The THUMB PRINT

Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

www.thermalthumbers.weebly.com

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AMA Charter # 1834

FLYING ACES club

SAM

NFFS

May-June, 2024

HEADS UP

Welcome to the third issue of the year. It's a good one, and no modesty is allowed on this edition because many hands were in the mix, and thanks to all involved so accommodating your trusty editor. You'll find much of interest within, including three outdoor contest reports from the sod farm and one report from Behind Closed Doors down in Cochran. This bevy of activity brought major changes on the club's high point ranking, so delve herein for yours. You'll also find numerous other news items concerning members alive and past.

Also, many of us are traveling to the USOC Muncie Nats to compete on the national stage, so wish a safe journey there and back and abundant thermals while there. That last bit said, it's time for me to get out of the way. Ciao, y'all.

RENEWAL NAG

Listen, y'all either joined by now or you didn't, and the calendar says it's July. You can't claim that it snuck up on you. No, your duty was plain, and Lord knows, you were nagged enough. It's time you did the right thing and embraced the gracious plenty of the club blessed fellowship when and where you can get it, and that's right here and right now. The membership form follows for the remaining tail-dragging, laggard recalcitrants among us. So, stroke that check, sign on the line that is dotted, and mail it to club treasurer James "Diamond Jim" Martin at the address so indicated. You know who you are. Eyes on you!

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE

We're a bit over the halfway mark in the year's contest schedule, but there's still tons of fun to be had. Note there're no indoor dates at this time. Rest assured, though, some dates will likely pop up and will be broadcast in our man Doug DeMasie's *Bulletin*. So, stay tuned for those. In the interim, glue some sticks together and show up with a model airplane somewhere! The game's afoot.

July 22-26: AMA Outdoor Nats. Muncie, IN
Aug. 18: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Jim Conery
Sept. 15: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Doug DeMasie
Oct. 13: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-David Barfield
Nov. 3: Turkey Shoot. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Gary Morton

THUMBS ON THE MARCH: BIG RIGS, LITTLE BOYS

Josh Finn passes along these two items through the aforementioned good offices of Doug DeMasie: "Doug, here's a link to the FAI team selection scoreboard. If you can't tell, S4A (rocket

boosted glider) is our specialty and is the class my family are gunning for. See https://www.nar.org/wsmc-scoreboard/

"I've attached a screen grab as well. If all goes well in Pueblo in August, we'll be on the team for Serbia next year. Rocket Glider is exceptionally difficult because the models have to transition from a 100+ mph launch (usually 130-150 mph) to a slow floating glide. Keeping them from shredding on the way up, going off pattern, or going unstable in glide is a very challenging task.

"The boys got a couple Kanones Saturday so don't feel too bad...will get the whole thing together and sent in to David tomorrow for newsletter and club points inclusion.

"Paul and Caleb, with my help, build F1P models, specifically the Astrostar 404P, which is a popular plane for that class. F1P is the junior world championship class for Free Flight Gas Power, with a minimum 400 sq in wing area, 250g minimum weight, .061in² max engine displacement, 7 second engine runs, and 3 minute max. Both boys did their own building except for covering (Mylar on outdoor ships is a little unwieldy even for adults, let alone kids) and installing and plumbing the noisemakers and radio dethermalizers.

"Caleb maidened his Astrostar last night with a hot MP Jet 061. I helped with bad engine starting advice and directing incidence changes to tune the climb. Paul flew his for the first time tonight. His VA 049 is loud, but less powerful, so trimming and flying was a breeze. It's really gratifying to reach the point where you can stand back and let your kids loose with a 25k rpm screaming monster and have them manage the whole thing not only safely, but also flying the planes better than many of the adults out there. Photos attached, enjoy!"

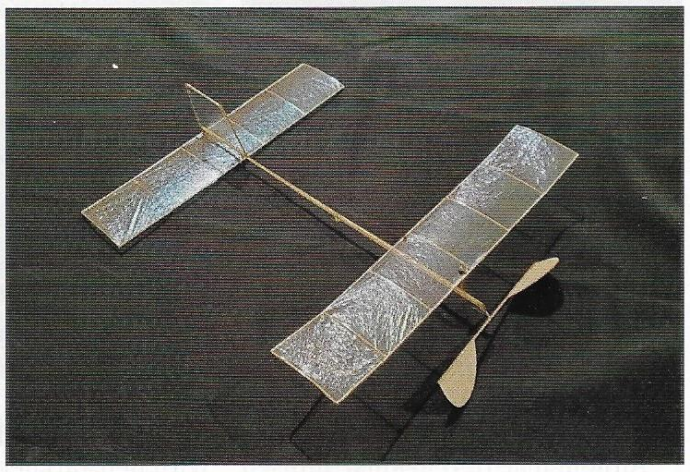
S4A Boost/Glide Duration

Rank	Name	NAR#	Score
JR Division			
1	Finn, Caleb	113168	264
2	Goldberg, Ethan	111202	224
3	Zhou, Samantha	114242	177
4	Anderson, Ethan	113630	173
5	He, Chloe	119094	129
6	Finn, Paul	115794	124
7	Dai, Zixi	116396	119
8	Harris, Camille	113108	113
9	Wu, Lily	114280	88
10	Bala, Rohan	114608	74
11	Singh, Aniket	107573	55
12	Akcin, Davud	118015	38
13	Cheung, Makayo	1148	



THUMBS IN THE MARKETPLACE

There will be the occasional, unintended omission in the presentation of new products flowing into the Free Flight marketplace by club members into these humble pages. The lack of placement of Josh Finn's latest kit into the last issue was one such oopsie. These offices are now tickled pink to debut J &H Aerospace's "Easy A-6" kit. Their brag on the estimated 5-to-6 minute flight times in a large gym is legit by this pilgrim's eyewitness testimony. A quick perusal of jhaerospace.com will give further details. (Yes, the prop looks like somebody fell into the mash barrel, but it actually works.)



THUMBS OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

Or worst yet, Thumbs inside looking out. Either just might be the case if you drive out to NG Turf Field on a weekend and they're not open. Or, if you go out Saturday morning and they're as busy as beavers, and the main gate is open. You hang around until late afternoon, and upon leaving you discover you're locked in, the work crews long since gone home.

How to avoid the drama? Well, first of all, depending on their work schedule, they usually work on Saturday, and the main gate is open. They leave when done, but they're not tracking your activities, and the gates are locked. So, you snooze you lose, but you have a fun story to tell later. On Sundays, this writer assumes the place isn't open, and the gates are locked, so unless you have the CD kit, enjoy your captivity. Barring a major economic downturn, they're open and working feverishly Monday through Friday, especially in the warm months.

Bottom line: we tend to forget the sod farm is a business, specifically an actual farm. Sod is their crop. Ergo, they work when there's work to do and not there when not. Hopefully, at those idle times the farm's owners and workers are at home on the weekends or the rare free weekday, feet up, charring some meat low and slow, and enjoying a cold snack. They earned it. Keep that in mind.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH: USIC MOSCOW NATS

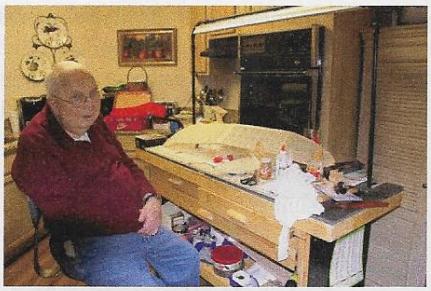
Nick Ray, plus Steven Griggs and his mother, attended the USIC in Moscow, ID the first week of July. Note these three were the only attendees from the southeast, according to Nick, so thanks for hoisting that flag. Also, note that Josh Finn and crew weren't there either; he and Hope bought a new pickup for more capable towing instead.

Nick was a busy man that week because he served as the AMA's NatsNews reporter, as well as competing. Of the latter, he flew to firsts in Ministick and F1R. His commentary can be found on the AMA website, just search "2024 NatsNews USIC". Well done, sir!

Nick is also the longtime editor of *Indoor News and Views*, an important international rag of the indoor Free Flight community. It can be found on the NFFS website, so don't be shy. Check it out!

THUMBS IN PRINT: MICKEY WALKER RIP

BUNA ALLEN WALKER (1931-2024)





BUNA ALLEN "MICKEY" WALKER was born on September 30, 1931, and passed away on February 10, 2024. A modeler since 1936, Mickey's contributions to model aviation were bountiful.

Mickey got his start in aeromodeling in 1936, when he was gifted a solid model of Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis airplane. A few years later, in 1941, Mickey received and built his first gas-powered model, a Stanzel Interceptor with an Ohlsson & Rice 23 engine.

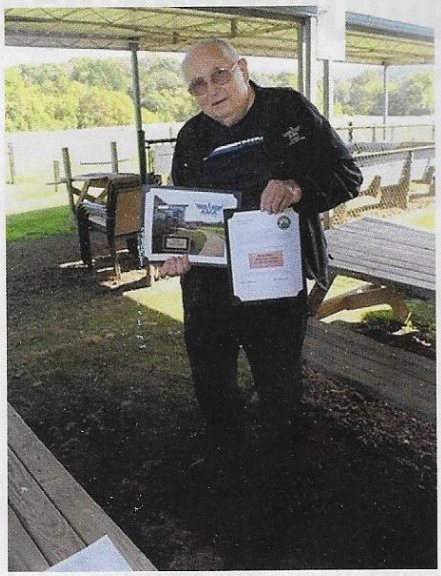
In 1947, Mickey won first place in Class C Gas in his first contest, held in Griffin, Georgia. In 1954, he won third place in his first RC contest after learning to fly RC aircraft only two years before!

Mickey not only enjoyed the competitive side of the hobby, but he also enjoyed giving back to the community with his talents and knowledge. He built identification models for the government during World War II; these models were used to train pilots and antiaircraft gunners. From 1972 to 1978, Mickey opened and ran a hobby shop, Complete Model Supply, to ensure that modelers could continue to enjoy the hobby after a previous hobby shop had closed.

Numerous clubs and organizations have Mickey to thank for their creation. These clubs include, but are not limited to, the Tri County Radio Control Club, the Cobb County Radio Control Club, and the Cobb County Radio Control Competition Team. Mickey served as president for all of them. He founded the Senior Pattern Association (SPA) and served as president, newsletter editor, chairman of the board, and contest director (CD) for the SPA Masters Championships. Mickey also served as president of the Society of Antique Modelers Chapter 47, starting in 1994.

Mickey joined AMA in 1941 and eventually became an AMA CD and Leader Member. In 1998, he was awarded the AMA Pioneer Award and was inducted into the AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame in 2002.

In addition to his success in competition, community outreach, and club building, Mickey found success in the building and designing portion of the hobby. He remanufactured the Cobey Waite engine after

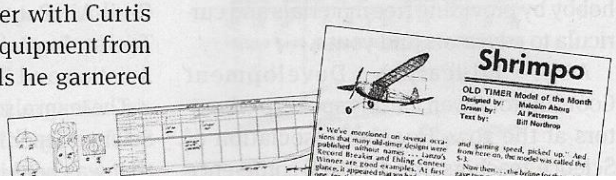




buying the rights from Michael Drozda (1985-1987); designed an RC Aerobatics model called the Equalizer with Curtis Motes; built his first radio equipment from scratch thanks to the skills he garnered while working at the Lockheed Aircraft Plant; and built many radios and model engines for use by himself and his friends.

Mickey had the support of his wife, Rebekah, through all of his aeromodeling endeavors. She attended nearly every contest that he competed in and was known for supporting his hobby in full.

To read Mickey's full AMA History Project autobiography, initially written in 2002, visit www.modelaircraft.org/sites/default/files/WalkerBunaAllenMickey.pdf.



THUMBS ON THE MARCH: KENT STATE

This just in on the recent Kent State indoor contest. Nick Ray and all the Finns made the trip and did some damage. Nick and Josh made the podium in Ministick. Josh Finn had a great day, also winning Unlimited and Standard Catapult and F1R and seconding in Unlimited Pennyplane. Young Caleb and Paul and Josh's better three-quarters Hope flew a ton, placing well in several events. Well done, all.



THUMBS AT THE WORKBENCH: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

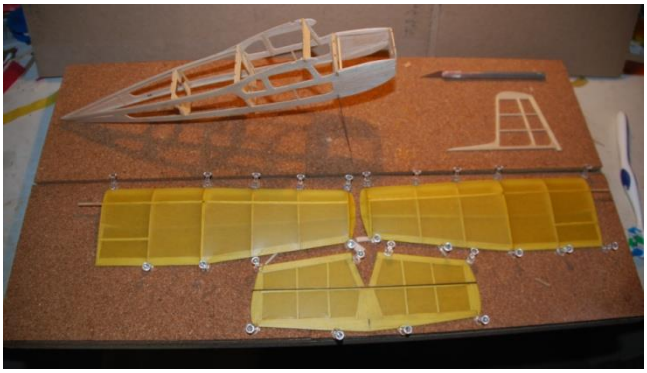
True to our past, the Thumbs were a little tardy in getting the new Guillow Scale effort rolling. No one should be very surprised. Was it not ever thus? However, progress has been made, as the following photo portfolio will testify. Witness Jim Conery's Curtiss Robin, Dohrman Crawford's Fairchild 21, the absent James Martin's Pilatus PC-6 Porter, and David Barfield's well along Cessna 172. The owner of the not-nearly so-well-along Cessna 180 lastly pictured is unidentified at this juncture. This writer suspects it'll be finished shortly, and any tardiness thereby will be justly explained at some depth, as is his expected wont. Time will tell, and kanones await thereby. Well done, all, kindasorta.











WHERE WE STAND

A quick look at the new high point ranking below shows much activity, largely due to the bounty provided by our recent Chattahoochee Challenge contest that resulted in a traffic jam at the top. Was it not ever thus? However, this is no time to rest on our laurels because four more outdoor contests, and likely an indoor contest or two, are in the offing. Ergo, the game's afoot, and Fame and Glory is in the offing.

Caleb Finn 53
Paul Finn 47
James Martin 41
Doug DeMasie 41
David Mills 36
Jim Conery 25
Dohrman Crawford 24
Josh Finn 24
Gary Morton 12
David Fletcher 10
Jimmy Jordan 9
Hope Finn 9
David Barfield 8
Jim Altenbern 8
Frank Perkins 8
Joe Ryan 7
Stephen Griggs 3
Nick Ray 2
Richard Schneider 1

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in late August. The main feature will be the report of what the Thumbs achieved at the USOC Muncie Nats. We expect the reportage to be both vast and thrilling. Don't be surprised if we have an indoor contest or two. You never know, but newsworthy items unforeseen may come over the transom to be gaffed and brought aboard.

As always, I beseech the multitudes to forward to the humble pages anything in the way of articles, plans, photos, rants, or raves. Don't make me work too hard! Ciao, y'all!

2024 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name_____AMA #_____

Address_____City, State, Zip_____

Other Family Members and AMA #_____

Telephone_____Email_____

$20.00/year for each adult in family, no charge for all 18 years or under. Send check payable to TTOMA to James "Diamond Jim" Martin/3901 Bays Ferry Trail/Marietta, GA 30062/ jhnmartin1963@gmail.com /404-632-7226.

MAY DAZE OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

Low clouds, a bit of fog, and a few episodes of mist spattering on our planes met us early Sunday morning at the field. I thought I heard the Hound of the Baskervilles once, but it was only your editor, David Mills, searching for his sausage biscuit. The forecast of clearing skies proved true, but several hours late. However, winds and drift were usually light, and only one plane was lost. Frank Perkins's venerable CLG, 12 years old, went into the trees by the river, and could not be seen due to the heavy foliage. While we had cloudy skies for a while, our fortunes improved greatly when the DeMasie's showed up, bearing a half metric ton of wonderful cookies. Thank you, Debbie! Eight official fliers showed up, and the usual combo of disasters, great flights, and laughter prevailed throughout the day. Despite our good intentions, Gary "Goldenrod" Morton cruised to an easy victory *in his own special event*?! The guy is tough to beat! His modified Prairie Bird is a great flier.

We had a good day. Great fun! Cub reporter Dohrman Crawford, reporting.

Embryo
Gary Morton Prairie Bird 239
Jim Conery Tomahawk 152
David Barfield Gonzo 86
Dohrman Crawford Camilla 81
James Martin Super Maxi II 61

Two Bit Plus One
Gary Morton FA Moth 235
Jim Conery King Harry 225
Dohrman Crawford King Harry 43
James Martin Skokie 38

Dime Scale
David Mills Chambermaid 118
James Martin Chambermaid 94

P-30
Frank Perkins EPzaz 90

Catapult Glider
Frank Perkins 206
Doug DeMasie 56

Blue Ridge Special
Doug DeMasie 167

FAC WWI
James Martin Fokker DVII 41

FAC Racer
James Martin Buster 37

Phantom Flash
David Mills 68

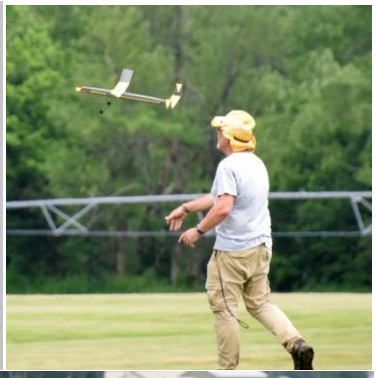
Simplified Scale
David Mills Waterman Gosling 32

Rubber Scale
David Mills Heinkel 100D 135

SCat Jet
Doug DeMasie Canberra 20










Photos by some drifter

CHATTAHOOCHEE CHALLENGE

June 29-30, 2024
NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

We had a good contest. Attendance was a little down from last year, but the consensus on the field held some of it was down to the dire heat and scattered showers in the forecasts. Well, it indeed got really hot (99.6 F indicated at one point!), but we only were sprinkled on for a few minutes on Saturday. Otherwise, bright sun and partly cloudy skies prevailed, veritable June Chamber of Commerce weather. And is our way, we drank buckets of water, smeared ourselves with sunscreen, put up canopies galore, wore proper Southern brims, and thusly nurtured we survived and flourished nicely. (Mercifully, no one went “toes-up-Yankee”.) Our all-time winner of the furthest traveled was handily won by Alan Petersen, NFFS Webmaster, arriving all the way from Arizona!

The field conditions favored good flying, and we made the most of it. Winds were generally light and from all directions. Thermals were plentiful, but hard to harvest. We only lost two models, both Chambermaids in the last round of a mass launch on Sunday in a modest but persistent boomer. It happens. This writer’s Chambermaid swims with the fishes (having lost that certain challenge) and Gary’s retired to wild, forested vastness of Coweta County, crossing the club’s personal River Styx.

The level of flying was very high, and we flew up a storm. Several of us won kanones, but chances for more suffered from need of another flier or two, an ongoing woe. A quick review of the following scores shows where the need is and a guide for future projects. No Cal Scale, Peanut Scale, Phantom Flash, Simplified Scale, and Jimmy Allen/Two Bit +1 cry out for some workbench loving. James Martin and your trusty editor were the top harvesters of club high points, with 25 and 20 each, respectively. Ten other fliers reaped some of that reward.

The following scores and photos tell the fuller story. We’ll do it again next year, so prepare for more of this big time excitement in 2025. Many thanks go to CDs Gary Morton and Jim Altenbern for officiating with no rigmarole, kerfuffles, folderol, or nary a gee-gaw.





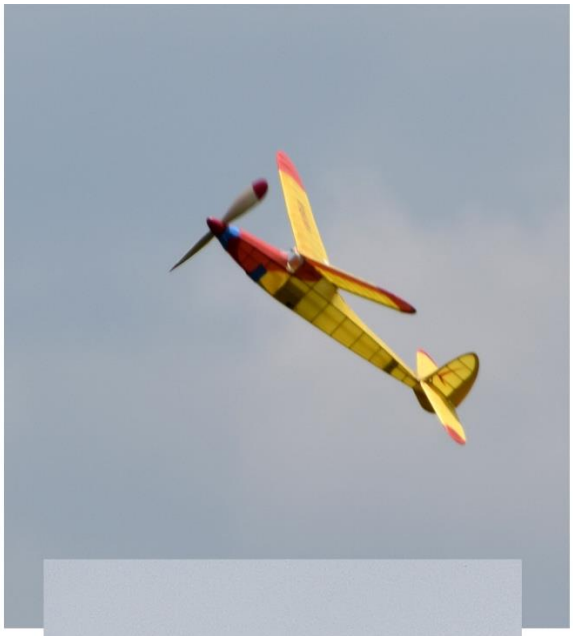




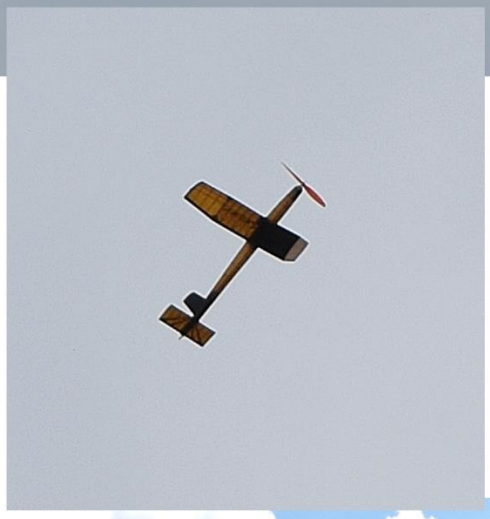




Photos and collage by David Barfield











Photos and collage by David Barfield











Photos and collage by David Barfield











Photos and collage by David Barfield

RESULTS FOR CHATTAHOOCHEE CHALLENGE - June 29-30, 2024

FAC Rubber Scale

	Best Factored Flight	Scale Points	Bonus	Total Points	Place
David Mills	51	54	10	115	1
Dohrman Crawford	31	60	10	101	2
James Martin	44	50	0	94	3

Jimmy Allen/2 Bit + 1

	Total Flight Time	Place
James Martin	208	1
Dohrman Crawford	181	2

Blue Ridge Special NBM

	Total Flight Time	Place
James Martin	234	1
Jimmy Jordan	226	2
Doug DeMasie	148	3
Jim Conery	88	4

Embryo

	Total Flight Time	Bonus	Total Points	Place
Jimmy Jordan	205	9	214	1
Gary Morton	185	9	194	2
Jim Conery	38	9	47	3

No-Cal

	Total Flight Time	Place
James Martin	116	1
Doug DeMasie	58	2

P-30

	Total Flight Time	Place
David Mills	302	1
Alan Petersen	151	2
Jim Conery	114	3

WW II Mass Launch

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Place
James Martin	83	90	67	1
David Mills	26	16	47	2
Dohrman Crawford	12	13		3
Jim Conery	5			4

Golden Age Mass Launch

	Round 1	Round 2	Place
David Mills	41	40	1
James Martin	50	6	2
Jim Conery	40		3

Fiction Flyer Mass Launch

	Place
James Martin	1
David Barfield	2

FAC Peanut Scale

	Best Factored Flight	Scale Points	Bonus	Total Points	Place
David Mills	75.5	59	0	134.5	1
Dohrman Crawford	10	19	0	29	2

Combined Racers Mass Launch

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Place
James Martin	60	56	20	1
Gary Morton	70	172	-	2
David Mills	70	129	-	3
Dohrman Crawford	43	-	-	4

Jet Catapult Scale

	Total Flight Time	Scale Points	Bonus	Total Points	
Dohrman Crawford	57	17	0	74	
Jim Conery	34	17	0	51	
Doug DeMasie	27	15	2	44	3

CLG

	Total Flight Time	Place
Joshua Finn	185	1
Dohrman Crawford	135	2
Caleb Finn	46	3
Paul Finn	38	4

Embryo NBM

	Total Flight Time	Bonus	Total Points	Place
Jimmy Jordan	210	9	219	1
Paul Finn	179	9	188	2
Jim Conery	22	9	31	3

Phantom Flash

	Total Flight Time	Place
Caleb Finn	319	1
David Mills	137	2

Simplified Scale

	Total Flight Time	Bonus	Total Points	Place
James Martin	235	0	235	1

Dime Scale

	Total Flight Time	Bonus	Total Points	Place
David Mills	247	0	247	1
James Martin	56	0	56	2
Gary Morton	45	10	55	3

WW I Mass Launch

	Round 1	Round 2	Place
James Martin	48	29	1
Jim Conery	25	damaged	2
Dohrman Crawford	8		3

JULY OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

Well, the weather forecast didn't mislead. As foretold, it was hot as blazes, but nonetheless, a hardy octet of Thumbs braved infernal realms and flew up a storm. How hot was it? Well, thermisistors on the field marked the afternoon temps at 98-100 F in the shade. Under the full majesty of the day without the shady benefit it was even hotter. Yet prudence and heritage prevailed, and we got along fine, thanks to drinking water like thirst-crazed beasts, donning proper wide brims and wearing all cotton, Southern peasant attire. (Many thanks go to the genius who invented shade and ice water.)

However, enough about the heroics and prudence of the gathered fliers. What about the flying? Well, the skies were filled with models, and wonder and joy abounded. This was aided by sunny skies, puffy clouds and gentle breezes from all directions. Thermals were numerous and not hard to pick, but never murderous, and no models were lost off field. Most retrievals were easy saunters across the sod, followed by robust wiping of brows, much guzzling of ice water and seeking cooling shelter under our veritable village of canopies with vivid discussions of exactly hot is really was out in the humid milieu. This is truly no hobby or sport for the weak or easily discouraged. Well done, sirs!

Expect more of the same in August, so arrive alive and stay that way. The results follow, CD David Mills reporting.

P-30
Jim Altenbern Square Eagle 328
Joe Ryan Majestyk 239

Blue Ridge Special
Jim Altenbern 146
Joe Ryan 138

Guillow Scale
Dohrman Crawford Fairchild 24 84
Jim Conery Curtiss Robin 74

Rubber Scale
James Martin Nesmith Cougar 172
David Mills Heinkel 100D 55

Dime Scale
James Martin Caudron 170
David Mills Waterman Gosling 59

Phantom Flash
David Mills 177

Catapult Glider
Jim Altenbern Cata-piglet 138

Bostonian
James Martin Beaver 160

Jimmie Allen
James Martin Skokie 168













JUNE INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Cochran Rec Center, Cochran, GA

This just in from Josh Finn: “David, please find attached the scores from Saturday, June 22. Three kanones were claimed. It was hot as blazes. We left the blowers on all day as they didn't significantly impact flight times, although there was plenty of gentle drift. Steven Griggs trimmed out planes for TSA Nationals and USIC (Kibbie). He did very well and the rest of us tried flying while dripping our life water on the floor as the temperatures pushed past 95°. I think everyone made a couple trips to the air conditioned lobby to attempt a return to mental acuity while questioning our sanity. On the other hand, having consistent access to a nice indoor site with no interruptions, total control over the air, and rent free at that. . . we need to do something really nice for Doug. Seriously.”

<u>No Cal Scale</u>
Caleb Finn Beech B35 172
Paul Finn Beech B35 151
Josh Finn Spitfire IX 132

<u>Blue Ridge Special</u>
Doug DeMasie 150
Paul Finn 144
Caleb Finn 132

<u>Ministick</u>
Steven Griggs 2:00

<u>Phantom Flash</u>
Caleb Finn 181
Hope Finn 129
Josh Finn 112

<u>Standard CLG</u>
Paul Finn 29.4
Caleb Finn 23.4

<u>Unlimited CLG</u>
Paul Finn 15.2

<u>HLG</u>
Paul Finn 6.8

Limited Pennyplane
Steven Griggs 14:18

TSA
Steven Griggs 3:02

P-18
David Fletcher 60
Paul Finn 44

Hangar Rat
David Fletcher 214

