The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta
www.thermalthumbers.com
David Mills Editor
(404) 509-4209
davidmillsatl@gmail.com
AMA Charter # 1834
FLYING ACES club
SAM
NFFS

March-April, 2022

HEADS UP

Welcome to this year's second issue. We're happy to present a ton of news, contest reports and other items of interest. We've been flying up a storm like the old days at Christ Chapel in Macon and NG Turf in Whitesburg, and several reports follow on the action, along with plenty of photos. This looks pretty "normal" to your trusty editor, and it has been a while. We all deserve a big slap on the back for persevering through of the mess of the last few years. Last year was a step in the right direction, but this year might make a full recovery.

The star of this issue is, however, the flyer for this year's big, two-day Chattahoochee Challenge contest next month. Last year we had a big turnout of fliers and visitors, along with great weather. If you like to see scale models fly, make plans to attend. Better yet, build some models and join us.

Time for me to get out of the way. Ciao, y'all!

RENEWAL NAG

My fellow Thumbs, it's time to get a little more serious about the need for you to renew your club memberships. Rest assured the majority have; however, some haven't. You know who you are. It's time to step up, fill out the membership form that follows, mail it to our man James Martin at the address indicated, along with a check signed on the line that is dotted. Eyes on you!

Looking ahead, you'll find the membership forms for the Flying Aces Club and the National Free Flight Society. We'll get on our high horse about them in the next issue. You're duly forewarned.

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO BE, PEOPLE TO SEE

The contest schedule as it sits now follows. Note we've no indoor dates at the present time. Don't be alarmed too much. Our man Doug DeMasie is talking to the good people at Christ Chapel in Macon about dates in June and July. We suspect dates will be forthcoming at both our indoor venues, Christ Chapel and St. Lukes in Dunwoody. Concerning the former, dates in the short term are very likely, and the latter, later this year with some realistic hope. Of the Presbyterian latter, it may be predestined, if I remember my theology rightly. Keep your eyes open and ears pealed for announcements thereto.

June 25-26: Chattahoochee Challenge. FAC Outdoor Contest. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA
July 1-3: Indoor Contest. Johnson City Mini Dome, ETSU
July 10: Country Fried. Outdoor Contest. NG Turf. Whitesburg, GA
August 14: Sizzle While You Fizzle. Outdoor Contest. NG Turf . Whitesburg, GA
Sept 11: Summer Swan Song. Outdoor contest. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA
Sept. 17-18: October Hurricane Classic, Raeford, NC
Oct. 16: Last Fling Till Spring. Outdoor Contest. NG Turf. Whitesburg, GA
Nov. 6: Turkey Shoot. Outdoor Contest. NG Turf. Whitesburg, GA

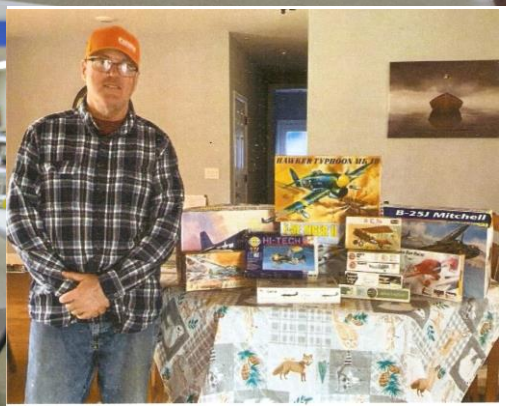
BIRDS OF A FEATHER

We advertised Atlanta Con, the local IPMS (plastic) model show and contest, in the last newsletter. Happily this year's edition was up to pre-pandemic standards and at the traditional weekend and remained at the Lockheed Union Hall in Marietta. It didn't disappoint, offering a vast amount of merchandise for sale, including kits, tools, books galore and plenty of eye candy. Three Thumbs made the event: your trusty editor, Richard Schneider and Joe Ryan. Richard and I are regulars, and it was Joe's first visit. All of us had a ball and bought a few things. Joe was particularly impressed, not doubt influenced by the vast horde of model airplane kits he won at the massive raffle. (Not that Richard and I were jealous or anything). Make plans to attend next year; you'll be blurbed accordingly.









THUMBS ON THE MARCH

The latest NFFS digest carries the story of the Jim Richmond Open held in West Baden, IN, a big soiree now held annually at the famous indoor site there.. Four of our Thumbs attended and did a little damage. Hope and Josh Finn, Nick Ray and Lee Russell did pretty well against a pretty tough field of fliers and figured prominently in most of the events entered. The festivities included a film premier of some sort. Don't forget the little people. Well done, sirs and madam.

STRANGER THAN FICTION

David Barfield is holding a special Fiction Flyer event at the Chattahoochee Challenge. He has a fancy trophy ready to go and reports several fliers plan to show up with models. The last newsletter has a full blurb with details. A bit outside my bailiwick, these models are odd and interesting. Some actually look pretty cool and fly like gangbusters. Get with David "if'n ya got ah hankerin".

YANKING AND BANKING

Remember the good old days of the He-Man Catapult? The club had a good time with it as the catapult glider rules were being mulled. Was it around the mid-1990s? The following photo my hair is of that vintage. David Barfield and I had a chat or two this winter, and he brought our old rig to the

May outdoor contest at the sod farm. A few had a go and brought back some memories. The launch heights are still impressive.

Frankly, if you have some old hand launch gliders sitting around neglected, you might want to attach a hook underneath and have a go. Why not? I've a couple of old HLG kits still in the bag, so I'll probably do that. Anywho, think about it. Barfield says he'll bring the rig back monthly.

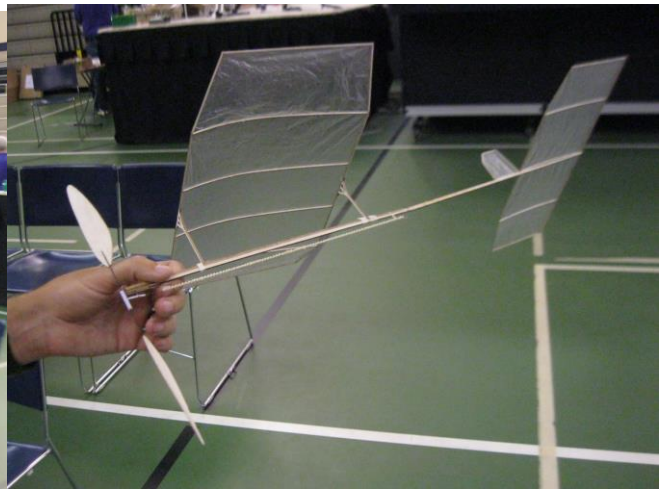


THOSE PESTY CHI-COMS

Among his many activities at the May indoor contest at Christ Chapel, Josh Finn brought his example of the new F1D kit from China. Frankly, as to the design and kit itself, it was amazing. (See the photos below.) Josh gave the kit high praise, and seeing it fly, well, it impressed. He did mention the rubber provided was a crime against nature! That one item aside, it's almost embarrassing. The price? Nine dollars, American, plus shipping. Whaaa!

Well, you might want to just clutch your pearls and get one. The Chi-coms can't be making much money on it and subsidizing it heavily with their ill-gotten gains. So, buying one might be accelerating their decline. Live free or buy!





A FAIR WARNING

One of the workers at the sod farm came up to talk to us at the May contest, and we enjoyed a good visit with him. However, he advised that the farm manager had seen one of us climbing a ladder to get atop the hangar roof to retrieve a model, and he didn't like it. Whether he doesn't like to walking on the roof or merely using the ladder against the hangar walls is unclear. Regardless, we can't afford to PO the owners or staff at NG Turf. So, leave the hangar alone.

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

My fellow Thumbs, your trusty editor would like to have a little chat with you. It concerns the amount and type of building and flying all of us are doing, specifically the Flying Aces Club side of things. I don't mean this as a hard nag, but I'd like all of you to go through the following contest reports in this and the previous issues with an eye toward the lack of the required quorum of three fliers for FAC kanone awards. Take a hard look at May's outdoor results as an example. Five FAC events with only two fliers?! Other similar data abound elsewhere and has for years.

It appears to me that not enough of us are both aggressively pursuing FAC kanones and interested in helping others to do so. More than a few of us are flying these models for sport ore trimming purposes with no indention of filing official flights. Right those scores down! This also impacts the amassing of club high points by everyone. So, a little navel gazing might be in order. Thank you for your support.

BEHOLD THE RECKONNG

The club high point rankings through this spring follow. Don't rest on your laurels because you can expect big bumps in the next issue from the bounty of high points from June's Chattahoochee Challenge. Ergo, stick to your building and flying.

Dohrman Crawford 25
Doug DeMasie 18
David Mills 17
Josh Finn 14
Bill Gowen 10
Hope Finn 10
Caleb Finn 10
David Fletcher 10
James Martin 9
Jim Conery 8
Jim Altenbern 5
Frank Perkins 4
Nick Ray 3
Paul Finn 3
Dan Crews 3
Logan Finn 2
Lee Russell 1

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something immediately after the Chattahoochee Challenge. We're all looking forward to this one and hoping it matches and even surpasses last year's fine results. Expect full coverage of the action and lots of photos. Also, the Nats later in July will be fully pimped with exhortations of encouragement to attend. Seriously, make plans. You won't regret it.

2022 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name_____AMA#_____

Address _____State and Zip Code_____

Other Family Members and AMA #_____

_____

Telephone_____ Email _____

$20.00/year for adults and other adult family members in same household. No charge all aged 18 yrs. or younger. Send check, payable to TTOMA, to James Martin/3901 Bays Ferry Trail/Marietta, GA 30062/404-632-7226/jhnmartin1963@gmail.com

2022 Chattahoochee Challenge

June 25-26
NG Turf Farm, Black Dirt Rd., Whitesburg, GA
Sponsored by TTOMA and FAC Phantom Squadron

Saturday
8:00-5:00

FAC Rubber Scale * 2
Simplified Scale
Modern Civilian
Jimmy Allen/2 Bit + 1 combined #
P-30
No-Cal
Phantom Flash #
Embryo * #
WW II mass launch (11:00)
Golden Age mass launch (1:00)
Blue Ridge Special NBM (only for those contestants with no Blue Max)

Sunday
8:00-3:00

FAC Peanut Scale * 2
Jet Catapult Scale *
Nassise Memorial Dime Scale 3
Comet's Nickel Series
CLG
WW I mass launch (11:00)
Combined Racers mass launch (1:00
Blue Ridge Special mass launch (2:00) 4

* Judging will be done on Sat. morning from 9:00-12:00.
 # All planes must ROG unless told otherwise by the CD.

RULES All events will be flown to either AMA or FAC rules depending on which organization supports the event. The sod farm is a category 3 field. The CD will determine if modified rules for maxes will be needed due to the weather. Any modification will be communicated at the beginning of each day.

1. CLG has a 90 sec. max and all six flights count.

2. FAC Rubber Scale and Peanut Scale flight score will be the average of three flights.

3. The Nassise Memorial Dime Scale event is being held to honor all of the contributions that Mike has made to promote building and flying in the Flying Aces Club. Only planes from Mike's dime scale plans can enter this event. **Best 3 of 6 flights.** Planes from Mike's Dime Scale plans cannot be entered into Simplified Scale but any other Dime Scale plane can.

4. The BRS Mass Launch will be three rounds. If a plane is lost on an earlier round, a new plane may be substitute and the other planes still flying may change their rubber motor to make it fair.

5. Monoplanes will be allowed to compete in the WW I mass launch as long as they conform to the rules - no parasol or high wing cabin types.

6. All fly offs will be a mass launch.

AWARDS: The award ceremony will be between 3:30 and 4:00 one Sunday. Certificates will be given for the first three places.
ENTRANCE FEE: $20.00 or $10.00 if you only fly one day.

DIRECTIONS: Location of the field can be found on the TTOMA website. (thermalthumbers.com)

CONTEST DIRECTORS: Jim Altenbern (jaltenbern0705@charter.net)
Gary Morton (gmorton@centurytel.net)

MARCH INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Christ Chapel, Macon

Saturday dawned sunny and bright on the 19th of March. Christ Chapel, in Macon, is an easy drive. I left at 7, and was there by 8:30. We had 5 fliers and several visitors during the day. Several of the regular fliers were absent, getting ready for West Baden, or mentoring/coaching Science Olympiad events. (Or attending a plastic model contest?!) However, spirited flying was done by all, and we had the benefit of Debbie DeMasie's cookies to keep us well fortified! St Patrick's Day cookies! No cookies made it home!

Several planes hung up on the lights, but thanks to Bill Gowen, and his 11 meter steering pole, all were saved with little damage! Hangar Rat had the most action, but one more No Cal would have been welcome. Next contest, bring your No-Cals, and I will try to remember to bring my Phantom Flash. Doug brought an interesting idea, an indoor BRS. We should investigate this further. That's all for now, CD Dohrm Crawford reporting. Here are the results!

Wright Stuff/SO
Bill Gowen 3:38

Sport Flier/Indoor BRS.
Doug DeMasie 138

No-Cal Scale
D Crawford Cessna Centurion 173
Doug DeMasie Piper Cub 115

Hangar Rat
D Crawford 424
David Fletcher 343
Jim Conery 162

APRIL FOOLS OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf, Whitesburg

Our April Fools Contest, on Sunday April 24, had an interesting occurrence before flying started. Jim Altenbern and I were there early when a big red tail hawk glided into the area and began circling right over our heads. As we watched, he hooked a good thermal and climbed out of sight. What a great omen!

We had 7 fliers make official flights. Winds were sometimes a problem, sending planes close to the woods. Velocity was pretty light, topping out at approximately 6 mph at times. We had some good thermals, and several planes were lost OOS (BRS). Our first flying in 6 months, there were more practice flights than officials, but all had a good time, greatly aided by the excellent cookies made by Debbie DeMasie. Thank you, Debbie!

Earl Brightbill brought out a very nicely built Hannan Antoinette, complete with pilot. He had it flying well on the very first flight and ended up breaking a minute with it. I should add that he blew up the plan to a 20 inch wingspan and ended up with a very good flying plane. .

Guys, next time please help out the wretched CD and put your AMA number on your score sheet, as well as the type of plane you are flying! Respectfully submitted, by Dohrman, Cub Reporter. Here are the scores:

Blue Ridge Special
Doug DeMasie 360(*kanone!)
Dohrm Crawford 264
James Martin 120 (oos, found later)

P-30
Jim Altenbern Square Eagle 336
Frank Perkins EPzaze 332
James Martin Ahh-Sum 256

Catapult Glider
Jim Altenbern Cata-piglet 160
Doug DeMasie Unknown 65

SCat Jet
Doug DeMasie Unknown 14

No Cal Scale
James Martin Unknown 246

MAY INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Christ Chapel, Macon

We had a great turnout for the May indoor contest at Christ Chapel in Macon. We had 12 to sign in. Doug DeMasie, Dohrm Crawford, David Mills and David Fletcher had a great Hangar Rat competition. Nick Ray spent the day trying to dial in his Ministick. Team Finn had a great day flying gliders, Phantom Flash, Limited Pennyplane, 35 cm and Easy B. Paul and Caleb Finn continue to grow and improve their flying skills. Those kids should be impressive at the Nats. It was great to see Dan Crews flying again, too. And let's not forget those excellent chocolate chip cookies that Debbie DeMasie provided.

Sport Flyer
Doug DeMasie 1:17

No-Cal Scale
Doug DeMasie Lacey M-10 2:51
David Mills Lacey M-10 1:34

Hangar Rat
Dohrm Crawford 5:01
David Fletcher 3:58
David Mills 1:17
Doug DeMasie 0:46

P-18
Doug DeMasie 3:21
Dohrm Crawford 2:51

Phantom Flash
Hope Finn 4:35
Josh Finn 2:46
David Mills 0:40

Easy B
Hope Finn 9:45

Mini Stick
Nick Ray 7:02

35 CM
Caleb Finn 8:50

Limited Pennyplane
Josh Finn 9:48
Caleb Finn 5:34
Dan Crews 4:49
Paul Finn 4:45
Hope Finn 4:19

Open Pennyplane
Lee Russell 6:20

F1N
Josh Finn 98.8

HLG
Josh Finn 98.4

Simplified Scale
James Martin. Piper Clipper 43





MAY DAZE OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf, Whitesburg

The day started slowly as members all ran through light rain on the way to the field. This situation may have discouraged some from coming, but we never had rain on the field. On the contrary, we had the calmest day we have seen in a very long time. It got hot and humid with very light movement of the wind/thermal streamers.

We had six members sign up to fly, plus two visitors. John Lawson from McDonough was on hand. John is in the process of building an Embryo, and Dohrman Crawford accelerated John's efforts by presenting him with a ready-to-fly Prairie Bird. Before the day was over "Coach" Crawford and John got the Prairie Bird in the air. Neal Menonno came down from Hartselle, Alabama to get in some test flying in preparation for the Nats with some large and powerful gas models. Neal was testing models that had been through the repair cycle, and they all looked good. Most of our members have never seen or heard the impressive flight characteristics of power models like Neal flew, including the bunt at the end of the power run. When I looked up at the models gliding, I thought of our great friend, the late Al Pardue, who would have said, "That thing is so high it'll burn on re-entry!"

The following results are interesting. Note the very low number of maxes! In spite of what looked like a perfect day, the low altitude thermals were weak and hard to find. High altitude was a different matter. Neal's power models reached the big lift up high. And David Mills had a remarkable flight with an Embryo using a big, fat motor. The model climbed fast and picked up a thermal on the way up. It went out of sight overhead, but Dohrman tracked it with binoculars all the way to the DT and a safe landing on the field!

Blue Ridge Special

D. DeMasie	58	50	78				186
J Martin	42	40	42				124

Catapult Glider

F Perkins	90	31	47	35	75	39	212
D. DeMasie	41	19	90	27	33	26	164

FAC Embryo

D Mills	120						120
D Crawford	78						78

FAC OT Rubber

J Martin	63	60	53				176
D Mills	79	89					168

FAC Scale

J Martin	39	62					101

FAC No Cal

D. DeMasie	47	41	96				184
D Crawford	90						90

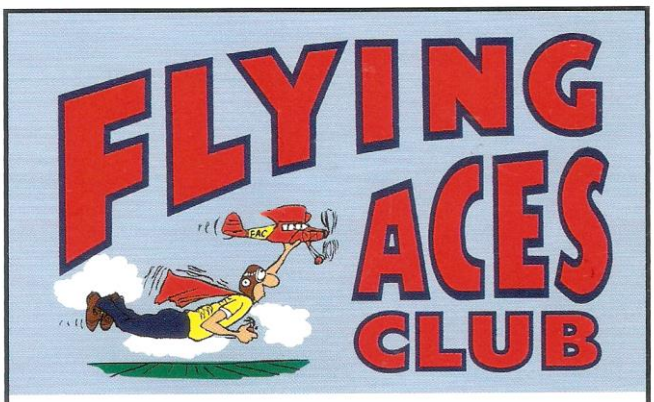
P-30 Rubber

J Martin	57	30	107	194

Phantom Flash

D Mills	58	120	47	225
D Crawford	51	56	86	193

Note that CLG is now flown to a 90 second max and FAC Blue Ridge Special rules call for three official flights with a 120 second max. Submitted by: Karl Hube/CD. Thanks for attending.



The premier organization dedicated to traditional stick-and-tissue Free Flight. $25 per year ($35 to Canada; $50 to rest of the world; Paypal now accepted) gets you six issues of *Flying Aces News*, invitations to large FAC contests, opportunities to join your local FAC squadron, and much more!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State/Prov.** _____

Code/Zip _____ **Email** _____

Country _____ **Phone** _____

Checks payable to FAC, 997 Woodcliff Drive, Franklin Square, NY 11010. Or, join online:

www.flyingacesclub.com

NFFS MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION

Mail to: NFFS Membership Office
51 Julia Circle
Middle Island, NY 11953

Make checks payable to National Free Flight Society

Dues include a mandatory $0.50 per year for NFFS membership.

U.S. memberships (Age 19 & over) ☐ 2 years $58.00 ($18.00 Youth) ☐ 1 year $30.00 ($10.00 Youth)

Youth: Age 18 & under as of July 1 of the current year

☐ Check here if you desire *Digest* delivery via email. This saves valuable funds on printing/mailing, and you receive your *Digest* about 3 weeks sooner. As a bonus, the e*Digest* contains exclusive additional content in each issue.

Canadian Memberships (all ages) ☐ 2 years $98.00 (printed *Digest*) ☐ 1 year $50.00 (printed *Digest*) ☐ 2 years $58.00 (e*Digest*) ☐ 2 years $30.00 (e*Digest*)

Non-US/Non-Canadian Residents (all ages) ☐ 2 years $58.00 (eDigest) ☐ 1 year $30.00 (eDigest)

Life Membership ☐ $500.00

To help reduce expenses maintaining NFFS records, PLEASE renew for at least two years. Thank you!

Check appropriate boxes below:

New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change ☐ Donation ☐

Amount: $ _____ Current expiration date: Mo./Yr.: _____

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY

Date of Birth M D Y

Name: _____

Address: _____ AMA#: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Send all renewals, address changes, applications, and membership questions to the Membership Office, email: <membership@freeflight.org>.

Please go to www.freeflight.org for credit card renewals. VISA MasterCard



April and May scenes, collage by Barfield



May scenes, collage by Barfield