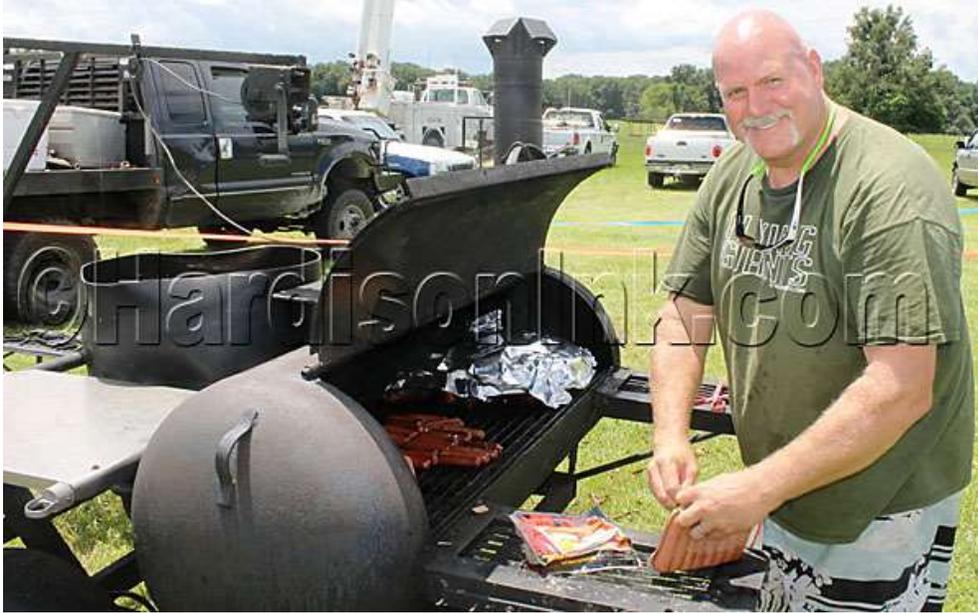


HardisonInk.com

4th Annual Bell Blast is a blast again



Kenneth Bell stands near the hotdog grill on Saturday afternoon (July 1). He and his wife Lisa Bell hosted the annual Bell Blast.

Story, Photos and Videos

By Jeff M. Hardison © July 1, 2017 at 9:27 p.m.

TRI-COUNTY AREA -- On an undisclosed airfield in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties, model aircraft enthusiasts from far and near enjoyed the Fourth Annual Bell Blast on Saturday (July 1), an invitational event to celebrate God and country.



Christopher Penny, 23, of Pelham, Ga., prepares to start an Extra 330L radio-controlled airplane. To start the model aircraft, he spins the propeller.

Meanwhile, Jonathan Cannon, 37, of Thomasville, Ga., is standing in front of the tail section of the machine. These two gentlemen came to this part of Florida on this day for this event.

HardisonInk.com

<https://youtu.be/n6Dd24obOBQ>

In this video, hobbyist unmanned aerial system pilot Jeff M. Hardison launches The Dragonfly drone in the parking area of the Bell Blast. This flight, which had a maximum airtime of five possible minutes, was going to be an up and down straight flight with a video of the words mowed into the grass near the actual flying area for radio-controlled model aircraft. Due to pilots who had been invited needing the airspace, Hardison opted to fly from the parking lot. Here the big tent and some of the smaller tents are seen, as are some of the vehicles on the field. ‘Kenneth Bell told me that he thought the model aircraft pilots would be able to fly while I did my five-minute up and down view. However, the boy who was flying a single-prop helicopter told me he was unsure of his ability to control that aircraft enough, and he added that people have been killed by that type of model helicopter. So, I flew my drone in the parking area.’

https://youtu.be/XoUMK2j_lxI

In this video, a green radio-controlled plane lands. Then the yellow plane flown by Brandon Stephens, 18, of Starke is seen during part of its many excellent maneuvers. At one point in this video, Stephens has the plane hovering front facing skyward and it is relatively near to him.

Kenneth and Lisa Bell are the founders and hosts for this relatively big shindig that included hotdogs for lunch, and a very impressive fireworks show after dark.

Kenneth Bell thanked everyone for coming to the daylong and nightlong event which celebrates American Independence Day.

White the Fourth of July is on Tuesday this year, the Bell family and others launched fireworks on Saturday night. In Bronson, the town went against its longstanding tradition in this regard on the impetus from Town Councilwoman Katie Parks, who is the town leader charged as the liaison for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Williston set its parade and fireworks for Friday (July 3) to avoid having to pay city workers holiday pay, as has been its custom.

In Cedar Key, the fireworks show by the Cedar Key Chamber of Commerce and others is set for the Fourth of July (Tuesday).

As for the Fourth Annual Bell Blast, it was once again tons of fun for all who showed up throughout the day and into the dark of night.

At the peak of the day, hotdogs were provided. Kenneth Bell thanked everyone who made this event part of their Independence Day weekend celebration. He let everyone know the event to celebrate Independence Day first gives thanks to God, and then to veterans who have helped keep America free.

Doug Martin, who flies actual jets as well as model aircraft, was recognized for his 41st birthday, to which everyone sang the traditional birthday song in his honor at lunchtime.

HardisonInk.com



The Extra 330L



HardisonInk.com



HardisonInk.com



Bryan Stephens (left) checks the tail area of the PAU Edge 540 as his son Brandon Stephens prepares to take the airplane out for some fun flying. Brandon Stephens is an extremely accomplished model airplane pilot and he had that vehicle performing amazing acrobatic moves on Saturday (July 1). The Stephens are from Starke. Many pilots and aircraft came to the Fourth Annual Bell Blast, and it is relatively safe to say a good time was had by all.



HardisonInk.com



HardisonInk.com



HardisonInk.com

