The THUMB PRINT

Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

www.thermalthumbers.weebly.com

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AMA Charter # 1834

FLYING ACES club

SAM

NFFS

Nov.-Dec., 2024

HEADS UP

Welcome to the final issue of the year, and it's a good one. It's full of important announcements, the chief being the details of our upcoming annual banquet on February 1 at Lost Corner Preserve. The flyer with all the details follows. There's plenty of contest reportage, starting with November's Turkey Shoot, along with two indoor contests at the Cochran Rec Center. Note the kinder and gentler renewal request sashaying forth with sugary sweet appeals to y'all better natures. Here and there your editor reflects on this or that item, both profound and irrelevant, as is his wont.

We won't even attempt to hold back this righteous tide, so it's time for me to get out of the way.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REQUEST

Our tone is presently calm and generous, and we request all members to renew their TTOMA memberships for 2025. That tone herein will remain all unicorns and rainbows, at least for a while. Please extend this joyful interval by finding the following membership form, filling it out as required, stroking a check signed on the line that is dotted and mailing it to James "Diamond Jim" Martin to the address indicated. Loving eyes on you! As we all are aware, you know who you are.

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

Yes, the foregoing agenda is a little sparse in terms of local content, but don't despair. Dohrman Crawford is busy firming up our club's 2025 outdoor contest schedule, even as I peck. The indoor cadre is similarly engaged. In the meantime, note the annual banquet time and place below and make plans to attend. A variety of indoor and outdoor contests are listed for the use by TTOMA's long ranging, flying horde who often ventures outside our realm to joust for Fame and Glory. So, everybody build some model airplanes and show up somewhere to fly with us. The game's afoot.

Jan. 3: Indoor contest. St Lukes Presbyterian, Dunwoody, GA
Jan. 7-9: King Orange International. Palm Bay, FL
Feb. 1: TTOMA annual banquet. Lost Corners Preserve, Sandy Springs, GA
April 5-7: Jim Richmond Open (World Cup). West Baden, IN
May 17-18: Midwest States Indoor Champs. Kent State University, Kent, OH
May 24-26: AMA USIC Indoor Nats. East Tennessee State University. Johnson City, TN
June 30-July 1: Tagliofico Open/USIC (World Cup). Kibbie Dome, Moscow, ID
July 21-25: AMA USOC outdoor Nats. Muncie Nats, IN

ANNUAL EATS

The biggest agenda item we'll discuss in this issue is the details of our annual banquet, once again being at the Lost Corners Preserve in Sandy Springs on February 1. Frankly, we've a very

strong liking to the venue and looking forward to another trip there. And once again, it's being catered by City Barbeque. We can thank Dohrman Crawford again for working out the details. A flyer follows for your use. Note the drop dead notification date is January 10. Invite your better three-quarters if you have one; if not, there's still time to find one. This night out is a very small reward for forgiving the many absences from chores, dust clouds and odors galore throughout the house, machine noises and tool rancor, well, you get the idea. Yes, a small reward, indeed.

Don't forget to bring all your new finished projects for Show and Tell. And we're having a raffle to distribute some recently arrived estate stuff and other freebies. Those details follow. See you there.

THUMBS, TO ARMS: OLD LAMPS FOR NEW!

Your trusty editor reminds the membership that we need to replace all our trophies lost to the Infernal Flames last year. I made the effort to visit all the trophy shops in my zip code and only harvested a modest heap, barely a start. More needs to be done, and this bully pulpit encourages the membership to give your zip codes a go. You never know, and hope springs eternal.

One shop owner did give me a pretty good tip. He suggested that the city's vast array of studio "prop houses" be checked out. A fixture in our city's film industry, these warehouses stock outdoor or indoor scenery crap. They churn their inventory and chuck out stuff regularly. Many of them are on the city's south and west sides, near me kinda-sorta. I'll start that angle soon, and will relay any such places in the metro area's vast periphery. Opportunities will be forwarded to the nearby membership, and these targets-of-opportunity can be pursued. .Sounds like a plan. .

THUMBS PIMPING FOR THE MAN

Sometimes the spotlight's glare is cast upon the young, innocent and unsuspecting. Such was the case when multiple members spied Caleb Finn's visage in an ad in the most recent issue (page 120) of *Model Aviation*, appealing for members to donate to various AMA charitable causes. No harm there.

The young man takes a good picture, as does the Free Flight rubber model he's flinging mightily to the heavens. It's at times like these that I marvel as to how few humanoids have the good sense to partake and enjoy our hobby and sport. They don't know what they're missing. T'is sad for them, but happy for our lucky few.

THUMBS AT THE WORKBENCH: DUELING MOTHS

More than a few words can and should be said for the Flying Aces Moth. It's been around since 1937, giving good service to several generations of Free Flight modelers. Nestled in the convenient and apt genre of cute, small rubber cabin jobs, it provides good performance with an ease of construction. Many of us are on our second or third examples or more because it never disappoints. Plans and kits are abundant and readily available. Its competitive applications include FAC Two Bit Plus 1 and Old Time Cabin, SAM Commercial Rubber and Small Rubber Cabin, and by creative stretches AMA Mulvihill, Moffett and Coupe. Hell fire, Dawn Unlimited, if you're feeling it!

Fresh examples recently spun out by David Barfield and your trusty editor can be seen below, if you're looking for inspiration. Plans and kits abound. So, build one!





THUMBS INEXPLICABLY INATTENTIVE

Yes, you might be as surprised as to the actions of your trusty editor about the forthcoming epiphany and confession. This newsletter has always tried to feature the contributions of club members in the Free Flight media, whether by their authoring articles, publishing photos or as a subject in this media's content. By soon-to-be-awkward concurrence, said editor is also a longtime associate editor in Free Flight Quarterly (FFQ), an international publication of some renown. Honestly, it has never occurred to me to republish in the ETP any of this FFQ material by club members in my long run at FFQ or the ETP. If memory serves, I may have only mentioned this FFQ content briefly and never republished it in whole cloth. Go figure.

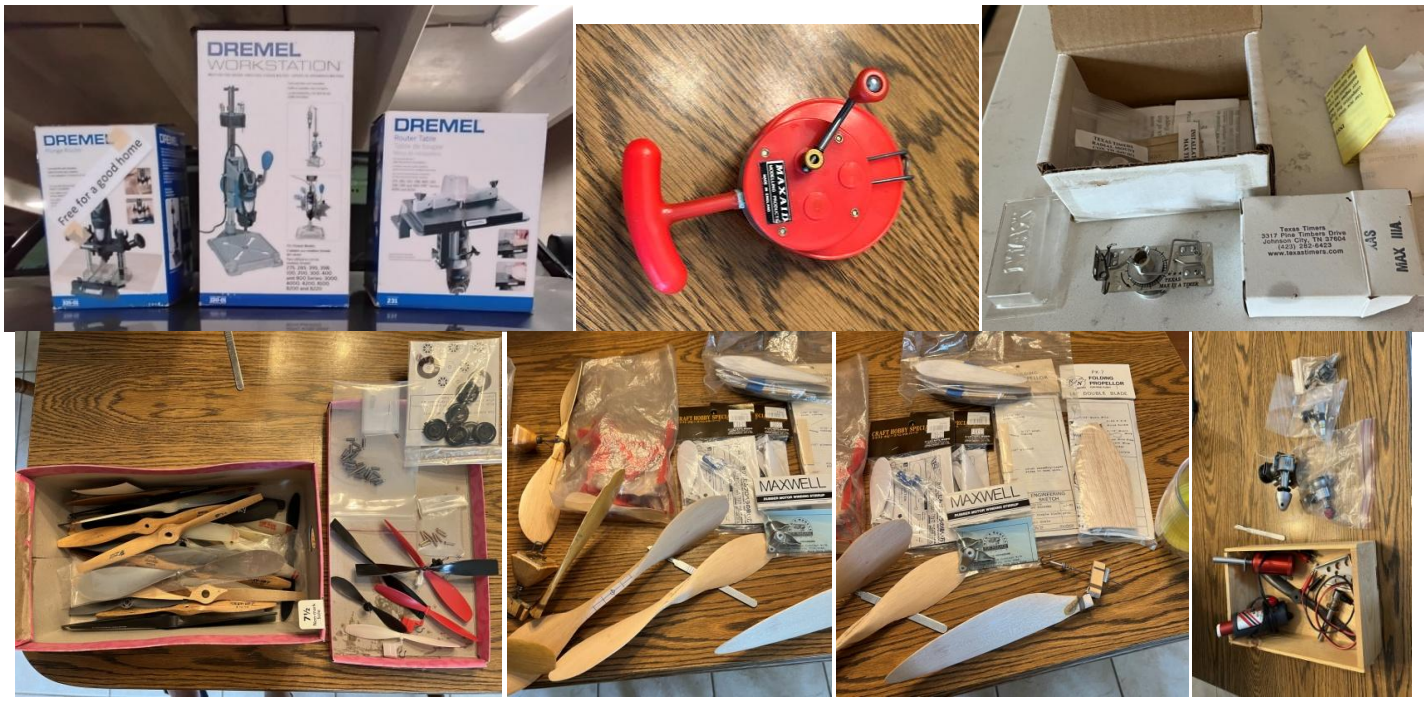
This awkward realization was provoked by Frank Perkins's request to republish in our newsletter his recent article in FFQ on the use of VIT in the P-30 category. Again, go figure. So, look forward to the republishing any material from our own members and friends in forthcoming issues in the ETP. As always, I'll close every issue with the request for readers to forward material and "not make me work too hard". Henceforth, I'll heed my own advice. Once again, go figure.

THUMBS AND THE FARFLUNG BEING GENEROUS

Frank Perkins messaged me and offered me dibs on the Dremel accessories pictured below. After unclenching my pearls, we agreed to a handover at the Turkey Shoot. That done and upon review back home, I realized I'd no real need for them and told Frank I'd bring them to the banquet and offer them to whomever might be hottest in the pants. (Just for the Dremel stuff, nothing extracurricular, grow up!)

Several weeks ago a retired modeler from Florida made arrangements with Doug Demasie to hand over a big pile of Free Flight goodies for the club's use. The following photo collage will provide an illustration of the good gentleman's largesse. In addition to that pictured, there were gifted several well built models including a Starduster X, Korda Wake, Gollywock, Cahill Clodhopper and three Pennyplanes, plus a few kits. Regarding the gas engines and timers shown below, including that Seelig, it'd be great if someone offered the club a few bucks.

Not pictured but also available is a LARGE amount of that old Tru-Torque rubber already made into motors, bagged and tagged. You might remember it was cast upon the market many years ago with much ballyhoo. Sadly, it wasn't up to snuff at the time in comparison with the latest from FAI Supply, and they didn't make a go of it. However, there is a lot of it, and it's free, so it might be useful for early trimming and sport flying.



After much discussion between a few of the wise men consulted, we decided to stage a draw-a-number-out- of- the-hat raffle as part of the banquet festivities, given the embarrassment of riches confronting us. Fears of the spectacle of an Oklahoma Land Rush were whispered, if not. It should add a little spice to the banquet.

THUMBS IN PRINT

The pulp version of the latest issue of the NFFS digest is out, and it has long, broadside coverage of the summer's Muncie Outdoor Nats (USOC). Therein portrayed, numerous Thumbs made the trip and flew at the Nats, making a major impact on the proceedings. This Brave Many are featured repeatedly in the coverage, both in text and photos. Rather than list them individually, why don't you read the issue and regale yourselves in the club's wonderfulness?

Not had a chance to read the latest digest? Perhaps because you're not a NFFS member? Well, self help is the best help, and the membership form follows. Eyes on you! You know who you are.

I'll add one more factoid from last year's USOC. Namely, the assembled Thumbs constituted roughly one-tenth of the overall participation, worthy of some note. The writer will research the percentage from this year and mention it in the next issue. Your trusty editor won't be bashful about tooting our own horn. Delving into the colloquial, "it ain't braggin', if'in it's a fact."

THUMBS AT THE WORKBENCH BEING CLEVER

Your trusty editor was looking over his newly minted Guillow's Cessna 180 prior to the Turkey Shoot and noticed a bit of flaking with the registration decals. (Maybe an artifact of last year's Infernal Flames?) Well, what to do? I thought I'd try smearing a thin coat of purple glue stick on the decal and rubbing it down for good measure. I then thought, well, why not brush over the area with some rubbing alcohol to smooth out everything? That done, after drying it looked great, and the flaking stopped, for the time being at least. Of course, time will tell.

ODE TO GUILLOW'S

Late last year, your trusty editor came up with a good idea and chatted it up with a few of the club's FAC fliers, namely starting a special scale event for 2024 built around Guillow's scale models. Everybody thought it was a good idea, and true to many pledges past, all declared they'd build models for it. A light fog of skepticism hung over the eventual results of the effort, past experience being a harsh taskmaster. Honestly, we were all pleasantly surprised when Guillow's models showed up early and often in the spring and summer. We flew it all year with a shocking degree of participation, contrary to our past attempts at same, and several kanones were earned. Mission accomplished.

A few words in the way of reflection may be in order. First, all of us have some history with Guillow's kits, going back decades. And most of those memories are held in beloved retrospect. While memories of the actual flights are likely not so dreamy, as boys most of us managed eventually to build something that resembled what was pictured on the box cover. (A little self-confidence earned by a kid goes a long way in life through this or other means. Hobbies are more than just fun; they also build character.)

A few simple truths can be put forth. Back then, Guillow's kits were pretty good in comparison with their peers. Let's give Guillow's some credit here because more than a few kit manufacturers delivered a lot less. My first real flier was either the Lancer cabin job or Cessna 180, forget which. It flew across three backyards, a shocking revelation, and I was hooked! And here I sit, pecking away at a keyboard on a Free Flight club newsletter sixty-odd years later. Time literally flies!

A just judgment of the Guillow's long, august product line can be done objectively and with all the due considerations that merit. The plans offered abundant drawings on all phases of the construction along with ample instructions in clear language, standing out in the past and holding up well now. The decals were bulletproof, and the vacu-formed bits serviceable. Yes, in our youth the kit wood was way too heavy; the tissue was horrid; and some design and construction details had more to do with getting everything in a small kit box than aerodynamics. But, other manufacturers were not

much better, and more than a few were much worse. So, let's go easy on the Guillow's kits of yore, OK?

What of the current Guillow's line? Well, my laser-cut Aeronca Champ kit looks pretty good. I would've built it, if not for my emotional attachment to the Cessna 180, and that project offered some surprises. One, I weighed out the Cessna's three, 1/20 die-crush parts sheets at only 6.6 lb/cu ft. Shocking! The rock-hard spar stock fulfilled its intended function. Lighter wood was substituted for all the chunky leading and trailing edges. The decals remain bulletproof. My stock of old Jap yellow replaced the sad kit tissue. Ditto, a 7-inch Peck prop, properly twisted for more pitch. After completion, several trimming flights and a pinch of clay tail weight, the Cessna clocked in at 28.5 grams, not too shabby. Still more trimming needs to be done, but honestly, there's the making of a good flier in the Cessna.

All of the other ones built by members so far by us show similar promise. I dare say, however, all will either be ground to tatters from long use, die dramatic deaths from losing that final battle with gravity and *terra firma*, or simply flying away in a boomer. Warrior deaths all, no regrets.

Moving forward, please find below an amended rules set for 2025, based on the year's experience. Feel free to quibble, as we have a few months to kick this can down the road to outdoor contest season. Happy with the rules, as are? OK, fine. The club consensus is we'll fly Guillow's Scale next year, so build one. The game's afoot.

<u>2025 Guillow's Scale Rules, So Sayeth Event Czar</u>

1. Flown under FAC Simplified Scale event rules, flight and scale scoring.
2. Structure, planforms, airfoils, areas and moments per the kit/plan, except as excused below.
3. Wood substitution freely allowed but plan dimensions to be retained. Reasonable spot reinforcement allowed.
4. Reasonable provisions allowed for blast tube, DT and motor peg relocation.
5. Any freewheeling prop allowed.
6. Reasonable changes to noseblock allowed for rubber-winding ease and flying reliability. Noseblock and fuselage must conform to plan's top, bottom and side views.
7. Anyone acting too serious about this pop-up category will be forced to take his or her shirt off in public.



Left to right: J. Martin, D. Mills, D. Crawford, D. Barfield, J. Conery, none topless

LOOKING BACK TO THE ROARING SIXTIES, AN EXPLANATION

Several weeks ago, these offices received a question from our own Doug DeMasie about my frequent use of the phrase "behind closed doors" to embellish the indoor content in the ETP. It's a fair question and worth an explanation. So, let's turn back the pages of time and place to the late 1960s and the Mills household in Savannah, GA.

There, as in many other places, the air was filled with some of the best music this country has ever produced. This blessing was spiced up by big doses of generational conflict, usually in the form of father-son tension. Well, in the Mills household this took the form at one time with the occasional high volume duels between daddy's radio and my record player. I doled out thunderous cascades of

Jimi Hendrix, Cream, Steppenwolf, the Doors, Led Zeppelin, etc., and he returned volleys with the likes of Faron Young, Roy Acuff, Hank Snow, Johnny Horton, Porter Wagner, etc. Daddy hated mine, and I hated his, lines drawn. One sappy country lyric always rankled me to no end. The chorus ran something like: "I can only tell you I love you, *behind closed doors*". I don't recall the song title or singer, a pity, but that sad and silly heartbreak of a lyric never left me. I heard that one a lot, one of daddy's favorites.

The results of this pointless and destructive conflict? Well, mama had enough of the aural warfare eventually and mandated daddy to turn down the living room radio and me to shut my bedroom door and lower the uproar. A bit of domestic tranquility ensued "behind closed doors", at least on this front.

More turmoil was always in the offing. What a great time to be alive. And young! This is the reason I employ this phrase repeatedly here and there, solely for my own amusement. It makes me chuckle, and I'll never stop. Deal with it. Good times!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking back at the year 2024, TTOMA has a lot for which to be thankful. The basic facts are plenty plain. The outdoor season's weather report went just fine, only getting cancelled once because of muddy conditions. Our relationship with the McWhorter family remains solid, and we'll continue to feather that nest at every opportunity to retain our use of NG Turf Field. Some behinds cannot be kissed enough! We had a few challenges "behind closed doors", but our indoor movers and shakers put together frequent indoor flying opportunities at our three (count 'em) indoor flying sites.

We added a few members, mainly young and largely from the Josh Finn's coaching/ mentoring work. A few of more life tenure wandered in, flew with us and joined our merry band. Many of us traveled to regional and national contests and did well, making our presence known to all. A few of us published articles in the Free Flight media, spreading our brand hither and yon.

What to do in 2025? First of all, we must keep on keeping on all fronts as in 2024. Past Laurels make fine bedding but a poor foundation. We can always use more members. All of us can build and fly more models. More of us need to attend more regional contests, and more of us need to attend the USOC and USIC Nats. Muncie, IN is only a one day's honest drive and Johnson City, TN is a lot closer. And speaking purely selfishly, our newsletter continues to encourage more contributions to our newsletter. The ETP will be forty-five years old next year and still going strong!

So, gird your loins, y'all, and buck up for undertaking more of these essentials next year. The game's afoot.

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something soon after the annual banquet, and we'll lead with that report. Also, the draft of the outdoor contest schedule should be available, and we may have some more indoor dates to share.

2025 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



Lost Corner Cottage

Lost Corner Preserve
7300 Brandon Mill Rd NW
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

TTOMA Banquet
February 1, 2025

This will be a catered meal from City BBQ.
You will have your choice of Beef Brisket or Pulled Chicken. Sides are Green Beans with Bacon, Baked Beans with Brisket, and Mac and Cheese. Triple Chocolate Cake is dessert.
Iced tea, Lemonade and coffee will be available.
Due to City of Sandy Springs regulations, no alcohol will be allowed on premises.

Cost will be $35 per person, which includes tax and tip. Show and Tell at 6 PM and we will eat at 7 PM.

Send a check to Dohrman Crawford
1400 Mile Post Drive
Dunwoody, GA 30338
If you are uncomfortable sending a check, I can accept payment via the Zelle app. Email me (tum25@bellsouth.net) if you do not have my cell phone number, and wish to use Zelle.
There is a hard date of Jan 10 to respond!

TURKEY SHOOT CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

Members arriving at the field on Sunday Nov 5th for the annual Turkey Shoot were greeted with a flyable easterly wind that was gusty at times. The cloud cover all day kept the temperature comfortable. The turnout was good, and the mass launches were well attended. The only problem was the sudden gust, upsetting a launch or flight. This also occurred in the Embryo mass launch. A gust at the launch caused Dohrman's and Gary's planes to spiral into the ground and shifted direction that put two of the planes in the trees. Josh came to the rescue with his retrieval pole and expertise. Both planes were recovered. CD Gary Morton, reporting. Here are the results:

WW II Mass Launch
Hope Finn Yak 1*
Josh Finn Mustang
James Martin Hein
Jim Conery Dauntless
David Barfield Zero

Guillow's Simplified Scale
James Martin Pilatus Porter 134*
David Mills Cessna 180 134
Jim Conery Curtiss Robin 83
Dohrm Crawford Fairchild 24 15
David Barfield Cessna 150 3

Two Bit Plus 1-Hoot Owl
James Martin 120*
Gary Morton 96
David Barfield 72

Catapult Glider
Frank Perkins 214
Josh Finn 147
David Barfield 75

Catapult Glider (Jr)
Caleb Finn 76
Paul Finn 52
Davud Aksin 27

Classic Towline
Josh Finn 101

P-30 Mass Launch
Josh Finn won with Road Kill

Embryo Mass Launch
James Martin won with Embryomatic

Target Time
Jim Conery won with 38 sec.

1/2A AMA Gas
Davud Aksin (Jr) 117
Josh Finn 99
Steven Griggs (Sr) 66

1/2A Classic Gas
Josh Finn 107

Nostalgia 1/2A
Josh Finn 122

Early 1/2A Nostalgia
Josh Finn 147

Nostalgia 1/4A
Josh Finn 72

E-36
Stephen Griggs (Sr) 107
Davud Askin (Jr) 99

HLG (Jr)
Davud Askin 90

*kanones earned

















Photos by Frank Perkins and David Barfield

NOVEMBER INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Cochran Rec Center, Cochran, GA

Nick Ray needed a day of trimming, and the Cochran Rec Center was available, so we arranged another trip there. Nick flew Ministick all day and had a ball. I flew four different models, but didn't record any official scores with my Phantom Flash, Hangar Rat, Chambermaid No-Cal and a sport flier. That's about it, CD Doug Demasie reporting.

DECEMBER INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Cochran Rec Center, Cochran, GA

Gentlemen, here's the report from the last TTOMA meet of the year. Doug opened the gym to us before hustling away to supervise the Dawgs' dramatic win over Texas, leaving Nick Ray and the Finns to battle it out. Nick capitalized on the cold conditions (sub-50F in the gym starting out, warmed to around 60 as the day progressed) to put in some 1/5 motor flights on his Ministicks. He didn't enter any times, but he flew as much as the rest of us combined. Yours truly put up what is thus far the highest recorded SciOly helicopter flight of the 2024/5 season at 2:55 with the production version of a new design. Hope and the boys flew a bunch of stuff including some VERY ornery old Phantom Flashes, wrapping up with Caleb's very nice flying F1D. There was near zero drift the entire day. Probably the calmest air I've ever flown, and a perfect conclusion to 2024's incredible flying season. See y'all at the banquet! Josh Finn, CD, reporting.

HLG
Caleb Finn 24.9
Paul Finn 17.4

Standard Catapult Glider
Paul Finn 28.7
Caleb Finn 26.3

No Cal Scale
Paul Finn B35 Bonanza 172*
Caleb Finn B35 Bonanza 162
Joshua Finn Spitfire 100

Phantom Flash
Caleb Finn 220*
Josh Finn 117
Hope Finn 89

F1D
Caleb Finn 22:49

Blue Ridge Special
Paul Finn 127
Caleb Finn 124
Josh Finn 83

P-18
Paul Finn 75
Caleb Finn 40

*kanones earned



Editor's note: The photo to the left was sent anonymously to these offices. No clue as to from whom or for what purpose. A quick review indicates perhaps a poor choice of a business name for either bed, breakfast, religious affiliation, parking or other amenities. Curb appeal questionable. Likely back-of-envelop business plan.

NFFS MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION

US Memberships

☐ 1 year $40 ($14 Youth*)

☐ 2 years $76 ($24 Youth*)

☐ 5 years $185
(Not available for youth memberships)

☐ Life Membership $650

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

☐ Digital delivery of Digest only

Scan here for all payment and membership options

Additional membership options including Canadian, International, Gift Memberships and Family Memberships are available at www.freeflight.org

Check appropriate boxes below:

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Address change

☐ Donation Donation Amount $_____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY Birthdate: ___/___/____

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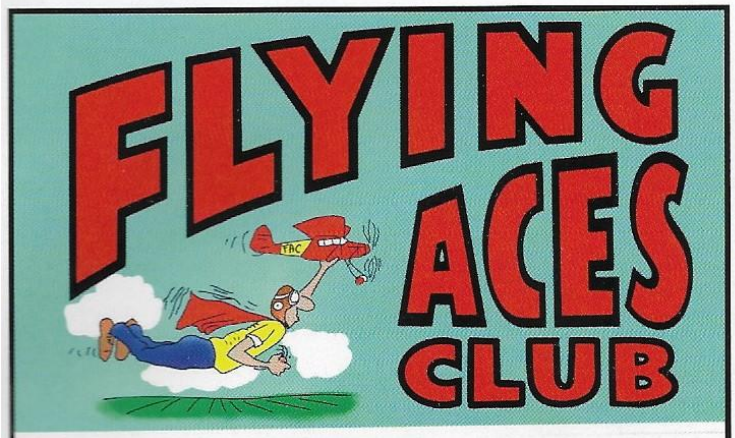
Mail to:
NFFS Membership Office
51 Julia Circle
Middle Island, NY 11953

Make checks payable in U.S. dollars to:
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Send all questions to the Office email:
membership@freeflight.org

Please go to www.freeflight.org for creditcard & PayPal options
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Or join online via Paypal:

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Membership Rates:

☐ 1 Year eCopy SAM Speaks - $30
☐ 1 Year Hard Copy SAM Speaks (USA Only) - $40
☐ 1 Year Hard Copy SAM Speaks (All other countries) - $50

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal SAM# _____

Please Print:

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City: _____ State:_____ Zip: _____

Home Phone:_(_____)_____Cell: _(____)_____

Email:_____

I agree to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society of Antique Modelers and uphold the spirit of its Preamble. _____

Members may pay using Paypal at SAM26Walt@gmail.com
** Make All Checks Payable to SAM * All Payments in US Dollars **

Send All Payments to: **Society of Antique Modelers International**
P.O. 73215, Phoenix, AZ 85050

1954-2025
Last And Final KOI

70th

KING ORANGE INTERNATIONAL

January 7th, 8th, and 9th 2025
Palm Bay, Florida

16 - AMA Events
5 - Old Time Events
12 - FAC Events*
Gollywock Mass Launch*
E-36 Mass Launch*
P-30 Mass Launch*
9 - FAI Events
7 - NOS Events

AMA CAT III National And America's Cup Contest
at Joe Clawson Field

Address: 2190 Sapodillo Rd. S.W., Palm Bay, FL 32908

CD	ASST CD	FAC
Skeeter Surguine	Jim DeMeritte	Duncan McBride
386-673-6875	727-712-0996	239-910-3740
carverpop@aol.com		n319dm@gmail.com

For additional information call the above numbers or email:
King_Orange_Intl@yahoo.om

Entry Fee: Open $35.00 unlimited, Senior $20.00
Junior (U-16) $5.00

Awards: One award to each winning contestant through 3rd place
Plates for each additional win
Joe Clawson Trophy

FMA High Start Rules, 50ft rubber, 150 ft line

Lunch will be catered the first two days
Sponsored: FMA Florida Modelers Association

****NO INDOOR****