# 46th Annual 2026 Golden State Stunt Championships

Folsom Lake Recreation Area in Granite Bay, California
October 9-11, 2026



*“The Gang” at Folsom Lake (Photo by Joan Cox)*

For those unfamiliar with the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, it covers approximately 19,564 acres with the lake occupying about 11,500 acres when full.

First and foremost, Folsom Lake serves as a flood-control reservoir for the Sacramento metropolitan area. The region lies near the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers, and the reservoir helps regulate river flows by holding back winter storm runoff and spring snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada watershed.



*Believe it or not, there is a large boat ramp (out of view on the left) and a humongous parking lot completely underwater in April!*

Believe it or not, the area in the photo above has a large boat ramp just out of view to the left, along with a humongous parking lot that is completely underwater in April!

From April through June, the lake typically reaches its highest levels, around 466 feet above sea level. The photo above was taken when the lake was close to that level.

By October, the water level has usually been drawn down to around 405 feet above sea level. As the water recedes, the enormous parking lot is exposed, but the water level is then too low for the boat ramp to be used. That parking lot becomes our home for the Golden State Stunt Championships (GSSC)!



*Here's the Parking Lot when Dry*

## Here Comes the Heat!

October usually brings some of the best of the entire year, with light winds and mild temperatures. I said *usually*—not this year!

We experienced temperatures approaching 100°F, well above normal for this time of year. Who knows what the temperature of the asphalt got? Trust me, it was HOT!

Fortunately, things began to cool down by Friday. Saturday was a bit windy, with sustained winds around 10–15 mph and gusts reaching 22 mph. Windy, but flyable! By Sunday, the weather was absolutely delightful.

## Getting Ready for the Contest

The official site preparation day was scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2026, but preparations actually began a couple of days earlier.

On Wednesday, one of the most important pieces of equipment arrived at the site—the Porta-Potties! Assistant Contest Director James Dean was on hand to make sure they were placed in the proper locations.

While there, James also took it upon himself to do a little site cleanup during the late-afternoon heat, trimming the small weeds growing in cracks around the three flying circles. There wasn't much growth, but did I mention it was HOT?

James also installed the barriers and rope surrounding the flying area—roughly 2,000 linear feet of it. That's quite a bit of rope!

On Thursday, a small group of volunteers came out to help finish setting up the site. There wasn't a great deal of work remaining. The area was cleaned with a blower, chalk lines were used to mark the perimeters of the three flying circles, and the pit areas for each circle were laid out.

By 11:00 a.m., those in attendance were able to get in some practice flights. Although it was still hot, the wind was excellent! The site was ready for the official practice day on Friday.

## Practice Day

On Friday, all three circles were available for pilots who wanted to get in some practice flights. The circles were busy throughout the day, and the site was open from sunrise to sunset.

Although temperatures remained high, the winds were very mild. Several pilots took advantage of the ideal conditions to get in additional flights during the early evening.

There is, however, one thing to keep in mind when flying late at Folsom Lake: once the sun drops below the horizon, it gets dark quickly. Before long, it becomes difficult to see your airplane against the background!

## Contest Day!

Around 7:30 a.m. Saturday, the contest equipment stored at the Woodland-Davis Aeromodelers Field arrived at Folsom Lake. Many thanks to Pete Cunha and Brian Moore, who each made the 40-mile trip from Woodland to deliver the equipment needed for the contest.

Once the pop-up canopies and tables were set up, it was time for registration to begin. Competitors could check in and have their airplanes weighed.

I want to thank Jim Hoffman for taking care of the airplane weighing and recording the weights. He was also available on Saturday and Sunday to weigh airplanes for competitors who arrived later.

Jim did even more behind the scenes. He was instrumental in preparing all the judges' score sheets for every event and still found time to judge Profile Stunt on Saturday. Thanks, Jim!

Another person who provided tremendous help was Misty Shorts. Misty handled the tabulation of scores for all the events on both contest days, using my laptop. She was fast and extremely accurate, allowing the results to be posted relatively quickly.

Misty did an outstanding job. Thank you!

## A Special Guest at the Pilot's Meeting

During Saturday's pilot's meeting, Brett Buck told everyone that he had personally invited JR Schiager, AMA District X Vice President, to attend GSSC.

JR accepted the invitation and spent time talking with many of the competitors, asking questions and answering questions of his own. He had never attended a control-line precision aerobatics contest before, and he was quite amazed and impressed by what he saw—and by the people involved.

You can read about JR's experience on Facebook here: JR Schiager Comments

It was great to have him visit and experience our side of the aeromodeling world firsthand.

## Thank You to Everyone!

A contest like this doesn't happen without a lot of help from people willing to give their time and effort.

To all our judges—Jim Aron, Brett Buck, Joan and Chris Cox, Dave Fitzgerald, Jim Hoffman, Cint Ormosen, and Jeremy Schulz—thank you for taking on the challenging task of judging the many flights throughout the contest.

To all the score runners, pit bosses, pull testers, and everyone else who helped keep things running smoothly, you have my deepest appreciation.

To those who came out on Thursday to help prepare the site, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you for pitching in!

And finally, to everyone who stayed on Sunday after the contest to help with teardown and cleanup, I am especially grateful. It takes a team to put on an event like this, and you all did a great job!

***Thank you, everyone, for helping make the 46th Annual 2026 Golden State Stunt Championships a success!***

## The Official Results

Here are the official final results of the 46th Annual 2026 Golden State Stunt Championships:

| 46th Annual 2026 Golden State Stunt Championships | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Old Time Stunt** | | | |
| **Name** | **1st Round** | **2nd Round** | **Finish** |
| Jim Hoffman | 292 | **312.25** | 1st |
| Jim Arom | 278.25 | **308.5** | 2nd |
| David Shorts | **280.25** | 278.75 | 3rd |
| Mike Hazel | 248.5 | **252.75** | 4th |
| | | | |

| Classic | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Name** | **1st Round** | **2nd Round** | **Finish** |
| Dennis Nunes | 508 | **542.5** | 1st |
| Jim Aron | 488 | **517** | 2nd |
| Chris McMillin | 473 | **492** | 3rd |
| Mike Hazel | **438.5** | Pass | 4th |
| Lanny Shorts | **370** | Pass | 5th |
| Shawn Lenci | **358.5** | Pass | 6th |

| Profile | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Name** | **1st Round** | **2nd Round** | **Finish** |
| Dennis Nunes | 527 | **536** | 1st |
| Jeremy Schulz | 468 | **470.5** | 2nd |
| James Dean | 415.5 | **457** | 3rd |
| David Shorts | **443** | 441 | 4th |
| Mark Wasnick | 353 | **400.5** | 5th |
| Mike Hazel | DQ | Pass | 9th |
| Shawn Lenci | Pass | Pass | 9th |
| Lanny Shorts | Pass | Pass | 9th |
| Brian Moore | Pass | Pass | 9th |

| Beginner | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Name** | **1st Round** | **2nd Round** | **Finish** |
| Chris Menicou | 185.5 | **194** | 1st |

| Intermediate | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Name** | **1st Round** | **2nd Round** | **Finish** |
| Shawn Lenci | **427.5** | 419.5 | 1st |
| Colin McRae | **418** | 401.5 | 2nd |

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## Advanced

| Name | 1st Round | 2nd Round | Finish |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brian Moore | 502.5 | **519.5** | 1st |
| James Dean | 480.5 | **507** | 2nd |
| Zachary Schulz | 462.5 | **494.5** | 3rd |
| Jim McClellan | 419.5 | **494.5** | 4th |
| Jeremy Schulz | 466.5 | **480** | 5th |
| Todd Stimpson | 425.5 | **475** | 6th |
| Lanny Shorts | **410.5** | 271.5 | 7th |
| David Shorts | 351.5 | **462.5** | 8th |
| Charles Carter | 440.5 | **462** | 9th |
| Mike Hazel | 431.5 | **460** | 10th |
| Pete Cunha | **448.5** | Pass | 11th |
| Larry Wong | **380** | Pass | 12th |

## Expert

| Name | 1st Round | 2nd Round | Finish |
|---|---|---|---|
| David Fitzgerald | **600** | Pass | 1st |
| Chris Cox | **590.5** | 588 | 2nd |
| Tim Just | **580.5** | 573 | 3rd |
| Brett Buck | 572.5 | **580.5** | 4th |
| Jim Aron | 560 | **564.5** | 5th |
| Kestutis Dvarvydis | 561.5 | **564** | 6th |
| Jim Hoffman | **563.5** | 556.5 | 7th |
| Dennis Nunes | **563** | 562 | 8th |
| Chris McMillin | 522 | **530** | 9th |
| David Eyskens | **522** | 519.5 | 10th |
| Mark Wasnick | **512** | 476 | 11th |

## Special Awards

| Award | Recipient |
|---|---|
| Highest Score by Non-Expert (Profile) | Jeremy Schulz |
| Pilot's Choice Concours Award | Chris Cox |
| Gilbert Rodriguez Memorial Cup | David Fitzgerald |

## Until Next Year!

This was our third year at Folsom Lake, and each year seems to get better and better.

If you missed this year's contest, for whatever reason, I hope you'll make an effort to join us next year. Whether you come to compete, help out, or simply watch, there's a place for you at GSSC.

Interestingly, when I returned to control-line flying in 2015 after a 45-year hiatus, one of the first events I attended was the GSSC, which was being held in Madera, California, at the time. I went as a spectator and met David Fitzgerald. We introduced ourselves and talked briefly, but one of the last things he said to me was:

***"Next time bring a plane and fly!"***

Well, I've been bringing a plane—or sometimes several—and flying every year since then!

So, please come out next year. If you're not ready to fly, come as a spectator. Enjoy the airplanes, the competition, and, just as importantly, the camaraderie.

Who knows? You might find yourself wanting to bring a plane the following year.

And when I see you, maybe I'll get the chance to tell you the same thing David told me back in 2015:

***"Next time bring a plane and fly!"***

Until next year, may the wind be at your back and your flying lines tight!

Sincerely,

*Dennis S. Nunes*

**GSSC Contest Director**