



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

www.thermalthumbers.com

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January-March 2007

HEADS UP

HERE YEA!

HEAR YEA!

HEAR YEA!

Frank Hodson here, filling in for David while he continues to torment himself editing and assembling the next “Symposium”. Do not expect too much and you might not be disappointed! Clarification: I was referring to my efforts doing the Thumb Print. My old fingers do not have old adages, tales, bravado, lies (oops! minor distortions) oozing from them, like you know who. Now let us proceed with the task at had now that the “disclaimer” has been posted.

ANNUAL BANQUET

I knew we were in for a good time when the weather forecast didn’t predict even the lightest shade of a natural disaster. Walking into the hotel, we were offered cool and crisp air and were only met with a light drizzle when it was over. A refreshing change from years past. Remember the year the bridge that collapsed and the year the interstate caught fire? Remember the ice storm of the century?

Dohrman sold thirty-six tickets and we had a nice room full. The happy hour in the prefunction room was well-attended by both fliers, their families, and models. As in years past, Al put us all to shame with five or six rubber jobs and Graham had three gas jobs. Several more brought solo efforts. My pork roast was delicious, quite tasty really, and the sides of garlic mashed potatoes and sauteed zucchini and carrots good as well. (Heck, I’m an old bachelor and anytime I’ve more than two things on a plate at one time is a real treat. Really, the food was quite good, enough by my lenient standards.)

The speaker was a fellow retired Delta pilot and friend of Dohrman’s named Bob Gaines. Like most of the “retired” people I know, he keeps himself pretty busy, in his case by restoring old sailplanes. What can you say about a guy who uses nitrate by the gallon bucket? I can’t say I really believe much in the modern concept of retirement; everyone I know is seems much too busy for my tastes, not enough time for gluing sticks together.

We introduced the 2007 officer slate: Fearless Leader Frank, president; David Barfield, veep; Don Brown, treasurer; Geoffrey Gros Guth, secretary. Having had no takers when I asked if anybody else wanted to be the newsletter editor, I will continue at that post. Frank spoke briefly about a number of things, but his most important topic was the club’s need to fly more and fly

more officially. I nagged the assembled Thumbs about renewing the 2007 dues and how Don was poised for action.

The awards ceremony offered the usual motley suspects, merely shuffling of deck. Jim Altenbern earned the George Perryman Perpetual Award by a wide margin over Brook Dixon, Sr., followed by Dohrman Crawford, Gary Baughman, and Clarence Purdy. Jim Altenbern reprised his walk to the front when he won the Club Model of the Year Award. Graham Selick won the David Raymond CO2 by a wide margin. By a cruel twist of fate, Brook Dixon, Sr. couldn't make the banquet, but his name was called twice more for winning the Bob Baker Old Timer Trophy and the Grayson Anderson Mass Launch Trophy. The glory and glamour for the Dixon family wasn't over because Brook Dixon, Jr. was justly bestowed the Norm Purdy Service Award because, without his efforts, our newsletter wouldn't have gone digital. Many thanks from the club to Brook Junior.

2007 PEACH STATE INDOOR CHAMPS

Look for the flier elsewhere in this issue and mark your calendars on April 14. I encourage all members to attend because there's plenty to see, even if you don't intend to fly. Last year, we had over two hundred official flights and untold fun and trimming flights. The North Cobb High School gym is a good room, the ceiling is a little nasty, but it's well over thirty feet, solidly in the category II range. It's a good floorshow and it's free.

Of course, if you intend to fly, there's even better reasons to attend. The competition in numerous events is earnest and hard-fought. Also, given the large fields in many events, this contest is the club's most bountiful opportunity for club high points and FAC kanones, and once again, we're participating in the National Indoor Cup. If all this doesn't stir up some gumption, I don't know what we can do for you. Be there.

THUMBS IN PRINT

Fellow thumb, Dohrman, published an outstanding article in the latest NFFS digest by way of a kit review of Len Surtees' "Spin Up", the first discus-launched glider(DLG) to hit the shelves. The article is quite good and informative. He covers a number of topics, including the usual ones in building the kit. He wisely goes to some length describing the launching technique, a wise move considering how radically different it is. He closes the article by going into the immediate and regrettable grouching many of the prominent HLG fliers at the Nats and elsewhere about the need to make DLG a separate class. He puts the issue into an ironclad perspective and effectively argues against such silliness. What will happen to HLG because of discus launch is a blessing; namely, participation will spike up a great deal and the event will grow significantly. Stan Buddenbohm already has two new DLG kits on the market and there will be a few others. Every new product that sells makes our cottage industries that much more viable. Other classes should be so lucky.

Let's all get a little adventurous and someone might invent something to revolutionize catapult glider. How much higher could you get a CLG if the wings folded ala the leading edge crazies in F1C? I see no reason why someone can't push that envelope. Maybe as a sport we're on the verge of a number of profound changes in the models we fly.

This pilgrim sees big changes down the line via the early and serious interest and participation in classes like E-36. Sooner rather than later, electric power will soon offer more power at less weight than internal combustion(IC) engines. Once the market establishes itself, prices will come down and money will chase power all day long. It's the nature of the beast that is us. Just

look at any sport that uses machinery in the pursuit of excellence, like Formula 1, The America's Cup (the one utilizing water), NASCAR, Reno Air Races, cigarette racers, and snowmobiles. The point is so obvious it doesn't need belaboring.

LOST ONE, GAINED ONE

I just heard from some friends in Colorado that young Chris Goins is moving to Colorado Springs and working for Cox/Estes in their R and D department. Chris will be designing leading edge, smart toys for a living. You've seen them at Wal-Mart and the other big box stores. Good for him.

We're down one young flier, but don't worry because we're picking up another one by the name of Kevin Foster from Napa, CA. Dohrman and I've gotten to know Kevin a bit at the last few Nats. He came out of Rocco Ferrario's science classes and is a good, energetic flier in gas, glider, or rubber. He earned four athletic letters in high school and is an impressive HLG thrower. He would be a fiend in DLG.

He showed up at the banquet unannounced. Last summer I advised him to let the modeling go for the first semester and hit the books. I reinforced the point by relaying Tech's fifty percent freshman failure rate. Good grief, he took my advise! He's an AE major and he says his grades are OK.

I offered him the use of my workshop whenever he needed it. I suspect he's from the comfortable suburbs; we'll see what exposure to abject, Bohemian filth does. He asked me what my place was like and I told him to imagine his dorm room, except ten times bigger. It was obvious he's only been around responsible adults. Batten down the hatches, matey, the seas are going to get choppy.

GETTING ONE'S DUE

The AMA's annual selection of its Hall Of Fame designates always deserves a good review, something I never mind doing. This year, the sun shines on the free flight fraternity. Of the twelve, four currently are or were active free fliers and well-known in our sport. We congratulate Hardy Brodersen, Larry Davidson, Bob White, and Warren Williams into the hall. Interestingly, the bios of most of the other designates contain free flight backgrounds of some sort and quite a few were active control line modelers. Most were active in the local club life and national SIG organizations. Quite a few were entrepreneurs in model businesses that grew to prominence in our hobby and quite a few were writers and editors in the important magazines serving our sport. Now, this is the kind of diversity that means something.

WHY WE KEEP SCORE

Here's the totals for the club's 2006 high point tourney:

Jim Altenbern	62
Brook Dixon, Sr.	38
Dohrman Crawford	30
Gary Baughman	26
Clarence Purdy	25
Karl Hube	20
Richard Schneider	18
Bill Gowen	18
John Barker	18
Don Peacock	15
Jim Howell	10
David Barfield	8
Barry Sholder	7
Al Pardue	7
Graham Selick	5
Frank Hodson	3
David Mills	2
Chris Goins	1
Gary Morton	1

CONGRATULATIONS

Whit Russell and Graham Selick are now AMA Contest Directors. They both have volunteered to CD a TTOMA Contest in 2007. Thanks from the Club and the other CDs.

TTOMA Banquet



PEACH STATE INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
A National Indoor Cup Event

April 14, 2007
North Cobb High School
Kennesaw, GA

The Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta are hosting our sixteenth annual state indoor free flight championship. We invite club members, family, and friends to come and join the fun. The public is invited, but only AMA members can fly, so bring your AMA card. However, kids can fly for free because we will provide a complimentary AMA membership. Bring your TSA and SO models.

The contest is sanctioned by the AMA and all events, except as noted, will be flown per the AMA rule book as class AAA and category II. Registration begins at 8:30 am. Flying begins at 9:00 am, continues throughout the day, and ends at 4:30 pm. Lightweight events will be segregated from the heavyweights. Mass launch events will be sudden death and no kanones.

AMA: Easy B

Ltd. Pennyplane(J, SO)
Mini Stick
IHLG(J,SO)
Catapult Glider(218/219)
Bostonian(J,SO)
F1L
F1D

TTOMA: Chattahoochee Challenge

Science Olympiad
TSA

FAC: Dime Scale

Peanut Scale
Rubber Scale
Embryo
No Cal/Profile
A-6

Mass Launch: WW I Combat-10 am

Racer-11 am
WW II Combat-high noon
Civilian-1 pm
Hangar Rat-2:30 pm

Management: Contest Director-David Mills/P. O. Box 12306/Atlanta, GA 30355/ 404-509-4209/davidmillsatl@comcast.net. Assistant CD-Bill Gowen/404-636-3451.

Fees and Awards: The basic fee will be seven dollars for the first event, three dollars for each additional event, and a sixteen dollar maximum. Kids fly for free. Test and fun fliers will be charged five dollars. Trophies will be given down the three places, but only to the winners of the mass launches. The CD will give a High Point, Junior High Point, Best Crash, and CD's award. We'll have some merchandise and swag for the worthy.

How To Get There: Get to I-75 northwest of Atlanta, outside I-285. Exit at Wade Green Rd.(exit #273). Head south, proceed .4 miles, and turn right onto Jiles Rd. at Amoco. Go 2.9 miles on Jiles Rd. and take a right onto Hwy.293/Old Hwy. 41 at CVS Pharmacy and Kennesaw elementary. Proceed west 1.6 miles to North Cobb HS, on the right. Turn right into parking lot at the Blue Springs Rd. intersection/traffic light. Follow signs to gym.

WOW!! WHAT A VIEW!!

The Space Shuttle's lift off as seen from the Sky Lab. Thanks to Easy-Built Dave for this spectacular view:



CLUB FINANCES

Cash on hand 2/16/07	\$ 2638.10	
Deposits		
2/17/07 indoor	\$ 60.00	
6 memberships + 1 assoc.	151.00	
3/17/07 indoor	90.00	
	<u> </u>	
	\$ 301.00	\$ 301.00
Expenses		
St. Lukes	\$ 300.00	
AMA Charter	270.00	
Contest Sanctions	140.00	
Z-Connect	57.00	
David Mills-4/14/07 indoor	60.51	
	<u> </u>	
	\$ 827.51	\$ 827.51
Cash on hand 3/27/07		<u> </u>
		\$ 2,111.59

Unrenewed memberships:

Carl J. Bakay, John Barker, Art Collins, Steve Edwards, Chris Goins, Kenneth Grubbs, Mark Kerzie, Andrea & Jonathan Lovegren, Gary Morton, Fritz Mueller, David Niedzielaki, Harvey Poirier, Clarence Purdy, Barry Sholder, Jim & Wanda Walston, Martin Zellman.

We have 40 paid members plus 1 assoc.

Don Brown

Minutes of TTOMA February 19, 2007 Meeting

St Luke's Presbyterian Church

The meeting attended by nine members was called to order by Frank Hodson. Don Brown began the meeting by giving a current Treasurer's report. For the period beginning November 20, 2006, the balance on hand was \$2,102.29. From that date until the ending date of February 16, 2007, there were expenses of \$306.19 and income from memberships and contest entry fees of \$842.00, which gave a closing balance of \$2,638.10. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Old Business

Don Brown pointed out that the club did not currently hold AMA site insurance for the St Luke's gym because no specific events are currently scheduled in the facility. However, the attendees agreed that the site should be insured so we can have the option of more activity there in the coming months. Cost of the site insurance is \$60.

Dohrman Crawford recommended that the club make a donation to St Luke's in appreciation for the use of the church gym for meetings and flying sessions. Whit Russell made a motion that \$300 be donated to St Luke's. The motion was seconded and the supporting vote was unanimous.

A discussion developed about the "President's Challenge" issued by Frank Hodson at the January club banquet. The event is a timed target activity in which ant model can be flown with the objective of having a specified flight time. Initially, the idea was to exclude dethermalizers (DT) to avoid fliers using the DT to land as near as possible to the target time. However, to minimize the loss of models, the DT will be allowed provided it is set for a time much greater than the target time. The target time will be designated by a drawing of several choices of times.

Dohrman Crawford pointed out that the club "Model of the Year" is the Thermal Piglet, which is so small that it is difficult to see when trying to fly two-minutes maximum flights on windy days. Dohrman made a motion to set the Thermal Piglet max at 60 seconds for easier timing. The supporting vote was unanimous.

New Business

David Mills reported that the AMA sanction for the Peach State Indoor Championships has been received. The event will take place at the gym of North Cobb High School on April 17, 2007.

Dohrman Crawford asked for additional Contest Directors (CD's) for this year's scheduled events. At least two contests do not have CD's assigned. Any AMA member with three consecutive years of active membership can apply for a CD license.

It was reported that member Barry Shoulder would supply a new sign to mark the entrance to the North Cobb High School indoor site, which will direct participants, and visitors to the flying area. Several doors in the vicinity of the gymnasium can be confusing to first-time attendees and the sign will help direct foot traffic.

Whit Russell pointed out that the club's reduced expenses resulting from the change to an electronic newsletter has made the club cash flow very healthy. Whit made a motion that the club annual dues be reduced to \$20 per year beginning in 2008. David Mills seconded the motion and the supporting vote was unanimous. The penalty for late dues will remain \$30.

Frank Hodson suggested that club officers be given a free membership as compensation for the time they spend on club activities. The subject was left open for future consideration.

Show & Tell

Dohrman Crawford presented the complete framework of his Hoosier Hotshot powered by an OS 15. This model will qualify for the Class A Nostalgia gas as well as the Class AB AMA Classic gas event. The OS 15 was a popular motor for the 60's era FAI power models and it should be very effective in a lightweight Classic Gas event.

David Barfield displayed a small Embryo class rubber model as well as a very old kit he recently obtained.

David Mills showed a big collection of detailed non-flying plastic scale models he bought at sale prices from Walmart. These would make fine display models and/or gifts for aviation fans.

At 8:30PM, Frank Hodson adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Karl Hube.

CAROLINA MODEL FLYERS &
KUDZU FLYING CORPS present
Spring 2007 Contest
AMA – FAC

Friday, May 18
Test Flying
Goldsboro, NC
Dave Rees Private Field
Contact Dave before going to the field
(919) 778-6653

AMA/FAC Saturday, May 19, 9AM – 5PM
Carolina Sod Farm (old field), Raeford, NC

Mass Launch Events:

- 10:00AM WWI Biplanes
- 11:00AM Combined Racers
- 12:30PM Special Event – Earl Stahl*
- 1:30PM WW2 Fighters
- 2:30PM Modern Production

Timed Events:

- AMA – Hand Launched Glider
- AMA – Catapult Glider
- AMA – P-30 Rubber
- FAC – Jet Catapult Glider
- FAC – Embryo
- FAC – Golden Age
- FAC – Dime Scale
- Peanut
- Junior Ready to Fly – No Fee {Plane and rubber provided by CD}

* Any Earl Stahl scale model at published size

Entry Fee - \$5.00

CD: John Diebolt (919) 467-1025 jdiebolt@mindspring.com
526 Heater Drive, Cary, NC 27511
Maps to flying field available upon request

Awards to Third Place