



The Thumb Print.



Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta Dec 2009 issue

HEADS UP

Your editor is delighted to close the year with this slim but important issue. We're back on track, schedule-wise, and there's every indication we can remain so. With Brook Junior's rehab continuing apace and Stephanie's growing grip on her new software, we're in good shape for PDF'ing the newsletter with more dispatch next year.

However, we'll continue to beg for contributions in the form of plans, photos, and holding forth on this or that. (Frankly, without your inputs, the newsletter becomes just "David's Blog" and how engrossing is that supposed to be? Certainly, not to me—I've heard it already!)

Pay particular attention to the info that follows on the annual banquet next month at Williamson Bros. BBQ on Roswell St. in Marietta, just east of I-75 (but you can't get there from there!). Bring your latest projects for Show and Tell. I've eaten at Williamson Bros. countless times and it's always good. This is also a treat for your spouse, mistress, or life partner. It's a small payback for all

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www.thermalthumbers.com

the missed honey-do's, smelly fumes and dust, and basements in disarray over the past year. See y'all there.

Build a model airplane and show up somewhere. You can probably use some post-holiday exercise. Me, too—black pots and kettles. More info on last page.

TIME TO RENEW

It's crunch time, y'all. Consider this your first serious nag to renew your club dues for 2010. We need your support, as always. It's not like we don't afford the recreational opportunity or two. We've a full schedule of indoor meets this winter and spring and we'll begin our outdoor meets at the N GA Turf Farm in April and continue through the fall. You can join via a check and snail mail with the form that follows or you can do it online through the website. Frankly, it couldn't be easier. Equally frank, you've no excuse not to.

I'll rest my case at this juncture. You know who you are and you know what to do.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

There's a full slate of events at the Ward Rec Center this winter and spring. Mark your calendars thusly: Jan. 10, Feb. 21, March 14, and April 10-11. The January meet will be a real treat, as it will also feature our inaugural and hopefully annual swap meet. The Peach State Indoor Champs will be held on April 10 and 11, expanding to a two-day contest. CD's Peter Brown and Bill Gowen are planning to expand the contest to a bigger regional presence. Detailed planning is underway, but basically, the FAC events will be held Saturday and the duration events, Sunday. Further details will be contained in a forthcoming flyer.

THUMBS IN PRINT

The October issue of *Free Flight* has a very good article and plan of Bill Gowen's F1L, the winner in that event at the 2007 and 2009 indoor Nats. (He didn't compete in 2008.) Needless to say, Bill's design is the one to beat in Johnson City and elsewhere. Familiarity may bring nonchalance to the club because we've been watching the model fly for so long, but don't be lulled thereby.

Like many consistent and superior performers, Bill's F1L is the result of many years of development via incremental changes made to increase duration bit-by-bit. Not all of these changes have been subtle, however. A quick glance at the published plan indicates two novel design features for this class: radical droop in the tail boom with an underslung stab and a side-canted motor stick with gobs of wing incidence to allow the prop to pull thrust at 0 degrees offset, reducing friction losses at the prop bearing. No doubt, we'll be seeing the latter elegant, but odd-looking feature on other models in this and other duration events, being simply too logical not to become *de rigueur* with time.

Bill is hard on the heels of every F1L record in the books and he's going to the best indoor venues to do it. Persistent pays and those records are dead men walking. If it sounds like I'm bragging on our OFB Bill—busted!

GATHERING OF THE TRIBES

The 2010 rendition of the Southeast Model Show in Perry is being held on March 5 and 6. Frankly, this is one of the high points of my year (I've yet to decide whether this is something to worry about or something about which to be triumphant, wallowing in life's precious bounty.)

If you've never been, please go. It's the world's largest model aviation swap meet with over 1000 tables of goodies. (That little soiree in the Keystone State can kiss my grits.) The content and crowd is overwhelmingly RC-oriented, but FF and other nuggets abound in the nooks and grannies. Also, AMA,

SAM, NFFS, and FAC luminaries and functionaries abound, so there's plenty of targets of opportunity for haranguing or congrats, as might be your wont. Another very cool thing is the abundance of the latest electric goodies for hands-on inspection and sale. In you're inclined, the previous year's red-hot park fliers and other ARF gear can be bought for giveaway prices.

Our region's RC, good-ole-boys have a field day. Commonly, they buy up several old RC airplanes, sans engines and RC gear, for a given engine size or sizes, and proceed through the year flying and crashing merrily, never having to build or buy anything. The other side of these transactions, that of the better builders and fliers, enjoy a healthy aftermarket for their old or tired castoffs and they're able to help finance next year's projects. Too bad free flight doesn't enjoy a similar scenario.

A CAUTIONARY NOTE

I received a message from George White, our regional rep from FAC, and he says our MOY, the Stahl Hi-Climber, isn't eligible for FAC OT Rubber Cabin, and thus kanones, because it doesn't have a "cabin". This bit of boilerplate is from previous considerations by the Powers-That-Be. What the heck. The Hi-Climber's standing graces with SAM are still OK (Commercial Rubber and Small Rubber Cabin) and we can still fly the MOY as planned. Sometimes that which bodes, bodes for ill.

JUDGING A MODEL BY ITS COVER

I've been using the synthetic coverings for some time now and have settled on using ¼ mil Mylar for the tailfeathers and lightweight Polyspan (LW) for fuselages and wings. I've plenty of company locally in the use of Mylar, but I've pretty much gone it alone in the use of the LW. This is understandable because it's not as easy to use as its brawny relative, regular Polyspan, and even my best practice has still left some porosity issues, not enough to affect AE but the look scares off many. Still, I love the stuff. It's cheap, durable, and weather-proof, and done properly, light enough.

I'm a little lazy, so I'm always looking for easier/quicker ways to do things. I bought some new LW from Larry Davidson, which happens to come with something called "instructions". Always a reader of same, it introduced a new technique that I followed to the letter with great results. Passing it on

Basically, you prep the framework as always, brushing on a good schmear of nitrate and attaching the LW by bleeding thinner over it onto the framework. (As always, take care to not attach too much at a time because the stuff tears easily and you don't want to commit whole-hog until the entire section is covered and very taut throughout. So, use a small, ¼ in. brush and hop around the perimeter.)

Here's where Larry's sage advice come in. After all the LW is attached, apply a first coat of nitrate with a **small foam brush**. I use a 1 in. wide one with excellent results. (Look for the disposable kind at Michael's and other craft stores. They're sold in big mulit-bags for a few bucks.) It works much better than a regular brush; who knows why, but it seems to put the nitrate on top of the LW and not push it through, resulting in much more effective sealing of the fabric. After this is **completely dry**, apply the heat iron and shrink it with merry abandon because the pores don't open up any more as the nitrate locks down the fibers. Give it two more coats of the nitrate with the foam brush and you're done.

A few more tips in closing: let it dry thoroughly between coats; avoid the most common mistake and keep your nitrate/thinner solution thicker than usual to at least a 60/40 mix; go thicker if you have to for the first coat; and after each of the last two coats, I like to sand the surface with a small piece of 600 W/D or finer. (I hear some of the really smart fellows are letting the fuzz alone on the forward third of the wing's top surface.)

OUR VAST CIRCLE

The free flight fraternity, particularly those of the avid competition sort, can and do isolate ourselves from the rest of the much larger modeling community. And we suffer for it, sometimes subtly, sometimes in big chunks. As readers of these pages will recall, I've mild interests in the plastic modeling, die cast collecting (OK, not so mild), model railroading, and other allied activities. Usually these provide diversion on occasion and that's it, which is the whole idea. Sometimes, the sky opens up and it rains cool stuff.

Such was the case when my old friend Tom Campbell called me a few months ago and told me his wife had inherited some things from her uncle after his passing. Aside from being a bit of a tycoon in business, the man had a variety of interests, including building 1/72 scale, WW II model airplanes in his basement lair in the evenings for over thirty years, all the while enjoying fine scotch and cigars. Eventually, this steady activity amassed several hundreds model airplanes, most of which he maintained in great condition.

Like Fearless Leader Emeritus Frank, Tom has an e-bay business and he sells automobile and aviation memorabilia around the world. Naturally, Tom put this inheritance to work after he parsed out a few for his own keepsake. They sold steadily across the globe, finding new homes, principally in Great Britain for some reason.

Eventually, Tom was left with about fifty that required more work to repair than he was willing to do and he called me, for we'd spoken earlier about his giving me the dross. It didn't take me long to drive up to downtown Demorest and haul the cache away. We had a delightful visit and I had the opportunity to go through his impressive collection of old and cool stuff. (Now retired, he owned a local British and Swedish auto salvage yard for many years, not much of a stretch. No new tricks for that old dog.)

At home and sorted, this cache encompassed two boxes of model airplanes in bags, a few old plastic kits, and another large bag of parts that had fallen off. I spent several pleasant evenings matching errant parts to voided places and am now the proud owner of thirty-nine, well-done, 1/72 scale, WW II model airplanes. Where I'm going to put them, I don't know. Still, they look pretty great, lined up tip-to-tip, on my kitchen counter.

Viewed in echelon, the display does provide a bit of historical perspective and means of reflection. Lines of successful development are evident by viewing the Douglas Devastator alongside the Grumman Avenger, likewise the I-16 alongside the Yak 3 and La-7. Evidence of pointless expenditure abounds equally, as in the Saab 21A, or of supreme ugliness, like the Ju-86. Also, viewing contemporaries like the Brewster Buffalo and Grumman Wildcat side-by-side offers plenty of insight into the latter's solid line of ascension into the Hellcat and Bearcat and the former's short career and the eventual demise of its maker.

Viewed from the benefit of a half century's passing, the cauldron of combat during WW II was as much a testing ground for national industrial capacity as for excellence of design, fascism clearly being no match for democracy or communism over the vicious, seven-year haul of WW II. The later and much longer and nagging slog of the Cold War proved by the same measure that the western democracies had longer legs than the Soviets.

Our present, precarious circumstances reaffirm that once again, it's not the Federal government or financial elites that make this country great and strong, but it's the American worker and citizen. Only here do we find the wisdom and competence that keep that the promise of America alive. It won't be the actions of the big bankers and Wall Street, or that of the President and Congress that pull this great country of ours out of the present fire, but it'll be the "average" American. So, take the hard less traveled and preserve liberty by never believing in political parties (or what you hear on the AM radio), by remaining an ardent and crusty independent, and by voting for incumbents with only the greatest reluctance and always with a little shame. Live free or die!

NEXT ISSUE

Look for a report on the banquet and the January and February indoor contests and meetings. We should have the flyer for April's Peach State Indoor Champs (PSIC). Depending on how the world turns, we may have a report on the Southeast Model Show in Perry.

Ciao, y'all!

2010 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ AMA # _____

Address _____

State and Zip Code _____

Other Family Members and AMA # _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

\$20.00/yr. adults, plus \$1.00/yr. for all juniors and for additional family members in same household.
Send check, payable to TTOMA, to Don Brown/477 Safari Cir./Stone Mountain, GA 30083/404-292-0379.

You can also pay online using Paypal.

Go to www.thermalthumbers.com

Click on the tab, "Join TTOMA" and follow the link. It is fast, easy.

Banquet Info

Date: Jan. 16, 2010

Set up is at 4:00 pm for all the Show and Tell items.

Dinner starts at 5:00 pm. You don't have to prepay for your meals. We will be treated like regular patrons and order whatever you want off the menu. We can stay all the way till closing at 10:00 pm

After dinner there will be a large cake for all members to enjoy (Free of charge)

8:00 pm starts the award ceremony so come eat cake and enjoy in the TTOMA fun.

Visit the restaurant's website to view their menu at

<http://www.williamsonbros.com/index.html>

The address for the one we will be eating at is,

1425 Roswell Road
Marietta, GA 30062
770-971-3201
Fax: 770-971-3694

For our out of towners hotel info is as follows,

Crowne Plaza Hotel ATLANTA-MARIETTA

[1775 PARKWAY PLACE SE
MARIETTA, GA 30067 UNITED STATES](#)

www.crownplaza.com

TTOMA Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2009

President Pete Brown called the December 13, 2009 meeting of the Thermal Thumbers to order at 11:15AM. Held at the Ward Recreation Center in Cobb County during a scheduled indoor contest, there were 12 members present.

Treasurer's Report

The club treasure's report was presented and showed that the balance at the beginning of the reporting period, October 18, 2009, was \$2,401.28. During the period, the only activity was a gain of \$70.00 from indoor activity entry fees. The balance on hand at the end of the reporting period on December 3, 2009 was \$2,471.28. The report was accepted with no changes or questions.

Meeting Minutes

Karl Hube presented the meeting minutes from the October 18, 2009 meeting. No minutes from November were available because the meeting was cancelled when confronted with bad weather and poor field conditions at the sod-farm flying site. The minutes did not leave any issues open for action in December and the minutes were accepted as read.

Old Business

In past years, the club has sent a holiday basket to the office staff at the North Georgia Sod Farm to show our appreciation for being allowed to fly on the farm. Frank Hodson has taken care of this process and his impression was that the gesture no longer meant much to the staff. So, Frank will send a Christmas card to the farm to indicate our appreciation and no basket will be provided. There were no questions or different suggestions in this matter.

New Business

The bylaws of the club state that the annual election of officers should be completed at a meeting to be held in November. This year, bad weather caused the cancellation of the November meeting, which was to be held outdoors at a sod-farm flying session. A meeting scheduled in early December was also eliminated because of bad weather. Consequently, Pete and Stephanie made an effort to complete the voting process by posting a voting ballot on the Internet. This method drew 21 votes for the nominated slate of officers with no dissenting votes. However, Don Brown challenged the vote as being invalid because it did not meet the requirements of the bylaws. To meet the bylaws requirement, Pete asked the attendees to validate the election with a vote. Frank Hodson made a motion to accept the slate of officers as follows:

President Peter Brown

Vice President David Barfield
Treasurer Don Brown
Secretary Karl Hube

Barry Shoulder gave a second to the motion and a unanimous vote of support was given.

In the wake of the election discussion, Pete plans to offer some ideas for modernization of the club by-laws. For example, since we hold our outdoor season meetings at the sod farm, we are always exposed to the influence of weather conditions. This means that we should have an “acts of God” clause to allow alternate means of completing club business when weather causes a meeting to be cancelled. In addition, Pete suggested that the Internet be used for voting to allow more members to participate in the election. We currently have active members in Alabama, South Carolina and Tennessee who probably would not travel all the way to a Georgia location for a vote unless they could combine the trip with some competition flying. Not all members have e-mail available, and provision would have to be made for mail-in votes much like absentee ballots. This matter will be followed up at the next meeting.

Pete and Stephanie announced that the 2010 TTOMA Banquet would be held at Williamson Brothers Barbeque in Marietta on Saturday, January 16. The Williamson Brothers location is on Upper Roswell Road in the New London Shopping Center just east of I-75. You can determine your own meal choice and cost by ordering from the menu. Two rooms will be available to the club.....one for model display and the bar and another for the dining area. The starting time is still to be determined. Karl Hube made a motion to support the banquet format and David Barfield gave a second to the motion. A unanimous vote supported the plan.

Dohrman Crawford is working on the 2010 outdoor schedule. Stay tuned.....

A suggestion was made to add a Google Earth view of the sod farm to members to understand the field orientation relative to the forecast winds as well as what some of the retrieval areas look like. Liz will have to look into this matter.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50AM.

Deck the Halls Indoor Contest Dec 13th

For our Holiday contest the turnout was good (especially since it was a beautiful day outside...finally). A total of 11 events were flown and 94 official flights put in. The skies were constantly busy with flights. Frank had several interesting planes, a stealth being one of them. He put on a wonderful show with his Comet Baby ROG. That little thing can sure fly. Wish I had pictures to show of the contest but.... We brought all the equipment for the camera, extra batteries, tri pod and forgot the camera! There was a slight drift this time in the gym but nothing major. I have developed a cover for the speakers and tested installing it and having it in place for the contest. Only one plane hit it during the contest and there were no hang ups on the speakers, Next contest I will have both side covers ready!

Results:

Mass Launch:

- 1st Kayla Brown.... won 1 years free membership to TTOMA (she donated it to Clarence Purdy)
- 2nd Jessica Brown...won \$10 gift card to Wal-Mart
- 3rd Liz Brown.....won Tin of cookies
- 4th Matthew Brown
- 5th Karl Hube

Phantom Flash:

- Matthew Brown.....2:20
- Kayla Brown.....2:03
- Frank Hodson.....1:31
- Jessica Brown..... :42 severed wing made for a dramatic crash
- Liz Brown..... :33 crashed from folded wing

A-6:

- Karl Hube.....1:42
- Frank Hodson... :08

EZB:

- Frank Hodson.... :39 flying his Baby ROG

LPP:

- Kayla Brown..... 3:42
- Barry Sholder.....3:34
- Karl Hube..... 3:32
- Liz Brown..... 3:24
- Jessica Brown..... 2:55
- Matthew Brown..... 1:08

Catapult:

- Kayla Brown..... :54
- Liz Brown..... :52

Jessica Brown..... :15
Matthew Brown.... :10

Mini Stick:

Nick Ray..... 4:03
Barry Sholder 2:14

35 CM:

Nick Ray..... 10:04
Bill Gowen 9:40

HLG:

Bill Gowen..... :49.7 was flying a discus Cat I IHLG
Liz Brown..... :29.0

No Cal:

Barry Sholder..... 1:45 Bonzo
Frank Hodson :13 P-47

Odd and Unusual:

Kayla Brown..... :35
Jessica Brown..... :27
Liz Brown..... :16
Frank Hodson..... DNF had his stealth make impressive runs across gym!

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