The THUMB PRINT

Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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AMA Charter # 1834

FLYING ACES club

SAM

NFFS

July-Aug., 2024

HEADS UP

Welcome to the fourth issue of the year. It's a good one and features coverage of all the fun we've had this summer. This includes the report on the Thumbs and their successes and shenanigans at the USOC Muncie Nats. There's a couple of announcements, one glorious, the other troublesome. Let's get to it, time for me to get out of the way. Ciao, y'all!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL LOOPHOLE FOR LAGGARDS

As we always do, we offer one-half off memberships this time of year for late arrivals to our Free Flight experience. That form follows, so feel free to stroke that check, signed on the line that is dotted, and mail to the address so indicated to James "Diamond Jim" Martin, treasurer. Ten dollars, American, is mighty darn cheap to be among the elite. So say us, anyway.

You know who you are. Eyes on you!

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

The 2024 contest season isn't over just yet. We've two more outdoor contests remaining, and we shouldn't be surprised if another indoor contest pops up in the interim. So, stay tuned and informed. As always is our repeated wont, build a model airplane and should up somewhere to fly it with us.

Oct.12-13: October Hurricane contest, CAFFA, Raeford, NC
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 UNDER ASSAULT BY THE HEAVENS

The day's forecast for the September outdoor contest was a bit much for the membership, that is, one more day after several of continued rain, high winds and the likely acres of mud awaiting the intrepid fliers among us. In the words of that august, old campaigner, the late George Perryman, "It takes a real pro to know when to quit." Given the apparent circumstances, discretion, and valor prevailed, and we bade adieu to our plans. Fret not, we'll get it going in October, stirred but not shaken.

THUMBS JUSTLY HONORED

On the behalf of all the living Thermal Thumbers and those lately departed, your trusty editor hereby congratulates our own Bill Gowen's recent elevation to the NFFS Hall of Fame. That award was rightly bestowed by NFFS and rightly earned by its new holder. Well done, Bill!

This writer won't compile the long line of accomplishments in Bill's Free Flight career as a competitor, designer, youth mentor, kit manufacturer, contest director and all round model aviation raconteur. No doubt, those numerous bits will be listed in the write up in the 2024 NFFS Symposium, heading into your mailboxes as we peck, and all are encouraged to read of and feast on those nutritious details. It won't be a quick read, let me assure you.



THUMBS TO ARMS REDUX

Many moons ago we announced our plan to replenish our club's mahogany row of trophies that were turned to ash and slag in all the excitement at my cando-minimum last November. Namely, each of us would survey our neighborhood trophy shops to see what might be in storage and long-unclaimed in those forgotten corners for free or cheap. It will take some doing, along with shoe leather and gasoline, but we feel it's doable, and we could catch a break. Maybe we can walk out with the whole lot for free or only spending a few bucks. Whatever, we can afford anything of reasonable cost, so let's be optimistic and get to it.

Concurrently, your trusty editor will slog through the complete archive of our pulp newsletters going back to 1980 that survived the aforesaid excitement. (For the record, your editor did, too.) The digital issues go back to 2005, if memory serves, and are readily accessible, thankfully.

Anywho, it won't be easy, but it remains a necessary task ahead. Duty calls, so let's get cranking. Fair warning, some nagging might be called for if the effort appears to be lagging.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH: USOC MUNCIE NATS

Your trusty editor didn't make the USOC Muncie Nats this year, so I'm not inclined to describe the club's successes in detail this time. Ergo, none of my usual hot air will be vented toward that end. Not to worry, this club has plenty of that to spare, and I asked several attendees to share their experiences for our vast audience, so here goes:

This just in from Josh Finn, "The 2024 US Nationals was a wild ride for Team Finn. We added Dev Goda and Stephen Griggs to the team this year, and they experienced raw power and wild downwind chases. We lost models and recovered some. Hope flew 4 events and placed in all of them, sometimes besting vastly more modern equipment with 30-40 year old designs, to become the first ever woman to win P-30 at the Nats and probably the first woman to win the overall rubber power championship. She nearly repeated her Mulvihill win from last year, despite being hampered by deep downwind retrievals and a permanently lost model.

"Paul bested his brother in both power events he flew, outscoring experienced adults to demonstrate his mastery of fast power models. An incredible performance! Caleb flew almost all of the events for the junior championship and absolutely crushed all competition. His fast E-36 caused even expert adults to gasp as it shot away to extreme altitudes with unprecedented reliability. Dev and Stephen did a fantastic job in their first Nats with well built models and difficult field conditions.



SWISS GEAR









SWISS GEAR





Stephen built the structures for my and Hope's Mulvihills, both of which distinguished themselves as the highest performance airplanes on the field.

"Thank you to the many fellow fliers who assisted us on our way to these competition successes. There are so many who helped us, and we are eternally grateful. Until next time, see y'all deep downwind!"

This just in from Frank Perkins, "The weather was great with light to moderate winds and highs in the low 80's. It was my good fortune to win Andrade on Monday and E-20 on Tuesday evening with great help from Dohrman Crawford and Jim Conery. Dohrm and Jim proudly displayed the new TTOMA banner on their canopy, which drew in a number of inquiries about the club. The Finn family made an excellent showing with each of them bringing trophies back to Georgia. Among other accomplishments, Hope Finn won the AMA Rubber High-Point Championship. Our OFBs Neal Menanno captured the AMA Gas High-point Championship and Wally Farrell won many of the scale events. A Nats to remember."

This just in from Stephen Griggs, "I loved attending AMA outdoor Nats! AMA outdoor Nats provided me with a great opportunity to expand in our hobby & meet new people. Competing in the AMA events had elevated my enjoyment and knowledge of Free Flight. Huge appreciation to Josh Finn, Dohrman Crawford, and TTOMA. I seriously appreciate it."

THUMBS SLITHERING FORWARD ON THE MARCH: A DISHONORABLE MENTION

What hath man wrought? This is the question that might spring to mind when confronted by the visage below. This motley horde surfaced at this year's Muncie outdoor Nats. Self-christened as the "Insolent Sluts Free Flight Team", they made their first appearance, bonded by loud, yellow T-shirts and bad attitudes. Oddly proud of themselves, they claim their rabble is by invitation only, a sly move that. It might disguise the unlikelihood of anyone choosing to join such rabble on their own volition. The adage "companions in misery" comes to mind upon reflection.

Companions in misery, indeed. Imagine this writer's shock when he was collared by Dohrman Crawford, an apparent ringleader, and informed I'd been" invited" to join, thusly shanghaied and subject to the gang's bidding. Adding insult to inconvenience, he immediately demanded cash payment for my T-shirt. Worried about the possible aftermath from a refusal to those so amassed and obviously unhinged, I demurred for personal security's sake. Now, I'm stuck with it and them, I guess. Was it not ever thus?

Yellow isn't even my color, anyway, according the national 1970's bestseller *Color Me Beautiful*. (Ask your wife, mistress, girlfriend, life partner, next random victim, or whatever for a consult on same. Maybe the sparkle of your eyes or luster of your complexion could be brought out a tad with only a few wardrobe changes. However, it's doubtful if any of them read it back then or since.)



FORBIDDEN THOUGHTS

We'll have to thank David Barfield for the cartoon below. Alas, life isn't as simple as portrayed. Now might be a good time for us to navel gaze our life decisions generally, specifically this one because liquor appears to be involved. However, at this juncture I'd advise the young man featured to keep both hands on the table. Idle hands are best kept atop the workbench. Dim lights, thick smoke and loud, loud music may be in the offing here, lest we forget that old toe-tapper by Flatt and Scruggs from 1952.



UNFORTUNATE NEWS FROM THE SUNSHINE STATE

The latest word from the FMA newsletter indicates that the long standing King Orange International Free Flight contest is no more and won't be held next year. No further information is available at this time. We assume and hope the FMA's Free Flight activity will continue at the Palm Bay field and elsewhere. We'll pass along other information when have it.

WHERE WE STAND, FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

It's been an active summer of flying, both indoors and out. Excepting the September outing at NG Turf Field, we've little to complain about. Yes, it was a might tepid at times, but a reasonable pace, ice water, proper wide brims and ample shade served us well. As a result, we added a bunch of points to our totals—see scores below. However, be so advised, we've two more outdoor contests remaining, and maybe a pop-up indoor contest, who knows. Fame and Glory await the intrepid. The game's afoot.

Caleb Finn 53
Paul Finn 47
James Martin 44
Doug Demassie 42
David Mills 36
Jim Conery 27
Dohrman Crawford 27
Josh Finn 24
Gary Morton 13
David Fletcher 10
Jimmy Jordan 9
Hope Finn 9
Jim Altenbern 9
David Barfield 8
Frank Perkins 8
Joe Ryan 7
Richard Schneider 4
Nick Ray 3
Stephen Griggs 3

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something right after the Turkey Shoot contest in November. Maybe we'll have some details on the annual banquet in late January. Expect a full rendering of those and October's results. Hopefully, an additional indoor contest will enter the foray in the interim.

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

AUGUST SIZZLE WHILE YOU FIZZLE CONTEST

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

This just in from Jim Conery, “Hi David! Here is all the news that's fit to print on the last contest. By the way, I started getting all the symptoms that you had Sunday on Tuesday, turns out to be Covid again! Had it bad once, antibody treatment, five Covid shots and boosters and sick yet again. WTF, over? I got a magic prescription that is supposed to be a quick fix that's helping a lot, but we're not out of the woods yet. We missed you anyway!

“Temperatures were a bit lower than the past few days, so we did sizzle a bit, and I for one fizzled by quitting time. Six faithful flyers flew with five turning in times. Turnout was a little less than expected, but illness and vacation travel cut into the regular attendance.

“Many other trim and test flights were made, and much good camaraderie was enjoyed. On a sad note Doug and Debbie had to return home with half a tin of delicious peanut butter cookies even after most of us filled our pockets. (David Mills and Dohrman Crawford are being held directly responsible and hopefully will mend their evil ways.) Speaking of evil, as I was trudging out to fetch my P-30, I got a text from Dohrman, apparently still in Germany with a picture of himself quaffing down a very large stein of beer! Somehow my bottled water was sorta ho-hum after that! We hope all are back home and mended for September! CD Jim Conery reporting, and that's all he wrote! The following times were recorded.”

E20
Gary Morton 120 OOS lost!

P-30
Jim Conery 133

Blue Ridge Special
Doug DeMasie 123

Catapult Glider
Jim Altenbern 106

Jimmie Allen
James Martin Skokie 258 OOS lost!

1/2 Wake
James Martin 219

Old Timer Rubber
James Martin 75







SEPTEMBER INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Great Hall, St Lukes, Dunwoody, GA

TTOMA returned to flying at St Luke’s after a long hiatus. Conditions were excellent with an exterior high of 86* F. We had five competitors in attendance. CD Nick Ray reporting.

Hangar Rat
Dorhm Crawford 4:32
Jim Conery 2:17

A-6
Dohrm Crawford 2:35

Ministick
Nick Ray 8:58

FAC No Cal Scale
Richard Schneider Boeing XP-9 3:14

Chattahoochee Challenge
Richard Schneider 1:54

FAC Dime Scale
Richard Schneider Farman Stratoplane 1:24






LAST HALF 2024 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name_____AMA #_____

Address_____City, State, Zip_____

Other Family Members and AMA #_____

Telephone_____Email_____

$10.00/year for each adult in family, no charge for all 18 years or under. **Note, only good until January 1, 2025** Send check payable to TTOMA to James “Diamond Jim” Martin/3901 Bays Ferry Trail/Marietta, GA 30062/ jhnmartin1963@gmail.com /404-632-7226.

Thirteenth Annual TTOMA Turkey Shoot
Nov. 3rd, 2024 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
North Georgia Turf Farm

Schedule

ALL FLIGHTS ARE HAND LAUNCHED. FOUR EVENTS ARE KANONE WORTHY.

MASS LAUNCHES - one round, last one down wins or flown according to FAC rules.

10:00 - **P-30** - one round, last one down or last one out of sight wins,
11:00 - **Embryo** - one round, last one down or last one out of sight wins. Not kanone worthy.
1:00 - **WW II** - flown in three rounds, FAC rules.

The following are flown anytime.

TOTAL FLIGHT SCORES - (three flights)

Hoot Owl (2 bit + 1)
Simplified Scale - Guillows Scale Planes Only - bonus points will be added once to total score. Must see CD to get them recorded.

TOTAL FLIGHT SCORES - (best three of six, 90 sec. max.)

CLG

TARGET TIME - Record time of every flight. To win the target time you need to have the time closest to it. The target time will be announced at the end of flying.

Winners will be awarded a $30 gift card and a Kanone if applicable.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO HAVE A STOP WATCH. If the mass launches do not have enough mechanics, the flights will be self-timed.

Questions or suggestions contact

Gary H. Morton
gmorton1@comcast.net

CAFFA

Carolina Area Free Flight Association



Kudzu Flying Corps

FAC Squadron 13

October Hurricane 2024

Raeford, N. C. October 12 - 13, 2024

Saturday, October 12

(FAC) Combined Racers Mass Launch
(FAC WW) 1 Mass Launch
(FAC) Scale Flying Horde Mass Launch **#**
(FAC) Embryo (ROG)
(FAC) Peanut
(FAC) Phantom Flash (ROG)
(FAC) 2 Bit+1 (ROG)
(AMA) Hand Held Catapult
(AMA) P-30

Sunday, October 13

(SAM) Twin Pusher Mass Launch
Flying Horde Mass Launch **##**
(FAC) WW 2 Mass Launch
(FAC) Blue Ridge Special
(FAC) Dime Scale
(FAC) Jet Catapult
(FAC) No-Cal
(FAC) Simplified Scale
(NFFS) E-20

Launch time for all mass launch events will be announced by the CD

Any FAC Scale model.
Flying Hoard Mass Launch: Any rubber powered model airplane of 26 inch wing span or less. Last one down wins.This is a "for fun" event. No FAC kanone.

Motorized chase vehicles allowed on roadways only

Water and soft drinks provided
On field comfort facility

Contacts: Contest Director: **John Diebolt** jdiebolt@mindspring.com 919 467-1025
CAFFA Secretary: **Jimmy Jordan** jjordan18@ec.rr.com

Entry Fee: $10.00 (Juniors Free) Covers 2 days of flying

Field location MapQuest/Google Maps/GPS: 204 Ratley St, Raeford, NC 28376



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- ☐ Life Membership $650

*Youth: Age 18 & under as of July 1 of the current year. Birthdate required.

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