The THUMB PRINT

Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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AMA Charter # 1834

FLYING ACES club

SAM

NFFS

May-June, 2025

HEADS UP

Welcome to the much delayed third issue, and yes, it's taken a long time. A bit of context, since June 1 this pilgrim has lived in the three different places. It's all been one big, fruit basket turnover. Life intervened mightily, and a few things slipped to the wayside, including the old ETP. A further bit of perspective, I haven't glued one stick to another in about five months.

The good news is I'm back in my freshly rebuilt condo, and much of the contents, including me, are up and running. The old workbench is next on the list of inevitables, and these old habits will be stinking up the joint in short order. That's the hope anywho. So, bear with me a little longer.

Much water has certainly gone under the bridge in the interim; hence, much needs to be told. And much will be told and caught up upon herein, so grab your favorite cold snack, settle into your preferred throne and hunker down for the duration. However, I had planned a big Muncie Nats coverage, something splashy, but that didn't happen and won't be dealt with here. Look for it in the next issue. Fret not, that loss is compensated in this issue by the club's bounty of activity hither and yon this spring and summer.

That's it from me for now from here, and time for me to get out of the way. Ciao, y'all!

CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Well, we're a little over halfway done with 2025, and the lean side of this orbit is at our front. As is our wont, we're offering a 50% discount on the arse end of this year's membership term. That amended form follows, and all the recalcitrants among you can redeem your karma by filling out the form provided, signed on the line that is dotted and mailing it to the address so indicated to James "Diamond Jim" Martin. That done, it'll be much appreciated and will grant the thusly redeemed to a little lip service at the Pearly Gates when the unavoidable events flow down the river of time. Good luck with that, and you can only hope that a little bit helps there and then as much as it always does here on the mortal coil.

THINGS TO DO, PEOPLE TO SEE, PLACES TO GO

Much remains to be done, so mark your calendars accordingly. Please note the late breaking addition to the schedule in the form of our club's annual banquet. All of it, though, deserves your attention and attendance. The game's afoot.

Sept. 27: Indoor Contest, **note** half day 10-2. St Lukes Presbyterian, Dunwoody, GA
Oct. 11-12: CAFFA Hurricane Contest. Raeford, NC
Oct. 19: Last Fling Until Spring. Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field. Whitesburg, GA. CD-David Barfield
Nov. 2: Turkey Shoot. Outdoor contest.. NG Turf Field. Whitesburg, GA. CD-Jim Altenbern
Jan. 31: Annual Banquet. Lost Corners Cottage and Preserve. Sandy Springs, GA

THUMBS OUT AND ABOUT

Dohrman Crawford forwarded this red-hot notice to these offices. Mark your calendars on January 31for our annual club banquet. Once again, we'll gather at Sandy Springs's Lost Corners Cottage and Preserve and be catered to by City BBQ. It wasn't broke, so Dohrman didn't fix it. More details to follow. That game's afoot.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH: 2025 JOHNSON CITY INDOOR NATS

Several Thumbs attended this year's USIC in Johnson City and had a great time and accomplished many things, and a few on the important side. The Finns, Nick Ray and Steve Griggs had a fun and action-packed contest. In terms of the podium dominance of by locals, well, here's a brief rundown: Nick Ray and Josh Finn went first and second in both Ministick and F1R, respectively. Hope Finn got third on the latter, second in F1L, and third in Manhattan Cabin. Josh had a busy contest, taking home seconds in Standard Catapult, Manhattan Cabin, ROG Cabin and Hand Launched Stick. He did sneak in a first in HLG for good measure. Not to be outdone and making good use of their time, young Caleb and Paul Finn scared the adults in a multitude of events.

All parties corresponding on the contest say it was a well run affair will little to cast a rye eye upon it. NFFS and AMA did another fine job and thanks to them. Well done, all.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH:

Josh Finn, Nick Ray and Stephen Griggs made the long haul to the Kibbie in Moscow, ID for the US Free Flight Champs. Concurrent with this big contest was a three-day selection trials for the USA's FAI F1D 2026 World Championship indoor team. Yes, our club mates were very busy. Young Stephen Griggs had a fun trip, and for his efforts he'll be making the trip to the next year for the FAI F1D world champs, representing Old Glory. Well done, Steve-o.



On the individual front, Josh scored a second in F1R and Nick, a first in Ministick. Although, I'd bet these two categories were the least of this pair's concerns. I strongly suspect Josh and Nick spent much of their time "herding the cats" with their young charges, by all indications successfully. Well done, sirs.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH: 2025 FAC NON-NATS

This just in from our own James Martin who attended the 2025 Geneseo FAC Non Nats: "After a Wednesday of getting planes judged and compliance approved, I came to the field on Thursday, to be greeted winds blowing steadily at 15 MPH and gusting to 30 mph plus. The CDs, in a fit of sanity, canceled all events except the 2 mass launches. I promptly broke a motor winding for WWI, which was an omen of what was to come for the entire contest. I did manage to make the final round in Thompson, finishing fourth. Friday dawned with mild winds coming from a single direction. The hours for Friday were extended from 8 am to 7 pm, which meant a long day (I logged 33,000 steps and wished I had rented a golf cart). I also broken an insane number motors (in talking with some flyers, there is an opinion that the Jan. 2025 batch of Tan SS is defective*.) In between flights, I saw some amazing models. Doug Beardsley's stood out. Amazing craftsmanship that puts my efforts to shame. Tom Hallman flew that model whose build he featured on YouTube. Astounding. Saturday had similar winds, but these shifted in all kinds of directions during the day. I rebounded from Friday in terms of flight times. I lost my Piper Clipper after an epic 9.43 flight that I always will remember. I also managed to trim my peanut Pegna, which managed two 50 plus second flight and a max. The Zephyr mass launch event, with the one design taking off from 3 carriers (tables) in waves was a comic disaster, with 11 planes going into the drink immediately on takeoff. Soon enough, the day's

flying ended, and it is was off to the awards ceremony. I brought home a third in Non Air Max scale and a second in Peanut, which reflected well on our squadron as there were 72 flyers.

"Finally, if anyone decides to go in future years, please reach out to me as there's a whole bunch of little things that no one tells you in terms of contest that will make your experience easier. Also, I can recommend some good restaurants and places to stay."

(*So sayeth Josh Finn!-DM)

THUMBS ON THE MARCH: WHERE AND WHEN EAGLES DARE

The Finns went to Serbia recently and competed in the FAI World Championship in rocket-launched catapult gliders. Yes, you heard that correctly, that Serbia, as in eastern Europe. While it might sound a bit outré, the Finns have been flying these models and developing designs and kits for some time now. Thusly, from that effort fruit was borne. Not many details are in hand, but Josh checked in with 24th place, Hope with 3rd, Paul with 25th and Caleb with 12th.

While you might be tempted to look askance, tread not there. These models as flown are in every sense Free Flight models, merely employing model rocket motors to blast them to impressive heights, whereby their folded wings extend to full span and glide in an effort to make three minute maxes. Yes, three minute maxes. Like our creed demands, once they leave our hands, they're "fully automatic", performing without any further help from us. Care they not, they don't need us.



THUMBS, ONCE MORE INTO THE BREECH

You'll find below the latest ranking of the club's Kanone totals off the Flying Aces Club website, as of July, 2025. (These may or may not include the results from our most recent contests, and the FAC website will be checked again soon.) Some of us made some progress and a few, great leaps. Worth noting is the recent award of the Blue Max to our own James Martin after the amassing of the required 16 Kanones. Well done, sirs and madame.

<u>Air Marshall(50)</u>
Wayne Brock (d) 50

<u>General(40)</u>
Gary Morton 41

<u>Lt. General(35)</u>
Josh Finn 38

<u>Major General(30)</u>
David Mills 34
Dean McGinnis 30

<u>Brigadier General(25)</u>
Dohrman Crawford 26

Colonel(20)
Oscar Smith (d) 21
George Perryman (d) 20

Lt. Colonel(15)
David Barfield 19
John Barker (d) 18
Hope Finn 17
Billy Pennington (d) 17
Jimmy Jordan 17
James Martin 16

Major(10)
Jim Conery 13
Caleb Finn 13
Karl Hube 11

Captain(5)
Gary Baughman 9
Doug DeMasie 7
Paul Finn 6

Lieutenant
Richard Schneider 4
Jim Altenbern 4
Brook Dixon, Sr. 3
Jim Jennings 3
Ed Hardin 2
Al Pardue (d) 2
Don Peacock (d) 2
Joe Ryan 2
Frank Hodson (d) 1
Barry Sholder 1

MAY INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Cochran Rec Center, Cochran, GA

It took me a few days to get things written down, but here we go: weather was good, a little warm actually. Doug graciously scheduled us two weekends in a row because of various young people who need flying site access. This weekend was for some SciOly students who are prepping for their school's first trip to the SO Nats. One family made it down, and flew up a storm. They started out getting around 90 seconds with their helicopter, and by the end of the day had added a minute to their flight times.

Caleb, Paul, and Doug thrashed it out in FAC events, with David Fletcher, Hope, and me flying as backup. Doug had a series of spectacular and very unfortunate crashes that intervened at the worst possible time, allowing Paul to break his long winning streak in Blue Ridge Special. Caleb put up a strong performance in No Cal Scale and Phantom Flash. Nick Ray practiced for Kent and in the process pretty much disproved everything I thought I knew about flaring propellers. Hopefully Kent will go well for him!

Josh Finn, site mechanic and scorekeeper, reporting.

No Cal Scale
Caleb Finn Bonanza 154*
Paul Finn Bonanza 123
Doug Demasie Chambermaid 86
Josh Finn Spitfire 84

Blue Ridge Special
Paul Finn 177*
Caleb Finn 167
Doug Demasie 86

Phantom Flash
Caleb Finn 270*
Hope Finn 217
Josh Finn 129

HLG
Caleb Finn 28.6

Hangar Rat
David Fletcher 308

P-18
Caleb Finn 58
Paul Finn 57

Hand Launched Stick
Doug Demasie 61

*Kanones awarded

MAY DAZE CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

A few showers and light rain caused us to start a little over an hour late, but overall, the day was very fine with mostly light winds and in good directions. I suspect the thought of rain kept some of our fliers away. By my count we had 11 official fliers, anyhow, which is a good turnout. On the grammatical front, I was happy to see much more legible scores on the cards which made my job easier. Thank you! And thank you, Debbie DeMasie, for the wonderful cookies! Tasty enough to allow me to forget my crashes! All in all, a great day at the field. Respectfully submitted, CD Dohrman Crawford

P-30
Joe Ryan *Majestic* 293
Jim Conery *Schneider Special* 261
Hope Finn *NJAPF* 237
Max Munoz *Echo* 150
Caleb Finn *NJAPF* 112
Dohrman Crawford *Square Eagle* 17

FAC Blue Ridge Special
Doug DeMasie 304
David Barfield 209

Catapult Glider
Stephen Griggs 75
Caleb Finn 65
Max Munoz 62

FAC SCat Jet
Caleb Finn *Scimitar* 67
Paul Finn *Scimitar* 35

FAC Embryo
Gary Morton *Mod Prairie Bird* 233

FAC Dime Scale
Joe Ryan *Chambermaid* 140
David Mills *Waterman Gosling* 105

FAC Guillows Scale
David Mills *Cessna 180* 91

Small NosRub
J. Finn *High Performance Sportster* 103

Early 1/2A NosGas
Paul *Finn Top Banana/OK Cub* 121

1/2A NosGas
Paul Finn *Top Banana* 95

HLG
Caleb Finn 46

2025 CHATTAHOOCHEE CHALLENGE CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

We held the 7th annual Chattahoochee Challenge this year on June 21st and 22nd. The weatherman was right for a change, and we had abundant sunshine, temps in the low 90s and very light winds. The usual assortment of canopies, wide brim hats were seen at the field and Debbie DeMasie brought wonderful baked treats for both days. The field conditions favored good safe flying, but the thermals were hard to find. As a result, I don't think any models were lost, but we did have a few models damaged from poor launches. There were nine eager flyers including Jim DeMerritte from Palm Bay, Florida.

Eight Kanones were awarded to our hardy flyers, but nine more Kanones were left on the flying field because of not enough flyers for the class. A prime example was No-Cal, WWI mass launch and Combined Racers needing one more person, so the winner could get a Kanone. Simplified Scale had three people entered, but only one flew. Phantom Flyer again had no entries.

The following scores show where the need for more contestants and a guide for your future projects. The club will do it again in 2026, so find those plans and documentation and start gluing



Photos and collage by David Barfield



Photos and collage by David Barfield

those sticks together. Let's hope the weather is just as good as it was this year. Jim Altenbern, CD contest director, reporting.

Embryo
Gary Morton *Prairie Bird* 239*
Doug DeMasie *Supermax* 142
James Martin *Supermax* 87
Jim Conery *Tomahawk* 69

Embryo-NBM
Doug DeMasie *Doug's Own* 254

Dime Scale
Gary Morton *B. Staggerwing* 194*
James Martin *Chambermaid* 191
David Mills *Waterman Gosling* 91

Jimmie Allen/Two Bit Plus 1
Dohrman Crawford *King Harry* 176*
David Barfield *Jr Commercial* 138
James Martin *Hoot Owl* 62

WW I Mass Launch
James Martin *Fokker D-7*
Dohrman Crawford *SE5A*

WW II Mass Launch
James Martin *Kawasaki. Tony**
Dohrman Crawford *Kharkov*
Jim Conery *Douglas. Dauntless*
David Barfield *Mitsubishi. Zero*

Golden Age Mass Launch
James Martin *Taylorcraft BC-RD**
Jim Conery *Spartan Cabin*
Dohrman Crawford *Piper Cub*

Combined Racers
David Mills *Waterman Gosling* 24
James Martin *Mr. Smoothie* 6

Fiction Flyer Mass Launch
James Martin *Black Dart**
David Barfield *Volunteer*
James Martin *Volunteer*

Rubber Scale-Low Bonus
David Mills *Heinkel 100-D* 115

Peanut Scale-Low Bonus
David Mills *Lacey M-10* 141.5
James Martin *Pegna* 97

Guillow Scale
David Mills *Cessna 180* 142*
James Martin *Pilatus Porter* 114
David Barfield *Cessna 152* 27

SCat Jet
Gary Morton *P-59* 72
Doug DeMasie *Canberra* 64

Simplified Scale
James Martin *Mr. Smoothie* 171

No Cal Scale
James Martin *Fairey Barracuda* 102

Blue Ridge Special
Nick Martin 234*
Doug DeMasie 207
Brett McFarland 116

P-30
Jim Demeritte *Pole Cat* 304
Dohrman Crawford *NJAPF* 207
Jim Conery *Schneider Special* 192
Doug DeMasie *DeMasie Special* 42

*Kanones awarded

COUNTRY FRIED CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

An aptly named Free Flight outing it was. Although not quite as torrid as June's Chattahoochee Challenge, July's offering made up for it with much more humidity. Us'ins and we'uns sweated like field hands. Although the official scoring doesn't show it, the seven fliers attending flew a ton. At least the winds cooperated with light breezes, a few delightful thermals and only one flyaway, Jim

Conery's *Maxout* Embryo. (A pity and not an official flight!) Many hats were donned, much water swilled, and Debbie's chocolate chip cookies didn't hurt, either.

Reprising President Altenbern's comments from our June soiree, one more flier each in BRS and Two Bit would've garnered two Kanones amongst our merry band. Two more fliers each in Embryo and Dime Scale, likewise. Was it not ever thus? The results follow. CD David Mills, reporting.

P-30
Jim Altenbern *Square Eagle* 102

Blue Ridge Special
Jim Altenbern 271
David Barfield 130

Two Bit/Jimmie Allen
David Barfield *Jr Commercial* 138
David Mills *FA Moth* 119

Catapult Glider
Doug DeMasie 67

Embryo
Doug DeMasie *Doug's Own* 31

Dime Scale
Dohrman Crawford *Chambermaid* 31

FIZZLE WHILE YOU SIZZLE CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

Hi David, sorry for the delay, but life seems to be running over me lately! Sound familiar? Anyway here it is, copy and paste and all should be well.

The August contest day started out well with fairly high temps but little or no wind and more than a few thermals. We're pleased to report that, while many sizzled on the field, none fizzled thus proving the strength of the TTOMA flyers. We had ten flyers plus two juniors filling the ranks and turning in times. Not too bad, but you have to consider that "The Fabulous Finn Flying Family" made up 36% of that total! There's hope for our hobby yet!

The following times were recorded in the usual popular events, CD Jim Conery reporting:

P-30
James Martin 276
Caleb Finn 241
Dohrm Crawford 197
Jim Altenbern 184
Stephen Griggs 140

Blue Ridge Special
David Barfield 213*
Doug DeMasie 151
Jim Conery 126

Catapult Glider
Doug DeMasie 91
Jim Altenbern 83

Embryo
James Martin 189
Dohrm Crawford 89

Bostonian
James Martin 167

1/2A Gas
Stephen Griggs 110
Caleb Finn 104

Peanut Scale
David Mills *Lacey M-10* 154

FAC Old Time Stick
Jim Altenbern *Wanderer* 300

SCat Jet
Doug DeMasie 28

SAM Twin Pusher
Dohrm Crawford 82

Moffett
Hope Finn 101

1/4A NosGas
Paul Finn 72

B NosGas
Josh Finn 160

A/B Classic Gas
Josh Finn 234

* Kanone awarded

LAST FLING UNTIL SPRING CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

Blue Ridge Special
Jim Conery 86 91 51 228*
Joe Ryan 58 88 77 223
Doug DeMasie 78 66 74 218
Jim Altenbern 52 120 172
David Barfield 67

FAC Two Bit plus 1
Joe Ryan *FA Moth* 72 100 79 251
James Martin *Flying Cloud* 129 52 181

Party Of One Event
Jim Conery *Miles Special Canard* 247

Catapult Glider
Jim Altenbern 50 60 27 41 151

FAC Old Time Fuselage
Gary Morton Pacific Ace 55 48 103
David Barfield Comet Pepper 93

P-30
Brett McFarland Souper 120 101 79 300
Frank Perkins DIY P-30 96 116 212
Gary Morton Champion P-30 120
Dohrman Crawford Mystery 120
James Martin Souper 94
Darrell Sellers Meteoro 20 24 39 83

FAC Old Time Stick
James Martin *Miss Production* 78 95 173

FAC Embryo
James Martin *Zephyr* 56 33 75 164
Darrel Sellers *???* 22 30 52

Moffett
Hope Finn *???* 41 37 54 132

Towline Glider
Stephen Griggs *???* 63 59 100 222
Caleb Finn *???* 31 49 126 206

E-36
Stephen Griggs *???* 58 53 41 152
Caleb Finn *???* 38 45 50 133

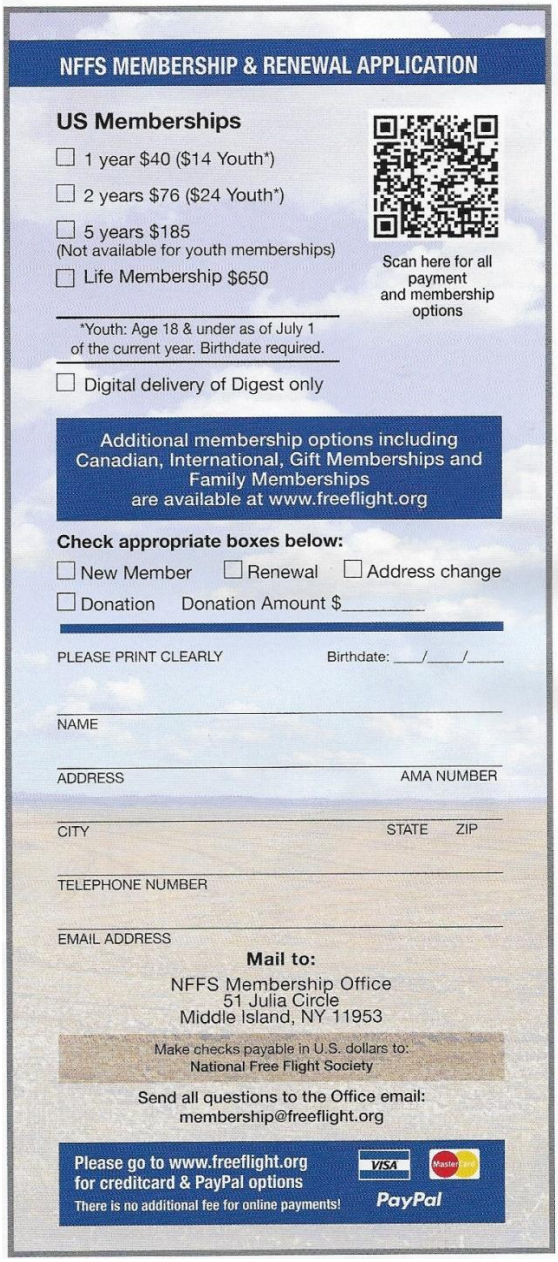
1/2A Classic Gas
Caleb Finn *???* 63 73 54 190

1/2A Gas
Stephen Griggs *???* 42 159 57 258
Paul Finn *???* 31 37 41 109

C NosGas
Josh Finn *???* 59 64 101 224

CD Classic Gas
Josh Finn *???* 79 120 61 260

*Kanone awarded



NFFS MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION

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- ☐ 2 years $76 ($24 Youth*)
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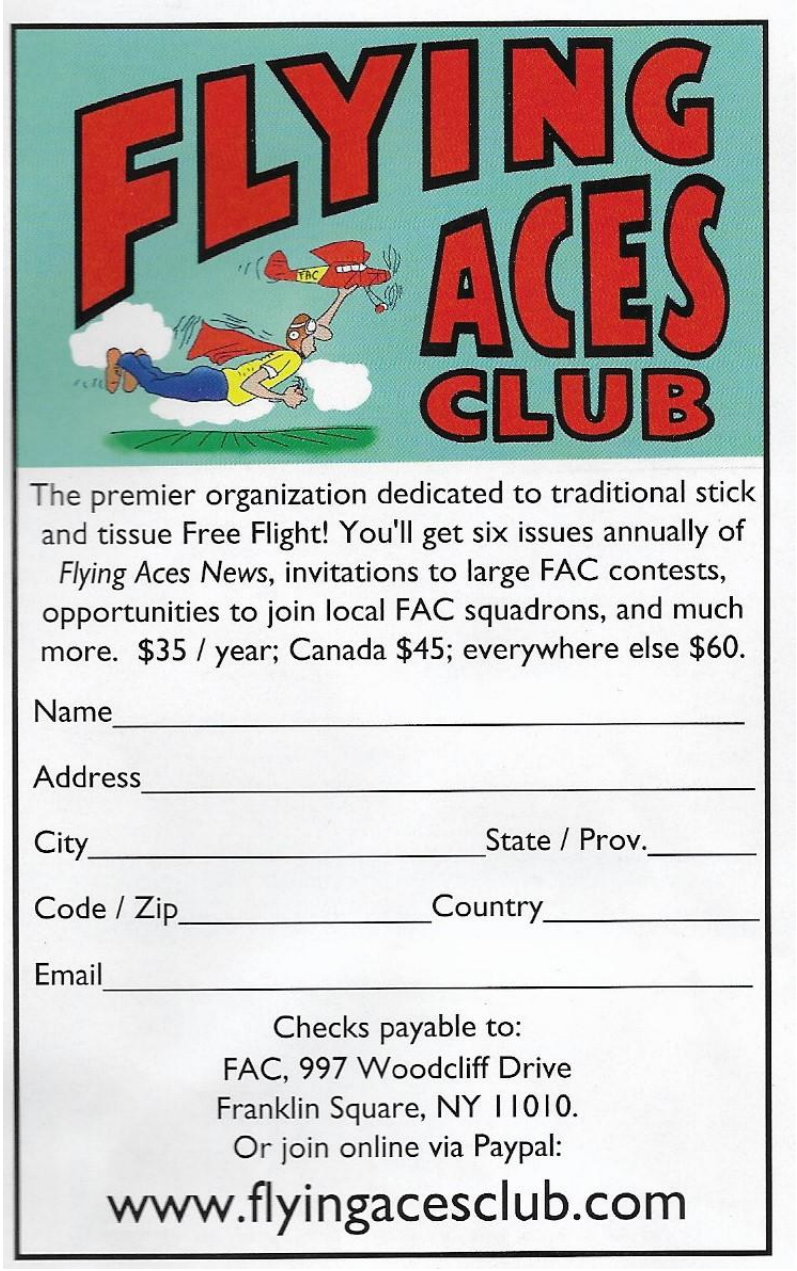
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Last Half 2025 TTOMA Membership Form

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. No good after 12/31/2025. Send check payable to TTOMA to James “Diamond Jim” Martin/3901 Bays Ferry Trail/Marietta, GA 30062/ jhnmartin1963 @gmail.com /404-632-7226



FOURTEENTH ANNUAL TTOMA TURKEY SHOOT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

November 2, 2025 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

Event Schedule

All flights are hand launched. Otherwise, all FAC rules apply.

Mass Launches

Flown to FAC rules as required, if applicable. Otherwise noted

- 10:00 am P-30, Last one down or last one out sight wins,
- 11:00 am Embryo, Last one down or last one out of sight wins,
- 1:00 pm Golden Age, flown in three rounds, FAC rules.

Additional Events

Following events can be flown anytime. Total flight scores=total of three flights

- Hoot Owl (Two Bit Plus 1)
- Blue Ridge Special
- Catapult Glider (best three of six, 90 second max)
- Target Time

Record time of every flight, flier's choice of model. Time closest to target time wins. CD's pre-selected random time will be announced at end of flying.

All winners will be awarded a $30 gift card and a Kanone if applicable. Please bring a stop watch to help time flights! Note the overnight time change!

Jim Altenbern, Contest Director
Jaltenbern0705@charter.net

CAFFA
Carolina Area Free Flight Association



Kudzu Flying Corps
FAC Squadron 13

October Hurricane 2025

Raeford, N. C. October 11 - 12, 2025

Saturday, October 11

(FAC) Combined Racers Mass Launch
(FAC) Scale Flying Horde Mass Launch **#**
(SAM) Twin Pusher Mass Launch
(FAC) Embryo (ROG)
(FAC) Peanut
(FAC) 2 Bit+1 (ROG)
(AMA) Hand Held Catapult
(AMA) P-30
Pinkie CLG One Design Special **###**

Sunday, October 12

(FAC) Non-Scale Horde Mass Lau **##**
(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 rubber powered scale model airplane.
Any rubber powered non-scale model airplane of 26 inch wing span or less.
30 minute flight window. Unlimited flights. Best single flight time wins. Due to expected number of flights, self-timing allowed. One round mass launch tie breaker if needed (Flight window time to be announced by CD)

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 18 & younger Free) Covers 2 days of flying

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