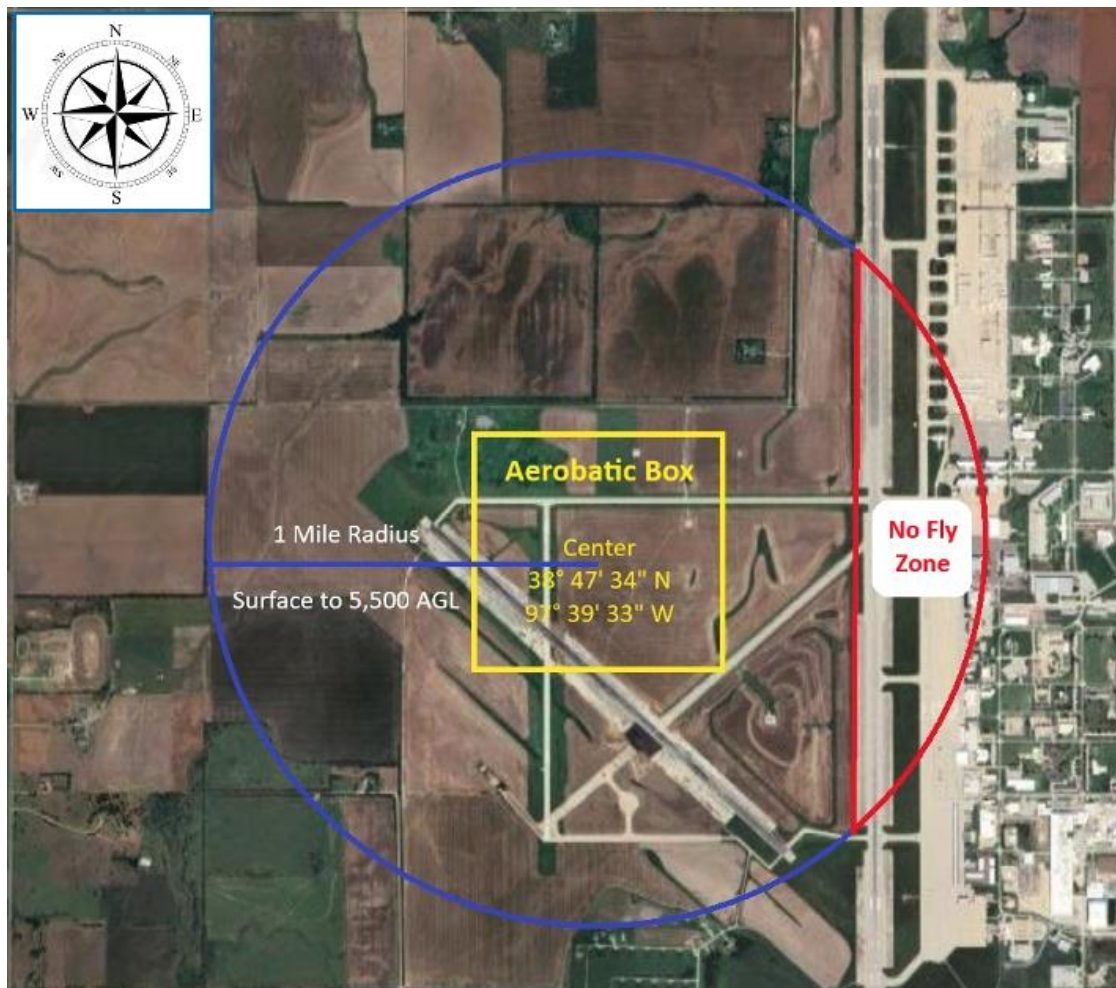
The following are recommended divers in the event runways become unusable at Salina. Airports are ordered from closest to furthest. While Minneapolis City is the closest, Abilene Municipal is recommended due to the runway dimensions and available services. Below are the alternate airport specifications:

NAME	ID	BEARING	DISTANCE	RUNWAY(S)	FREQ
Minneapolis City	45K	347	18.5 NM	16-34 Asphalt (3,970'x20')	122.9
Abilene Municipal	K78	68	20.7 NM	17-35 Concrete (4,100'x75')	122.8
McPherson	KMPR	181	26.3 NM	18-36 Concrete (5,500'x100')	122.8
Ellsworth	9K7	262	27.2 NM	17-35 Asphalt (4,327'x50') 12-30 Grass (2,144'x250')	122.7
Lincoln Municipal	K71	301	28.9 NM	02-20 Grass (2,700'x130') 15-33 Grass (2,700'x370')	122.9



4. Waivered Airspace

The diagram below shows the waived airspace agreed to by the Salina Airport Authority, the ATC Tower, and FAA.



Note the **RED SECTION**. This area is a **NO FLY ZONE**. The vertical red line, which is essentially Runway 17/35 is a “*deadline*” for all aerobatics and flight operations.

5. Rules & Deviations

The 2026 U.S. Aerobatic Nationals will be conducted in accordance with the 2026 IAC Rulebook, P&P's 501-506, and the FAI Sporting Code.

There is a Rule Deviation at the 2026 U.S. Nationals. Per the 2026 IAC Official Contest Rules (3.3.1), the contest director has elected to waive the Boundary Judges and Boundary Infringement Penalty for the 2026 U.S. Nationals.

P&P 503, which governs the U.S. Nationals, gives the contest director the discretion to schedule either a Known or a Free Known program in addition to a Free Unknown I and Free Unknown II program for the Advanced and Unlimited Categories. Furthermore, the P&P allows the Contest Director to schedule a traditional IAC Unknown in place of Free Unknown I. See below for applicable program format for the Powered Advanced and Unlimited categories.

ADVANCED

IAC Known
IAC Unknown
Free Unknown II

UNLIMITED

Free Known
Free Unknown I
Free Unknown II

This program format was reviewed and approved by the IAC Board of Directors. The Free Known program, as outlined by P&P 503, must be composed according to the FAI Sporting Code (see resources). All Free Unknown programs will be conducted and composed as outlined in P&P 503.

5.1 Free Unknown Programs

Advanced and Unlimited Competitors in the Power Categories should come prepared to submit Free Unknown figures in accordance with the rules provided in IAC P&P 503. Submission of Free Unknowns sequences to the Contest Jury requires submission with Open Aero computer files. Per P&P 503, the first Unlimited Free Unknown flight figures will be drawn from the IAC's list of allowable unknown figures and limited to minimum and maximum K values as defined in the P&P. The Advanced Free Unknown II flight and Unlimited Free Unknown II flight will have figures drawn from the CIVA catalogue of allowable unknown figures and limited to minimum and maximum K values as defined in the P&P.

6. Practice & Order of Flight

6.1 Practice Rules

Prior to practicing in the Aerobatic Box, pilots must:

- Sign the FAA Waiver located at the Box Monitor station.
- Have signed Aircraft Technical Review & Pilot Document Review forms, per the new IAC Tech Inspection process, and present them to the Box Monitor
- Have submitted [Letter of Intent](#) to fly with less than VFR minimum fuel requirements.
- Complete a briefing with the Box Monitor 60 minutes prior to your practice slot time.

Open Practice (Sunrise Wednesday, September 16th through Thursday, September 17th) – first come, first served. Upon arrival, check-in with the **Box Monitor** (Gary DeBaun) for any open practice slots. You may choose only one slot at this time. The Box Monitor has a checklist of items he is required to brief you on.

You may put your name and cell phone number on the Standby List for Open Practice. If someone has an open practice slot but does not check in with the Box Monitor **60 minutes** before their slot time it will be given to someone on the Standby List. If the box monitor calls you and you do not answer your phone, your standby slot will be given to the next person on the list.

Official Practice (Friday, September 18th through Saturday, September 19th) – You must have registered and paid your fees before you can pick an official time slot. All official practice day slots that do not have a contest fee payment associated with them will be released on Friday, September 11th. If you are having problems making the online payment for your registration, please contact Robin Simmons, Nationals Treasurer, or Tim Dahnke, IAC Executive Director, for assistance or an invoice.

Robin can be emailed at: acronatstreasurer@outlook.com. Tim can be emailed at: execdir@iac.org.

You may choose only one slot at this time. Be aware slot times are hard times – if you want to change your time it may be difficult or not possible at all. The Box Monitor will do what they can to help you but remember – he is busy with pilots in the box and in the hold – interfering with them could be a safety issue to those already in the air.

Notes:

- Check your watch to ensure you have the **correct time zone**.
- You must be in the aerobatic hold at least **2 minutes before your Official Slot Time**.
- The Box Monitor will give you a two-minute warning before your time is up.
- You **must exit the box** when the Box Monitor tells you your time is up.

Questions? Don't wait till you get to the contest. Ask the Box Monitor(s) now:

Box Monitor
Gary DeBaun
B747Inst@aol.com
(612) 810-6783

Assistant Box Monitor
Jeff Granger
jgranger230@gmail.com
(574) 721-4340

6.2 Order of Flight

We will be conducting drawings for the Order of Flight for the Power Advanced & Unlimited categories, as outlined in P&P 503. All other categories will have their order of flight randomly generated by JaSper. Drawing times for the Fee Known/Known program are outlined below. Drawings for the unknown and free unknown programs will occur during subsequent flight briefings. While not mandatory, pilots are encouraged to attend their categories drawing to participate in the process. If the drawing conflicts with a scheduled practice slot or your pre/post flight preparations, a jury member will draw for you. The drawings will be held on Saturday, September 19th as follows:

2:30 PM	Advanced Known Order of Flight Drawing
3 PM	Unlimited Free Known Order of Flight Drawing & Free Unknown 1 Figure Submission

7. Sequence Submissions

Pilots are requested to submit all Free Known (UNL) and Free programs (SPRT & INT) via email no later than **September 18th.**

We will be preparing our scoring system in advance. This saves time on site if we can get the Free Known and Free programs loaded before the start of Nationals. Please email your Free Known and Free programs to the following email address: nationals.freestyles@gmail.com.

Please submit your freestyle in Adobe PDF format, including individual A, B, & C forms as well as a consolidated PDF of those forms using the following naming convention:

LastName_FirstName_IACNumber_Category_Freestyle.pdf

LastName_FirstName_IACNumber_Category_Freestyle_FormA.pdf

LastName_FirstName_IACNumber_Category_Freestyle_FormB.pdf

LastName_FirstName_IACNumber_Category_Freestyle_FormC.pdf

Example 1:

Pilot_Joe_12345_Intermediate_Freestyle.pdf

Pilot_Joe_12345_Intermediate_Freestyle_FormA.pdf

Pilot_Joe_12345_Intermediate_Freestyle_FormB.pdf

Pilot_Joe_12345_Intermediate_Freestyle_FormC.pdf

Example 2:

Pilot_Joe_12345_Unlimited_FreeKnown.pdf

Pilot_Joe_12345_Unlimited_FreeKnown_FormA.pdf

Pilot_Joe_12345_Unlimited_FreeKnown_FormB.pdf

Pilot_Joe_12345_Unlimited_FreeKnown_FormC.pdf

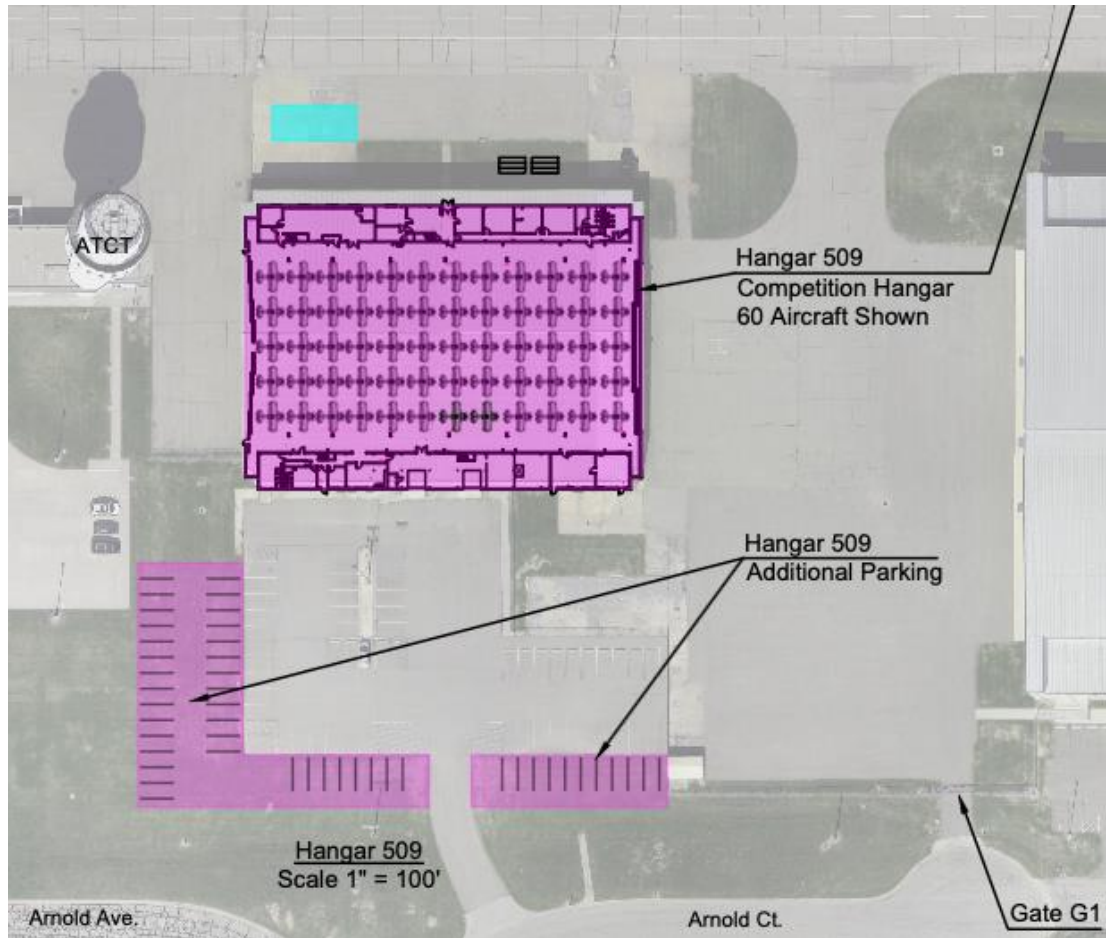
A confirmation email will be provided acknowledging receipt of your program files. Please contact Bob "Bwana" Buckley at BwanaBawb@icloud.com with any questions or concerns regarding your sequence submissions.

8. Parking & Airfield Driving

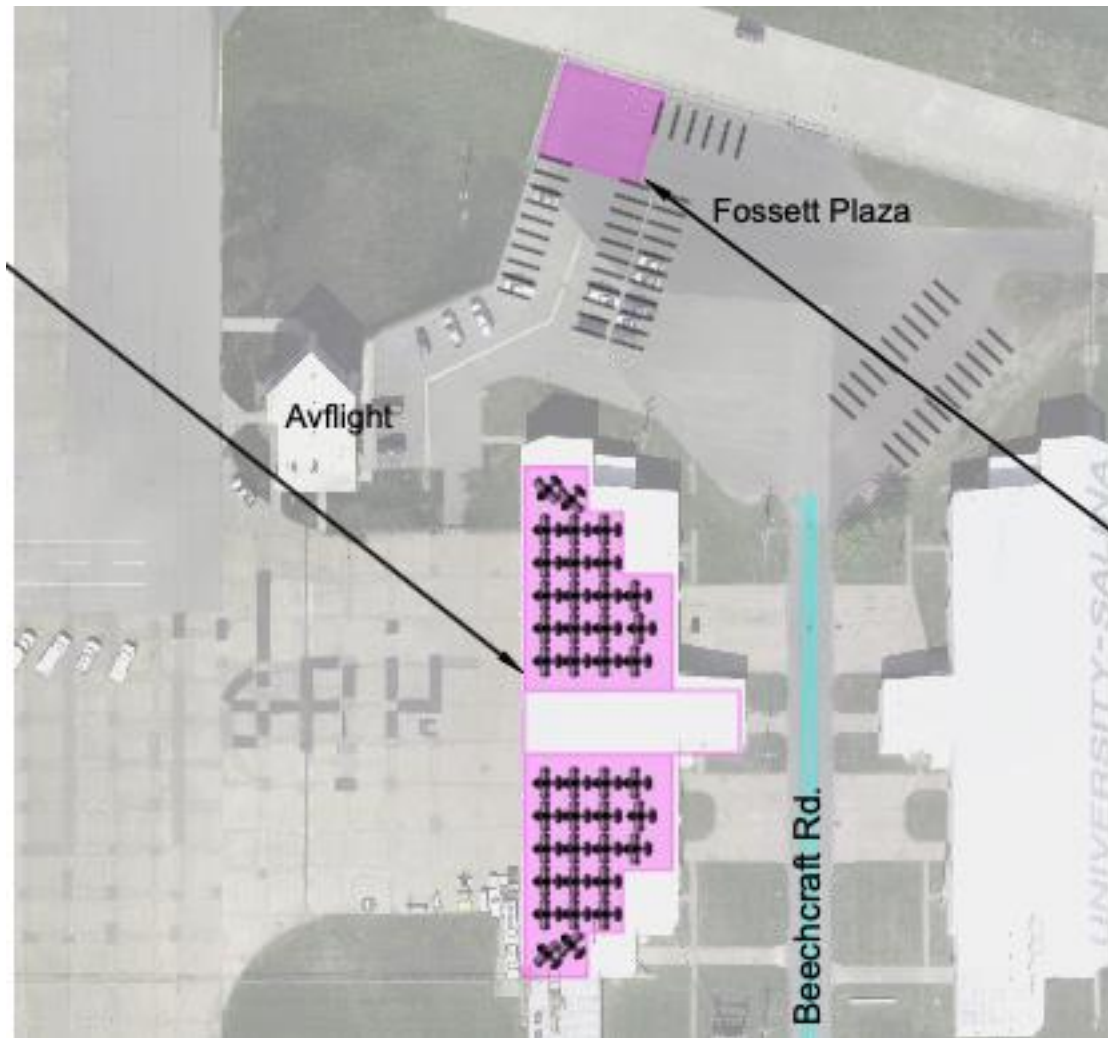
8.1 Parking at Hangar 509 & 703

The parking lot at hangar 509 is smaller than what we have had previously. The Salina airport authority has authorized additional parking in the grass, as needed (See diagram below). When able, please carpool and park in a manner that allows the maximum number of vehicles in the paved parking lot. Additional parking is available to the East side of hangar 600. Parking on Arnold Ave, Arnold Ct, or in the tower parking lot is prohibited.

H509 – IAC HQ



H703



8.2 Airfield Driving

As a reminder, all personnel operating a vehicle on the non-movement (ramp) and movement (taxiway/runway) areas are required to receive driver training. This training has been coordinated by our Logistics Coordinator, Jim Branstitre, and will be conducted on multiple occasions ahead of the contest start. Training dates and times are published on the official contest schedule. Those vehicles/drivers who have gate access cards are requested to use Gate G1 (see above).

9. Banquet

This year, the U.S. Nationals medals dinner & Awards Banquet will be held free of charge to Nationals participants – pilots, officials, judges, and non-flying volunteers. Guest tickets must be purchased and paid for no later than September 18th. Friends and family who were not accounted for are still welcome to attend the awards portion of the banquet but will not be allowed into the banquet room until after the meals have been served.

10. Miscellaneous

10.1 2026 U.S. Nationals is “Cashless”

No cash payments for entry fees, merchandise, auction items or donations will be accepted at nationals. We will accept all major credit cards, personal check, and PayPal.

10.2 Communications

WhatsApp will once again be the official communication medium for the U.S. Nationals. Please ensure you have downloaded the app and created an account to ensure you receive all pertinent contest communication.

11. Questions & Assistance

Please feel free to contact the Contest Director with any questions, concerns, or if in need of assistance.

Shad Coulson

Cell: (719) 650-6686

E-mail: nationalsdirector@iac.org

12. Resources

[2026 U.S. Nationals Registration](#)

[IAC Rulebook](#)

[IAC Policies & Procedures](#)

[CIVA Free Known Power & Glider Figures – 2026](#)

[CIVA Section 6: Part 1 – Powered Aircraft 2026 v2](#)

[CIVA Free Known Program Guidance – Powered Aircraft 2026](#)

Appendix A – Contest Officials

KEY VOLUNTEER GROUP			
Name	Position	Cell Phone	E-Mail
Shad Coulson	Contest Director	(719) 650-6686	shadcoulson@gmail.com
Mary Beth Rudd	Registrar	(850) 766-3160	marybethrudd@gmail.com
Alice Johnson	Volunteer Coordinator	(615) 579-0698	aljohnson487@gmail.com
Chloe Le Lievre	Communications	(650) 644-9443	chloe@chloelelievre.com
Keith Doyne	Safety Director	(717) 512-2608	kdoyne@verizon.net
Dale Byrkit	Starter	(402) 366-7495	dbyrkit@windstream.net
Doug Vayda	Assistant Starter	(386) 327-5029	dougwayda@gmail.com
John Smutny	Overlord (Airboss)	(206) 399-7097	johnsmutny@gmail.com
Jeff Baker	Asst. Overlord	(203) 417-2169	jbaker580rv@gmail.com
Gary DeBaun	Practice Box Monitor	(612) 810-6783	b747inst@aol.com
Jeff Granger	Assistant Box Monitor	(574) 721-4340	jgranger230@gmail.com
Chris Rudd	Chief Tech Inspector	(850) 766-3756	invertedribboncut@gmail.com
Teri Branstitre	Scoring Director	(503) 407-2543	teri.branstitre@gmail.com
Bob Buckley	Asst. Scoring Director	(719) 277-7017	bwanabawb@icloud.com
Forrest Fox	Videographer	(763) 443-2428	f2p@comcast.net
Sara Arnold	Hospitality & Events	(515) 991-0866	sarnold969@gmail.com
Dr. Peter Ballard	Medical Director	(408) 661-5073	peter.ballard@gmail.com
Jim Branstitre	Logistics	(503) 407-2542	branstitre@comcast.net
Mark Matticola	Glider Ops	(719) 440-1965	mark.matticola.1@us.af.mil

IAC OFFICIALS

Phillip Gragg	President	(208) 272-0141	president@iac.org
Tim Dankhe	Executive Director	(608) 697-1648	execdir@iac.org
Taylor	Mershon	(720) 731-1956	editor@iac.org

CHIEF JUDGES

Doug Sowder	Judges Coordinator	(509) 220-8206	judgeschair@iac.org
Nick Slabakov	Primary/Sportsman	(720) 231-3498	nick@slabakov.com
Mark Matticola	Intermediate	(719) 440-1965	mark.matticola.1@us.af.mil
Peggy Riedinger	Advanced	(206) 783-5141	peg-riedinger@live.com
D.J. Molny	Unlimited & 4-Min Free	(303) 619-4814	djmolny@gmail.com

JURY MEMBERS

Barrett Hines (Jury Chair)	Southwest Region	(805) 217-3998	barretthines@verizon.net
Keith Doyne (Safety Director)	Northeast Region	(717) 512-2608	kdoyne@verizon.net
Marty Flournoy	Southeast Region	(706) 326-4877	Marty@fcrcommercial.com
John Shavinsky	Mid-American Region	(917) 225-4286	jshavinsky@gmail.com
Dagmar Kress	South-Central Region	(303) 887-4473	dagmaraerobatics@me.com
Matthew Smith	Northwest Region	(206) 375-6567	mattfsmith@yahoo.com
Luke Penner	International Region	(204) 355-7143	Luke@harvsairinverted.com

JURY ALTERNATES

Chloe Le Lievre	Southwest Region	(650) 644-9443	chloe@chloelelievre.com
Clint Davies	Northeast Region	(207) 650-4331	cdaviesc@outlook.com
Tom Thomason	Southeast Region	(505) 690-0718	drtoms@me.com
Robert Bond	Mid-America Region	(865) 368-7488	bondr@aol.com
Jen Watson	South-Central Region	(619) 244-0069	cfijenrayne@gmail.com
Jeff Granger	Northwest Region	(574) 721-4340	jgranger230@gmail.com
Mike Lents	International Region	(218) 779-2725	michael.lents@und.edu

Appendix B – Airport Diagram

Airport Diagram and Location of Hangars 509 & 703

