

OC man breaks Guinness world record

► **Robert Kinch, 27, shatters the ramp jump mark by a controlled model car.**

By KRISTI CUMMINS

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Staff Writer

The Guinness World Record for longest ramp jump by a radio controlled model

car was shattered by 27-year-old Robert Kinch of Oil City on Saturday.

About 1,000 people attended the event at Big Dog RC Indoor Race and Hobby in Stoneboro to witness Kinch beat the record and eventually be presented with a certificate by an official adjudicator from the Guinness World Records.

Kinch was driving an E-

Revo, four-wheel drive monster truck made by Traxxas. The car was powered by a 48,000 RPM electric motor with 22.2 volts from lithium batteries.

The previous record was 85 feet, 10.7 inches set by a 17-inch car in London. Kinch's record was 112 feet, 7 and a half inches — nearly 27 feet farther than the previous record.

Drivers who attempted to break the record hailed from five states, and although many had jumps of more than 85 feet, none beat Kinch's distance.

John Raskob, one of the owners of Big Dog RC, said before the event that he was confident the record could be broken, since a few people had been practicing and were beating the record by a foot or two during informal runs. He didn't expect someone to blow the existing record out of the water like Kinch did, however.

"It was so much farther than anyone would've guessed," Raskob said. "He was just ready. We had a grid to measure the distances and he was so far off the grid."

In addition to distance, the RC cars making the jump had to land on all four wheels and land intact and in control, which Kinch also achieved successfully.

The adjudicator presented the framed certificate to Kinch after videos were reviewed to get the official recording down. Kinch was more than

happy to receive the certificate and the recognition.

"I got the certificate and bragging rights, really," Kinch said. "That's all that really matters to me. I didn't do it for fame and fortune."

As for any training secrets or strategies Kinch used in his rise to glory, he says to "hold the trigger, wide open throttle," and that control was a big factor.

"Coming down the runway, I got it up as fast as it possibly could, and once it went into the air it was just watch it and hope to God it lands," Kinch said.

After his record-breaking run, many attendees at the event congratulated him and shook his hand for such an overwhelming victory, but Kinch was just participating in what he calls his favorite hobby.

The Guinness World Records book only published 4,000 records in its yearly book out of the 40,000 records that exist, and Kinch thinks there's a good chance he may make it into the book.

"Considering the distance I beat the previous record by, I think I could get in the book, but I'm not certain," Kinch said.

Kinch said someone else would "probably" beat his record at some point, but that he wasn't bothered by that idea.

"I'll always have that I was the former Guinness World Record holder," he said.

Radio flier

Man jumps RC car into record book

By Courtney L. Saylor
Herald Staff Writer

A 26-year-old smashed a world record Saturday morning at a new business in Lake Township.

Robert Kinch of Oil City bested the record for the longest ramp jump by a radio controlled model car by nearly 27 feet with a distance of 112-feet 8½ inches.

"That thing went flying, man. I've never seen anything like it," Scott Plummer of Greenville said of the record-setting jump as he got ready to try his hand at the ramp that afternoon.

"I came to have fun," Kinch said of traveling to Big Dog RC Indoor Race and Hobby after testing and tweaking his remote control-ride for months.

Guinness Book of World Records adjudicator Johanna Hessling witnessed more than a dozen attempts to break the world record at the grand opening of Big Dog RC, 482 Stoneboro Lateral Road.

The shop, which is located in a former car dealership at the corner of state Routes 358 and 854, is owned by Robin and John Raskob and Glen and Helen Singleton and includes a store and three indoor race tracks.

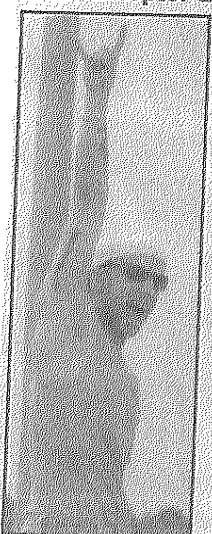
"We have kids here from six years old to guys that are 80," said Raskob, who lives in Sandy Lake with his wife and kids part of the year and hails from Arizona. "We've had as many as a hundred people on a Saturday night racing already from four different states and haven't

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Doug Michaels/The Herald

A radio-controlled model car leaps off the edge of a ramp in an attempt to break a world record at Big Dog RC Indoor Race and Hobby, Lake Township. The grand opening of the store Saturday included racing, jumping, food, music and RC plane and helicopter demonstrations.



Doug Michaels/The Herald



Doug Michaels/Herald

Robert Kinch, at left, celebrates after setting a new world record for the longest ramp jump by a radio controlled model car Saturday in Lake Township. Above, Kinch, middle in the white T-shirt and hat, watches another racer take a shot.

RC
Man jumps RC car
into record book

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even officially opened."

The dirt track buzzed all day Saturday with enthusiasts putting their RC cars and trucks to the test. Bits of plastic flew as cars crashed and flipped and spun and marshalls stationed around the room braved bruised shins to right them.

The races are monitored electronically with lap speed and rankings displayed on the wall along sponsor signs

just like at the race tracks for regular-sized race cars.

All around the store operators grabbed a patch of table to repair and clean up their racers. Outside, people flew RC planes in a field and waited for jump attempts.

Plummer, 37, saw signs for the event Friday when driving by and dug out his modified, nitro-powered Revo that's been in a closet for three years. He sprayed some WD40 on it and it was ready to go.

He was happy to get back into the hobby again.

"I'm glad they're here," Plummer said of the shop.

Most cars are scaled to

1/10 the size and electric powered with top scale speeds of more than 70 mph.

"Most people don't realize how much the technology has advanced," Raskob said.

Kinch said the "extreme speed" is what draws many people to the hobby.

And Big Dog RC is a great place to get a fix.

"I come here as often as humanely possible," Kinch said.

For more information about Big Dog RC Indoor Race and Hobby, visit their website at www.bigdogrc.com or call 724-376-2379.