

HM Review

Jon Graham

Airborne Born Wild

AirBorne Models enters the nautical arena with a sleek and smooth running, entry-level deep vee electric ARR.



Specifications:

- Length: 31 inches
- Beam: 9 inches
- Motor: geared 550
- Battery: 7.2-V (not included)
- RC: 2-channel (not included)

ARR Features:

- Factory-joined ABS hull & deck
- Factory-installed motor assembly
- Factory-installed on-off switch
- Factory-installed stuffing box & shaft
- Factory-installed on-off switch
- RC compartment
- Dual trim plates
- 2-bladed plastic propeller
- Waterproof sealing tape
- 12-page instruction manual

AirBorne Models, parent company to The World Models, is normally associated with RC aircraft. In October of last year, the company unveiled its new line of RC cars and RC boats at the HobbyVisions International show in Las Vegas. As a big fan of AirBorne's excellent airplane designs, I was eager to see how capably they could design for water.

I wasn't disappointed. Born Wild showed up a few weeks following the show, and I was surprised at how much quality boat could come inside a box with an over-the-counter price of less than \$70. Born Wild is an almost-ready-to-run deep vee. The rugged ABS hull and deck are factory joined, and the speed 400 motor and motor switch are factory installed. The stuffing box and propeller shaft also come factory installed, as are a pair of non-adjustable trim plates on the stern.

Modelers can get this boat on the water in a hurry. The only assembly steps required before installing the RC system are attaching the rudder to the rudder stand, and securing the drive dog, the two-bladed propeller

and the propeller collar. Since few modelers really enjoy swimming out to retrieve a model boat, it's very important to suggest applying a little blue threadlocker to the set screw that holds the propeller collar. You might also suggest treating the rudder and trim plate fasteners while they're at it. I use and recommend Great Planes' Pro Threadlocker. It's blue, and non-permanent.

Born Wild's electric motor comes with a simple, factory-installed on-off micro switch instead of an electronic speed control. This rudimentary setup means that a simple two-channel radio system with two servos and a receiver battery box is all the model requires in the way of RC equipment. I used my Airtronics Rival system with a pair of Airtronics 102 standard-size servos.

Powering Born Wild requires any 6-cell, 7.2-V battery with a Tamiya-type connector. I used the new 2400mAh



Stuffing box is securely factory installed. Jon

Graham uses Great Planes' Pro Threadlocker (blue) to assure solid retention of drive dog and propeller collar, as well as all rudder fittings and trim tabs.



HM's review model uses Airtronics RC with standard servos, all held with supplied double-sided tape.



MegaVolt nickel-metal hydride pack from Megatech International, along with their simple MegaPeak AC/DC fast charger. This setup allows for run times of 8 to 9 minutes at full speed.

Factory-installed 400 electric motor. Easy access to gearbox. Remember, there is no ESC, so the boat has only two speeds — go and don't.

Once the RC gear and receiver batteries are installed, the radio bay cover can be fitted and sealed with clear, waterproof tape. A generous supply of this tape comes on a roll in the kit, and the cover normally only needs to be removed to change the four receiver cells, so the tape should last a long time.

From the moment I opened the box, Born Wild was full of pleasant surprises, and getting it out on the water was perhaps the most pleasant of all. With the transmitter in my left hand and the boat in my right, I



Battery bay holds 6-cell motor pack. Tamiya-style connector.

triggered the motor on and gave the model an enthusiastic forward toss. She hit the water and came right up on the step. She ran out as straight as the proverbial arrow, and kicked up a really impressive rooster tail.

I ran a few gentle figure 8's, then gradually started to tighten my turns to see if the boat would tuck or roll uncomfortably. No way. Born Wild stayed steady and solid through the turns, and the only time the boat went squirrely was when I slammed a sudden full rudder input in at full rate.



RC compartment is sealed with supplied clear waterproof tape. Stern post engages removable deck, retained by a hairpin clip.

If a low-cost, well-made, easy driving ARR speedboat fits the profile of one or more of your sport boat cus-

tomers, treat yourself to a closer look at AirBorne Models' Born Wild. This is a great boat for the entry-level modeler. It's quick and easy to assemble, it looks terrific on the water or on a shelf, and its simplistic design assures that there will be very few items to maintain.

For more information about the new Born Wild deep vee, see the ad on page 73, or telephone AirBorne Models, LLC, in Livermore, California, at 925-371-0922. **HM**



Born Wild is smooth over the water. Speed is brisk for an entry-level boat, and the rooster tail is impressive.