

2018 Indoor Free Flight Participation Survey

Editor's Note:

Where possible the questions, data, and graphs are presented together with minimal explanation. In cases where multiple factors obfuscate a meaningful interpretation of the data additional context is given below the figures.

Geographic Distribution:

US Fliers:



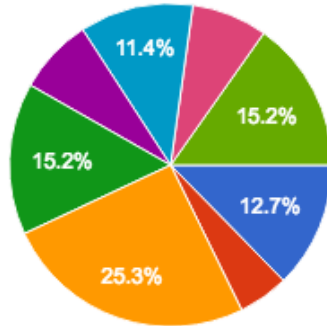
International Fliers Who Attend US Contests:



Frequency of participation and motivation

How often do you fly?

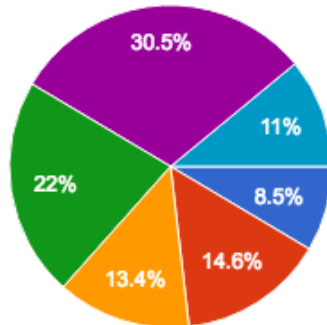
79 responses



- Weekly
- 2-3 times per month
- Monthly
- Bimonthly
- Quarterly
- Biannualy
- Annualy
- It has been more than a year

How often do you build?

82 responses

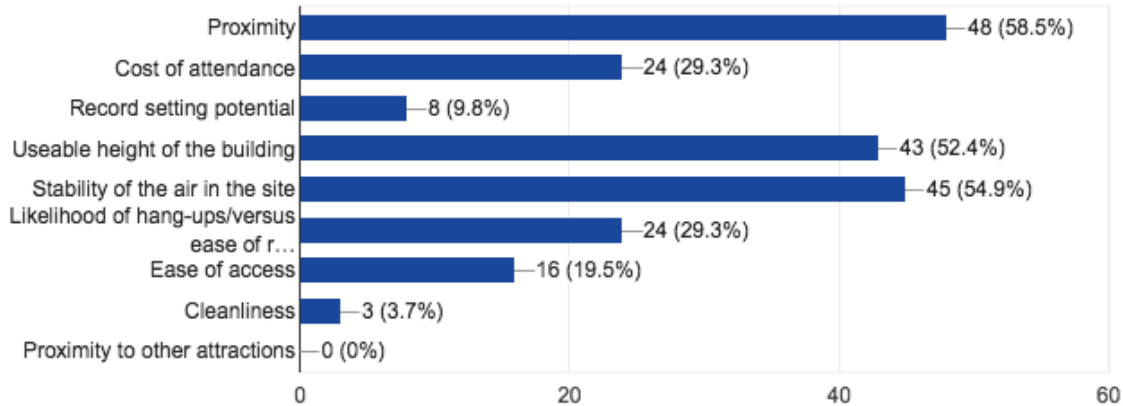


- Daily
- A few times per week
- Weekly
- A few days each month
- A few months out of the year
- Only when I break something

Frequency of participation and motivation cont.

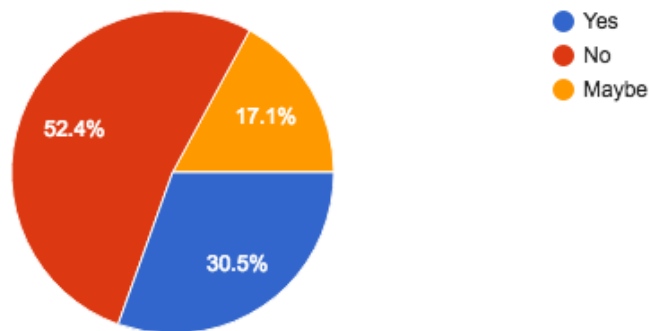
What is/are most important to you in a flying site?

82 responses



Does the time of year impact whether or not you will attend an indoor flying event?

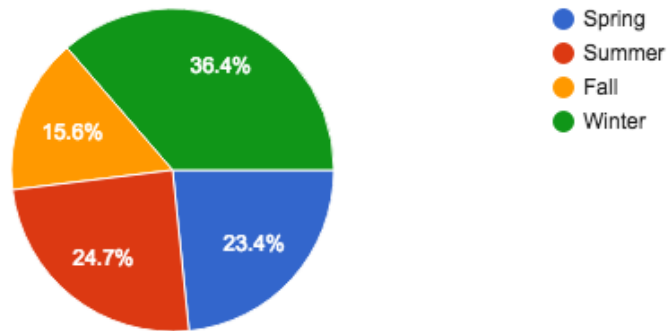
82 responses



Frequency of participation and motivation

When is the ideal time for you to attend an indoor flying event?

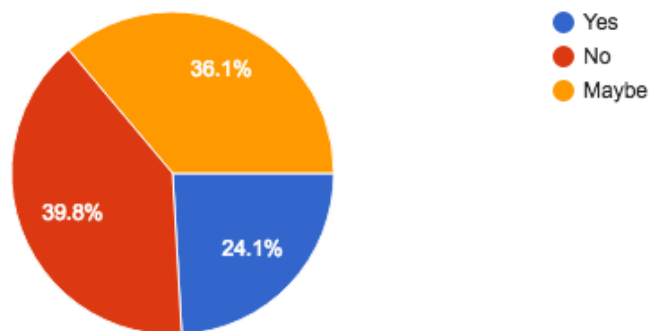
77 responses



The above chart is misleading because there were a number of fliers whose top priority was Indoor Free flight and they favored flying in the warmer part of the year. There was a slightly larger group of fliers whose top priority was Outdoor Free Flight and they favored flying during the cooler part of the year when indoor contests do not conflict with outdoor contests. The results taken together incorrectly make it appear as though there is little preference for time of year.

Are you more likely to attend an indoor flying event if it falls on a holiday weekend?

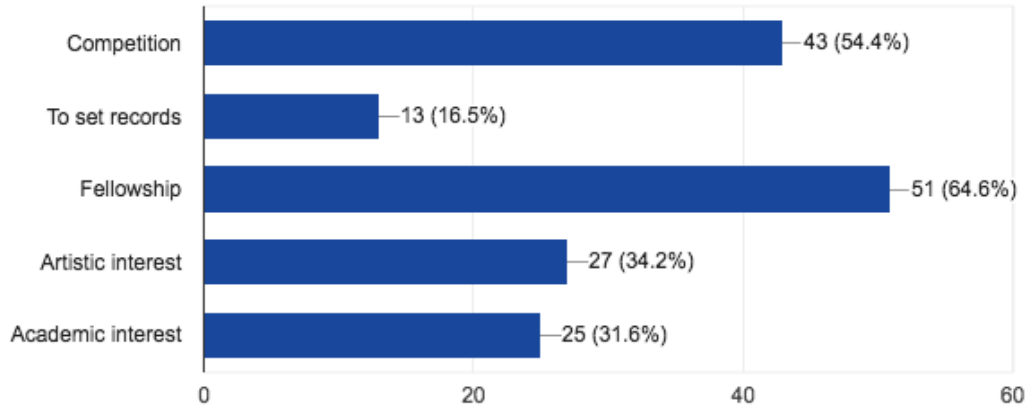
83 responses



What motivates you to fly Indoor Free Flight

Why do you fly?

79 responses



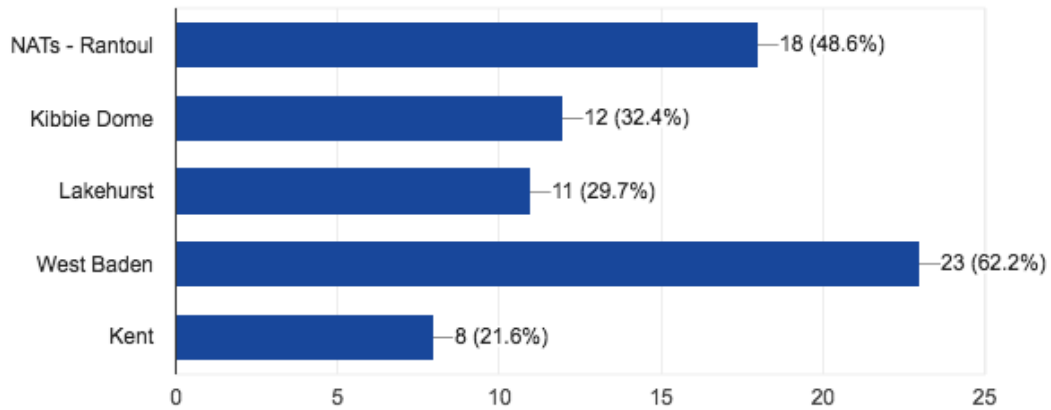
Contests attended by survey respondents in the last past year:

Albany
British Nationals
Cloud Busters
EAA Family Flight Fest
French Nationals
Glastonbury
Kent
Kibbie
Lakehurst
MassConn Fliers
Osawatomie
Pike's Peak Ceiling Climb
Pontiac
Racine
Rantoul
Round Valley Dome
St. Luke's
Swiss Nationals
West Baden

What motivates you to fly Indoor Free Flight cont.

Have you attended any of the following contests in the last year?

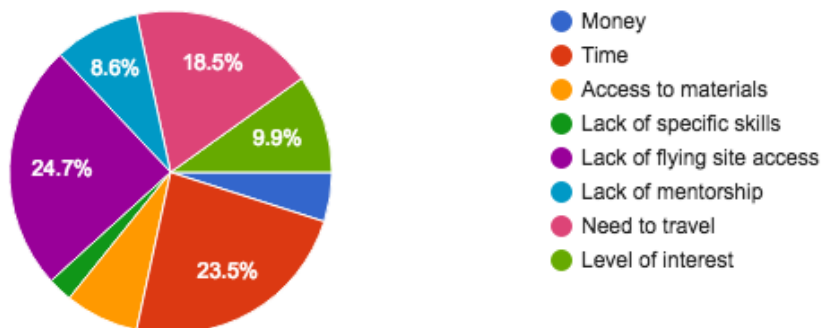
37 responses



What limits your involvement with Indoor Free Flight

What do you see as the most significant barrier to participating in Indoor Free Flight events?

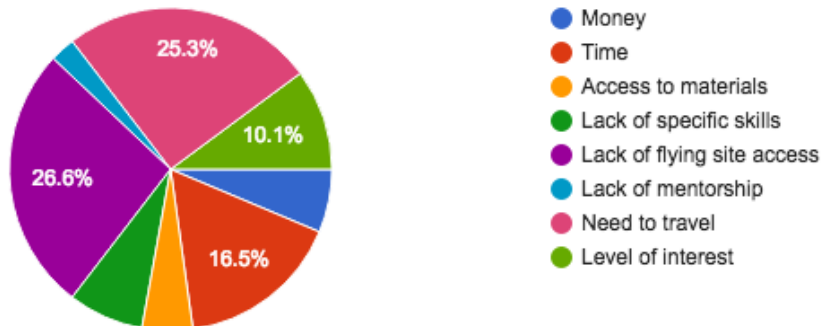
81 responses



What limits your involvement with Indoor Free Flight cont.

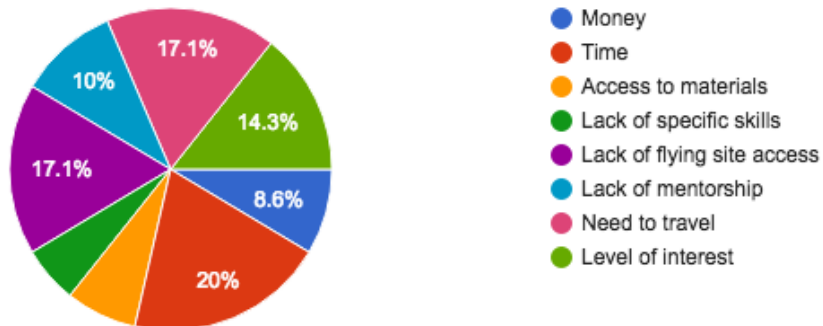
What do you see as the 2nd most significant barrier to participating in Indoor Free Flight events?

79 responses



What do you see as the 3rd most significant barrier to participating in Indoor Free Flight events?

70 responses

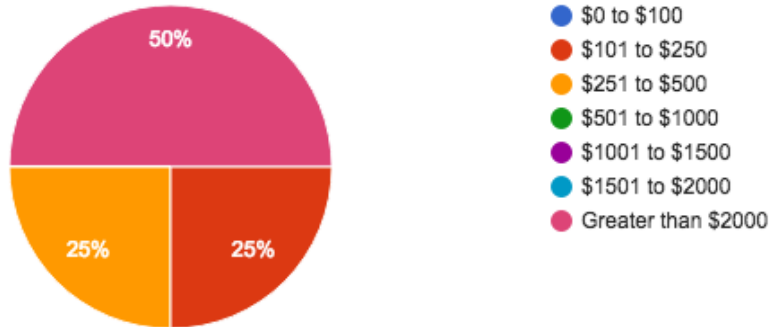


More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Money as their most significant barrier

How much do you typically spend on Indoor Free Flight annually. Please estimate for materials, travel, excetra.

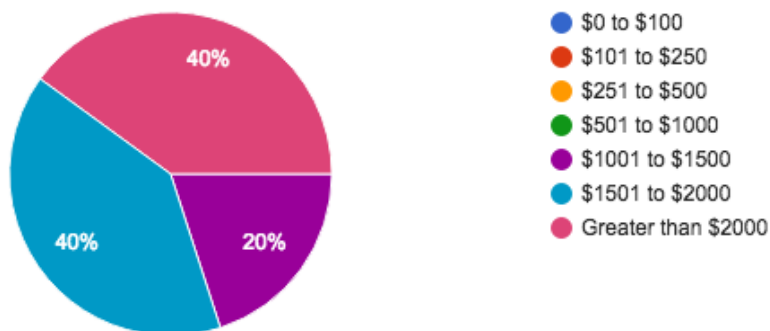
4 responses



Respondents who cited Money as their 2nd most significant barrier

How much do you typically spend on Indoor Free Flight annually. Please estimate for materials, travel, excetra.

5 responses

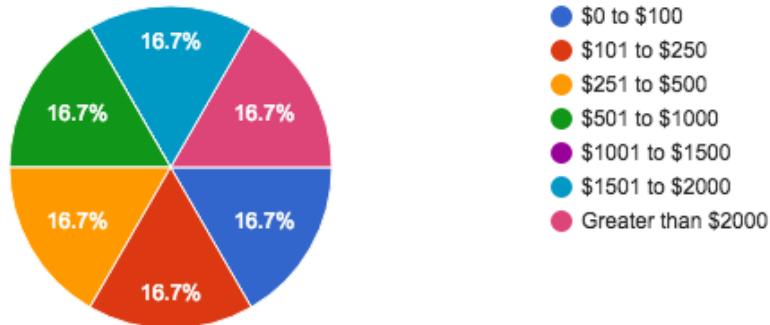


More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Money as their 3rd most significant barrier

How much do you typically spend on Indoor Free Flight annually. Please estimate for materials, travel, excetra.

6 responses



Respondents who cited Access to Materials as a barrier

What materials are you having difficulty obtaining?

- Indoor wood (10 respondents)
- Rubber, such as 5/99 or 3/02 Tan II (7 respondents)
- Film, such as Y2K or Y2K2 (1 respondent)
- Full Sized Plans (1 respondent)
- One-Stop Shopping (1 respondent)

Respondents who cited Lack of Specific Skills as a barrier

What topics would you like resources made for?

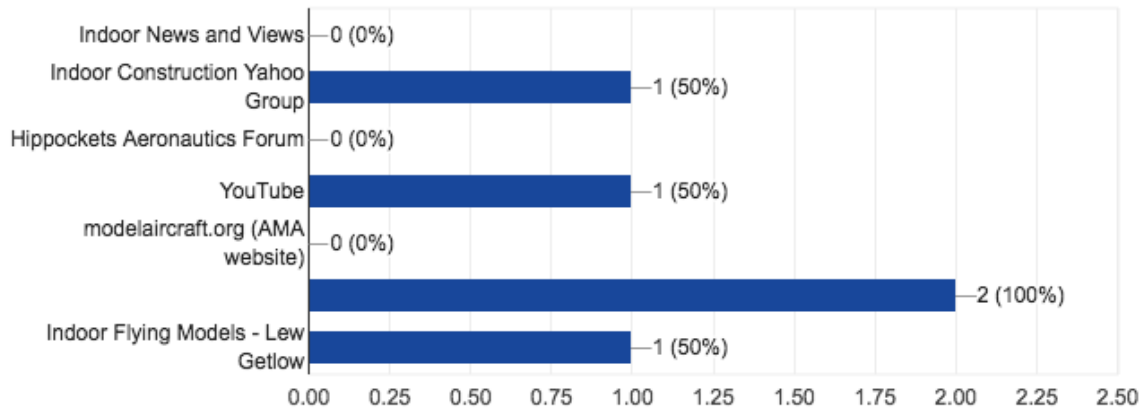
- Building Instruction (2 respondent)
- Beginners Manual, like the F1D Blog (1 respondent)
- Trimming (1 respondent)

More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Lack of Specific Skills as their most significant barrier

Which of the following have you search for help on?

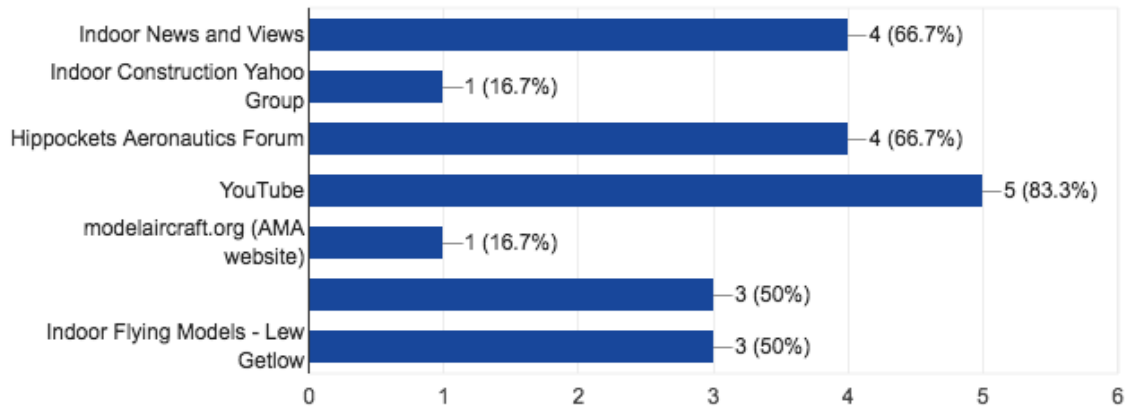
2 responses



Respondents who cited Lack of Specific Skills as their 2nd most significant barrier

Which of the following have you search for help on?

6 responses

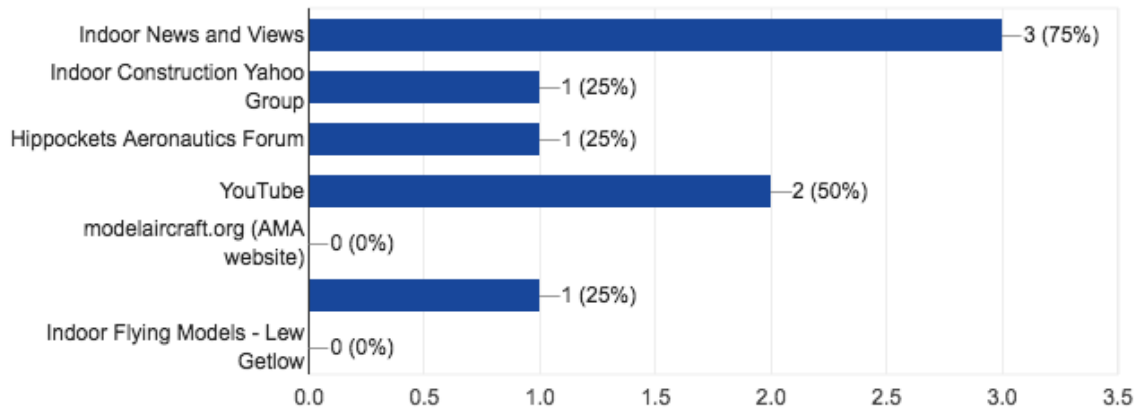


More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Lack of Specific Skills as their 3rd most significant barrier

Which of the following have you search for help on?

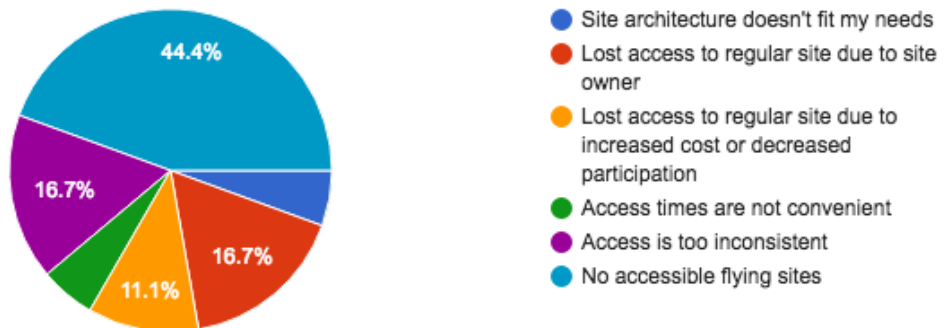
4 responses



Respondents who cited Lack of Flying Site Access as their most significant barrier

What type of flying site issues are you having?

18 responses

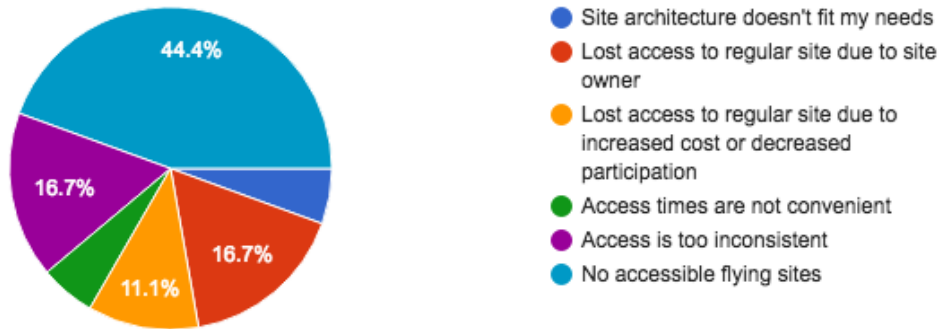


More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Lack of Flying Site Access as their 2nd most significant barrier

What type of flying site issues are you having?

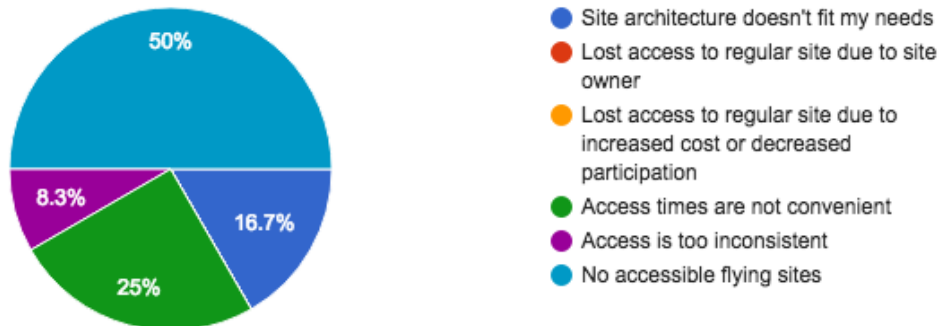
18 responses



Respondents who cited Lack of Flying Site Access as their 3rd most significant barrier

What type of flying site issues are you having?

12 responses



More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Lack of Mentorship as their most significant barrier

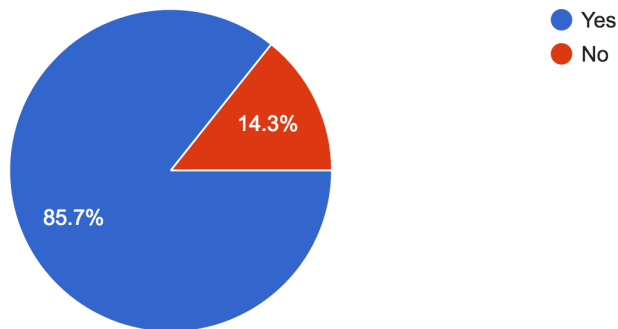
How far away is the closest indoor flyer to you and have you approached them?

4 out of 6 respondents had contacted the closest indoor flier to themselves

Respondents indicated the distance between themselves and the next closest indoor flier ranged between 5 miles and 55 miles

Have you sought help online?

7 responses

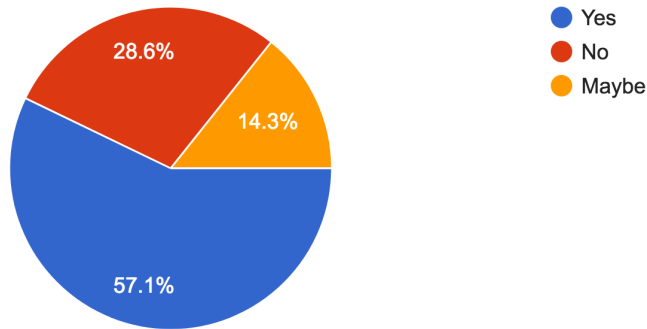


More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Lack of Mentorship as their most significant barrier cont.

Do you feel comfortable attending major contests such as the AMA NATs/USIC or Team Selection if you desired to do so?

7 responses



If you answered no or maybe to the previous question, what would help you to feel comfortable attending a major event?

Two respondents cited a lack of comprehensive training to know how to prepare the event and what to do at the event.

One respondent cited a lack of flying site access to practice prior to the event.

More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Lack of Mentorship as their 2nd most significant barrier

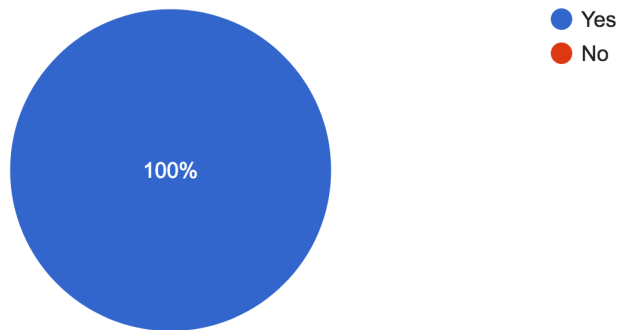
How far away is the closest indoor flyer to you and have you approached them?

1 out of 2 respondents had contacted the closest indoor flier to themselves

Respondents indicated the distance between themselves and the next closest indoor flier ranged between unknown miles and 50 miles

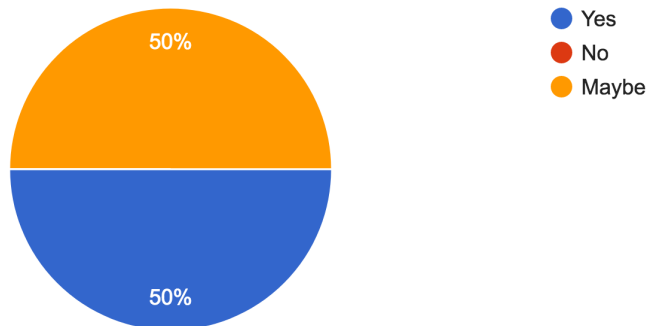
Have you sought help online?

2 responses



Do you feel comfortable attending major contests such as the AMA NATs/USIC or Team Selection if you desired to do so?

2 responses



More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Lack of Mentorship as their 3rd most significant barrier

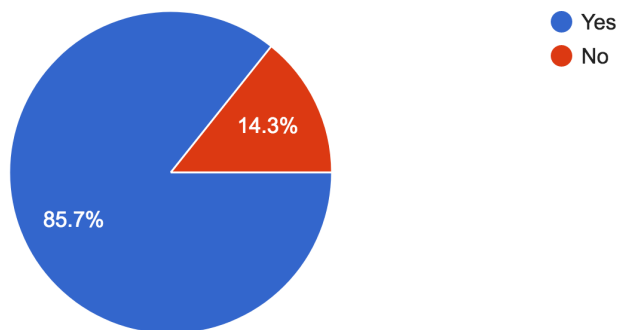
How far away is the closest indoor flyer to you and have you approached them?

4 out of 7 respondents had contacted the closest indoor flier to themselves

Respondents indicated the distance between themselves and the next closest indoor flier ranged between 4 miles and 130 miles

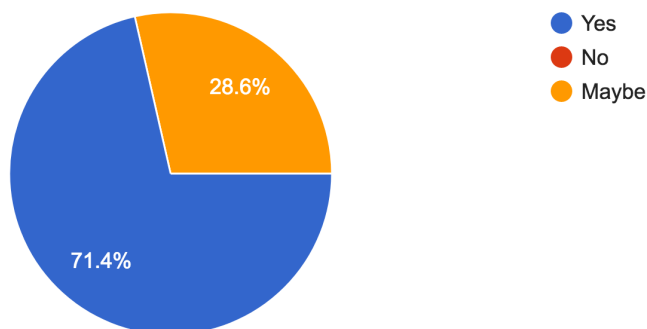
Have you sought help online?

7 responses



Do you feel comfortable attending major contests such as the AMA NATs/USIC or Team Selection if you desired to do so?

7 responses



More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Lack of Mentorship as their 3rd most significant barrier cont.

If you answered no or maybe to the previous question, what would help you to feel comfortable attending a major event?

One respondent cited a lack of good rubber

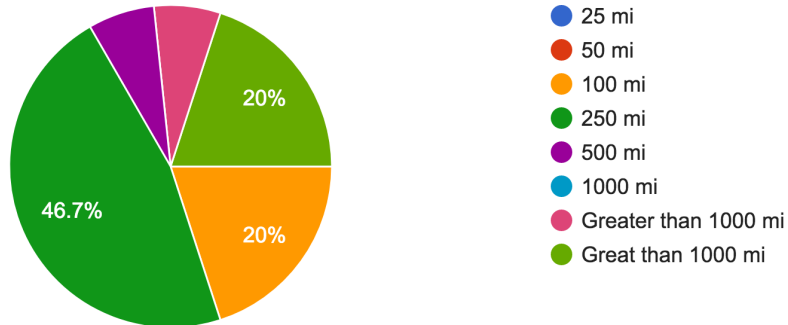
One respondent cited a “bad attitudes of some experience fliers”

More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Need to Travel as their most significant barrier

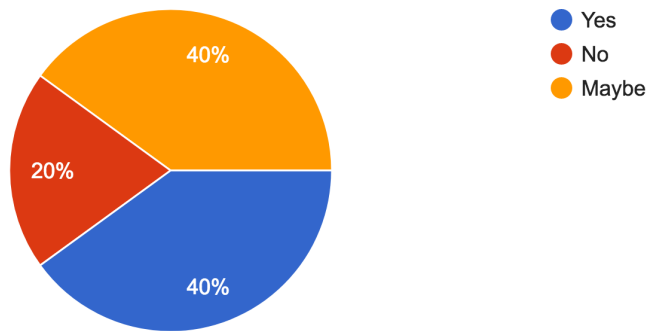
How far are you willing to travel to a contest? (one way)

15 responses



Are you willing to travel by air?

15 responses

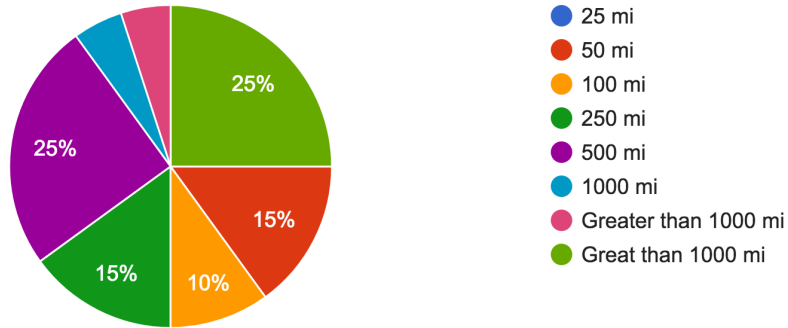


More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Need to Travel as their 2nd most significant barrier

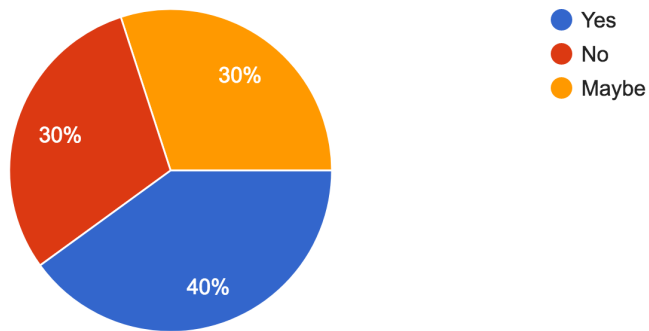
How far are you willing to travel to a contest? (one way)

20 responses



Are you willing to travel by air?

20 responses

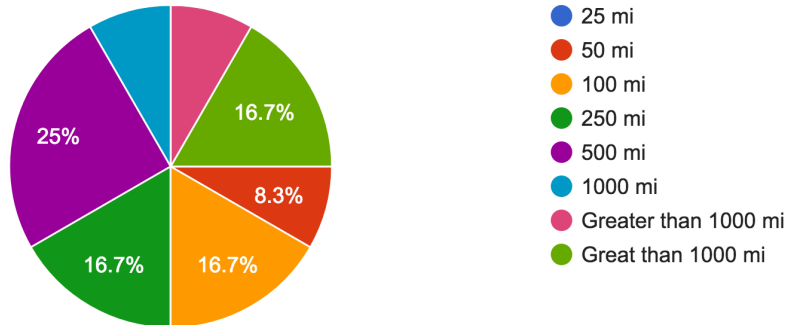


More details on the barriers to Indoor Free Flight participation

Respondents who cited Need to Travel as their 3rd most significant barrier

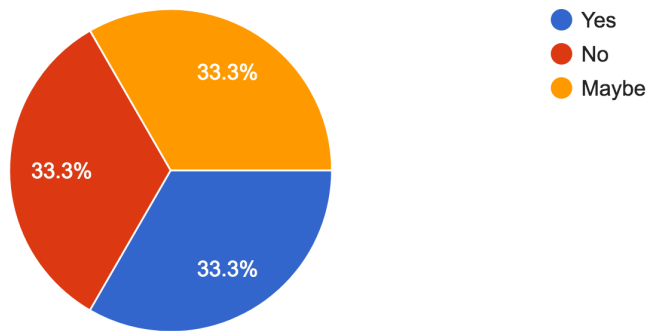
How far are you willing to travel to a contest? (one way)

12 responses



Are you willing to travel by air?

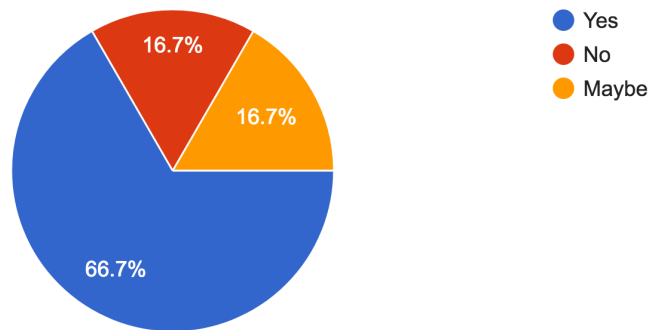
12 responses



Ideal Event

Is there currently an event or events that is/are meeting your current needs?

78 responses



If you answered no, or maybe to the previous question. How would your ideal event be organized and scored? What would the model specifications be?

15 respondents answered the question. Of them, 10 interpreted the question as being about adding a contest date or venue to the calendar instead of adding a new model classification. The data from these respondents was also captured in the Lack of Flying Site section.

The answers from the 5 respondents that would like to create a new model classification included the following parameters

- i) No high-tech materials (2 respondents)
- ii) An event that requires the use of currently available rubber (1 respondent)
- iii) An event that does not require light balsa (1 respondent)
- iv) A tiered competition system in which competitors advance from novice, to intermediate, and finally to expert (1 respondent)
- v) An event similar to Science Olympiad, but with a lower weight limit (1 respondent)
- vi) An event that does not allow rubber to be stripped outside of its commercially available widths (1 respondent)
- vii) An event similar to A6, with a minimum weight, a specified wing area, that only allows paper covering, and limits the stabilizer area to 50% of the wing area. (1 respondent)