

Successful Premiere

The 1st Segelflugmesse (= soaring fair) in Schwabmünchen, Germany, was a complete success.

The initial advertisement was attention-grabbing, but the event managed to exceed the already high expectations. On July 20–22, the glider port of the Luftsportverein Schwabmünchen -- south of Augsburg, Germany -- became a Mecca for RC sailplanes; particularly for scale gliders with or without self-launch systems, for tow planes, and all the trimmings.

Conditions were excellent due to the organization by Andreas Golla and his team, the ideal site for pilots and exhibitors, the outstanding catering, and good weather; it only rained occasionally on Friday and Saturday, the there was lots of sun on Sunday.

50 exhibitors -- which is pretty much everyone in the scale glider scene -- and over 2,000 visitors from Germany, Austria, Italy, France, and Switzerland confirmed that the concept of a fair specifically tailored toward scale gliders is valid. Already some exhibitors have signed up for next year's event.

Top scale soaring pilots demonstrated current scale gliders and their tow planes. Besides the many vintage sailplanes, the latest scale models of modern gliders in glass and carbon construction impressed with hard-to-imagine flight performance. Particularly notable is the high reliability and performance of the various power systems, be they power pods or self-launch systems or turbines. Amazing also the capability of electric-powered tugs which towed gliders as big as the 8-meter Arcus or 9-meter "Wien" vintage sailplane without breaking a sweat.

The 2nd Segelflugmesse in Schwabmünchen will be 19 –23 July 2013.

01. Andreas Golla (left) and his team organized this top event. Here, he greets a guest from Dubai at the AUFWIND booth.

02. Helmut Kröll of the Tannenalm RC Soaring retreat always had great snacks to offer.

03. The Multiplex booth in Schwabmünchen. visitors were most interested in the M-Link system and the new Profi TX transmitter.

04. Graupner brought a fleet of performance gliders, all equipped with the HoTT system.

05. Impressive was Gerald Limmer's scale Wilga with a 4-meter wingspan. The model is made in 58 molds and may be motorized with 170 to 400 cc (Moki radial) engines. The kit costs 6,000 Euros.

06. TUN Modellbau from Switzerland presented impressive scale gliders and offered a great show on all three days.

Top pilots and 50 exhibitors presented soaring at its finest.

Bernd Vogt tirelessly moderated the three-day event, occasionally helped out by competent colleges.

07. Overhead is 70 years of glider development: Markus Frey flew his 15-meter Austria Elefant in formation with Florian Schambeck's ASH-25; a beautiful presentation accompanied by soothing music.

08. Busy flight line. An electric-powered tug tows in the background.

09.&10. As co-initiators of the Segelflugmesse, the firm Paritech with Uwe Rihm (photo) and Matthias Paul brought a large fleet of planes and flew several demo flights in Schwabmünchen.

11. Jürgen Bairle of Rosenthal-Flugmodelle with his big Ka-6CR. Behind him is a half-scale fuselage of an ASG-29.

12. Reinhard Schüler presented his exclusive line of scale gliders, including ASH-26 (4.8 and 6 m), DG-505 (4.97 to 6.29 m), DG-1000 (5.14 to 5.71 m), and Solo-Fox (4.66 m). For year's end, a 6-meter Club Libelle has been announced.

Markus Frey came with his 15-meter Austria Elefant. Flying this behemoth required good communication with the tow pilot and a powerful tug.

13. Scale glider specialist Krause Modellbau also attended the Schwabmünchen fair. His latest offering is a Jodel Robin D400/180 (3.2 m, 2.8-scale).

14. Rödelmodell showed their self-launch systems for gliders weighing between 14 and 20 kilograms along with their power pod e-fly-pro. The latter has a five-bladed prop and convincingly powered a 5.2-meter Ka-6. Of note was how quiet it is.

15. Blue-Airlines CEO Dr. Ralf Steinbach had a variety of planes to offer. Here he is programming his new all-molded ASW-27 (3.6 m).

16. At the Rödelmodell booth, AUFWIND writer Andreas Schäberle showed off his new series of pilot figures made from fiberglass.

17. Irmin Barnert and the motor glider interest group manned a booth and flew several demos with motor gliders.

18. Scale glider icon Harry Rosenthal caught up on the latest technology. Here he inspects Dr. Thoma's innovative Orbis 2.0 self launch system.

Impressive were the powerful tows of big gliders (here the ASH-25 by Schambeck) using the electric-powered Viper SD-4.

19. Ulrich Hunschock of UH-Modellbau and his new 3rd-scale Ka-7 (5.33 m span).

- 20.** Top pilots, such as Mark Zimmer with his SZD-59 Acro by HB-Modellbau, demonstrated scale glider aerobatics.
- 21.** Glider icon Heinz-Bernd Einck presented his new performance glider Vega 4V.
- 22.** The presenters patiently answered questions during the three-day event; here heiki Baumgärtner of HB-Modellbau.
- 23.** Thomas Streinz of CNC-Modellbauservice showed the first fuselage (build-up wood) of his new 5.33-meter ASK-13. The innovative parts eliminate the need for a plan, and building jigs and servo trays are included in the kit.
- 24.** On his first fair as a demo pilot, Jörg Etzler of Windwings flew his Mistral 4300 with 4.3 meter span and a 6-servo wing.

50 exhibitors and about 2,000 spectators visited the first Segelflugmesse Schwabmünchen

- 25.** Robbe featured its new radios and seven brand-new, not-yet-seen scale gliders.
- 26.** Gerhard and Gernot Bruckmann came all the way from Kärnten, Austria, to fly a perfect aerobatic free-stye program with their 2.2-scale Macka with smoke on.
- 27.** Erwin Schreiber of RC-Flight Academy in Nördlingen showed his tow plane OMF Symphony 160 in 3.2-scale (3.4-meter span) and 2.75-scale (3.9-meter span). His 3.3-scale all-molded ASK-21 (5.2-meter span) and his Duo-Discus also attracted attention.

The gigantic Austria Elefant showed spectacular flights which will be remembered for a long time to come.