The THUMB PRINT

Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

www.thermalthumbers.weebly.com

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AMA Charter # 1834

FLYING ACES club

SAM

NFFS

Jan.-Feb., 2026

HEADS UP

Welcome to the first issue of the year. There's much to relate because we've been busy. A banquet report follows, as well as a report on the recent Perry Southeast Model Show, the AtlantaCon IPMS contest and trade show, the annual banquet, and a few words on the outdoor season opening Irish Open contest. Brace yourselves, you'll be nagged to renew your club membership, and the FAC's Guillows postal will be pimped with some vigor. Other items of recent interest are relayed, too. So, settle into your easy chair with a cold one, something spirituous on the rocks, or whatever contraband you prefer and enjoy this one. Time for me to get out of the way.

RENEWAL HARANGUE

Your editor is not going to say he regrets doing the following because I feel fully justified, as duty and care provide. You see, a few if you haven't renewed your 2026 club membership dues. For shame, for shame. The DefCon warning is now jacked up to the harangue level, and don't expect any sweet words of encouragement henceforth. Recalcitrance has no place among our merry band. So, seek and find the membership renewal form that follows, fill it out as required, sign that check on the line that is dotted and mail it to the address so indicated to: James "Diamond Jim" Martin/3901 Bays Ferry Trail/Marietta, GA 30062/ jhmartin1963@gmail.com/ 404-632-7226. Eyes on you!

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

The New Year and our contest schedule are upon us. The club certainly provides no shortage of things for you to do on the weekends. So, get in that workshop, start building and show up sometime, somewhere to fly a model airplane. Eyes on you!

April 11-13: Indoor. Jim Richmond Open, West Baden, IN
April 26: Outdoor. April Fools contest, NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Dohrman Crawford.
May 16-17: Outdoor. Kudzu Classic, Raeford, NC
May 31: Outdoor. May Daze contest, NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-David Barfield
June 14: Outdoor. Chattahoochee Challenge, NG Turf Field. Whitesburg, GA. CD-Jim Altenbern
June 15-20: WC Indoor Championships. Kibbie Dome, Moscow, ID
July 10-13: AMA Indoor Nats, Pontiac, MI
July 12: Outdoor. Country Fried contest, NG Turf Field. Whitesburg, GA. CD-David Mills
July 20-24: AMA Muncie Outdoor Nats. Muncie, IN
Aug 16: Outdoor. Fizzle While You Sizzle contest, NG Turf Field. Whitesburg, GA. CD-Jim Conery
Sept. 20: Outdoor. Summer's Swan Song contest, NG Turf Field. Whitesburg, GA. CD-Doug DeMasie
Oct. 18: Outdoor. Last Fling Til Spring contest, NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA CD-David Barfield
Nov. 1: Outdoor. Turkey Shoot contest, NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. Jim Altenbern(?)

THUMBS ON THE ROAD

Several Thumbs made the annual trek down to Perry for the Southeast Model show, and as expected, had a great time. The Finns, Joe Ryan, Jim Conery, Scott McGowen, Dean McGinnis, your editor and a few others went and did. This year's exposition offered a few surprises and hosted about as many vendor and gawkers as in years past. As always, the show was dominated mightily by the RC community, and they had their usual brand of fun. They walk in with wads of cash, and they leave footsore with armloads of complete RC models, crash victims of same to repair, engines and motors to swap out, a kit or three and mightily rearmed with more ground support equipment. Good times. Hopefully, the bulk of this haul can be snuck past their better three-quarters stealthily through the garage door or basement escape hatch out back. Godspeed, gentleman.

Your editor had a bit of luck. I was looking for a fresh kit of the Guillows SE5 still in the wrapper for the national Guillows postal and was successful for only ten dollars, American. I always wanted to build a SE5, and their kit offers a 24-inch wingspan and not-too-shabby engineering. Having never seen a well built SE5 not fly well, here's hoping the Guillows version doesn't disappoint. (More on the Guillows national postal sponsored by the Flying Aces Club later herein.) I also scored almost a dozen Squadron and Windsock books for four bucks each, a handful of 1/32 plastic, WW II fighter kits for five bucks each and a fresh Embryo kit from Josh in trade. All this and a fine lunch of a big, piping hot Italian sausage hoagie with onions and peppers made the four hour round trip drive worthwhile.

The Finns did a good bit of business, as always. One thing, although, did surprise. How many of us remember Ron Sharpton's big, old, red trailer down Florida way? It was a common fixture at many Free Flight contests for decades, but not seen for a while. Well, don't worry about its permanent disappearance because the Finns bought it. The new owners can be seen below, and Caleb and Paul will have a lot of fun with it. But, let's hope Josh and Hope can get some use out of it, too.

Be sure to attend next year. It remains the world's largest model aviation trade show and swap meet. (Kiss my grits, Hershey, PA!)









THUMBS ON A NIGHT OUT, BANQUETING ANNUALLY

It wasn't the first time the wintery weather caused a postponement of our annual banquet. Ice storms, snow flurries, polar temps, oh, recall the precious memories. The very low teen temps of our original weekend date caused the City of Sandy Springs to shut down every facility for the public safety, including our venue. Not to worry, our second try produced a very nice evening, although attendance was down a tad because of a few conflicts, like logistical burden of the Perry model show preventing the Finns from attending, and the DeMasie's and Martin's had valid excuses. (We still



Photos and collage by David Barfield

talked about the absentees in their absence. A few “bless their hearts” may have been heard.)

No discouraging words were heard, however, as to the catering by City BBQ. The Show and Tell produced some fine models: a Twin Pusher, Comet Sparky, Korda Wakefield, California Champ Wake, 1955 Altmann Wakefield and a few more that slips this writer’s mind at this pecking.

Food aside, the highlight of the evening was our awards ceremony, as is our custom. This year was very special because we had actual trophies to handout. Our effort to replace the club’s Mahogany Row of yore finally bore fruit. The George Perryman Perpetual High Point Award was hotly contested, and the young and absent Caleb Finn was the winner, closely followed by James Martin, Jim Conery, Doug DeMasie and Dohrman Crawford. Caleb Finn reprised his walk down victory lane by winning the SCat Jet Perpetual High Point Award. The retired set finally got into the winner’s circle with James Martin’s victory effort for the long heralded Wayne Brock Scale Perpetual Trophy by a large margin and the newly resurrected Grayson Anderson Mass Launch High Point Perpetual Trophy.

Yes, progress has been made on the Mahogany Row front, but there’s still some work to be done. First and foremost, we need a suitably large and grandly gaudy candidate to resurrect the august George Perryman TTOMA High Point Perpetual Award, aka the Big Moose. Finding one to replace the original in its stature and lack of subtlety won’t be easy. Only slightly less arduous a task will be resurrecting the Norm Purdy Service Award and the Bob Baker Old Timer High Point Perpetual Award. Jim Conery and Doug DeMasie have a few leads, and some other members might have a clue or two, so let’s get this done in time for next year. Eyes on you!

We voted in the usual suspects as our 2026 club officers: Jim Altenbern-President, Dohrman Crawford-Veep, Doug DeMasie-Secretary and James Martin-Treasurer. No one volunteered to hoist the editor’s yoke of the old ETP, so this grizzled veteran will continue resolutely with that. Likewise, no one usurped the editorship of our Bulletin, so we suppose and certainly hope that Doug DeMasie will continue to be our man in that regard. However, Jim let it be known that this will be his last year as President, and James will be walking the Appalachian Trail soon, so will need to be spelled for a few months. Eyes on you!

Anywho, we’ve the whole year ahead of us, and thusly officiated, we’ve a lot of building and flying to do. The game is afoot.

THUMBS AND THEIR FINAL RECKONING

For those keeping score, here are the final high point totals for 2025. Once again, we were bested by young Caleb Finn, and the rest of us shuffled in behind him in an orderly fashion. The number of club members put in official flights was only two less than last year. Regardless, about one half of the membership again played the big game, and I doubt if many clubs can match that level of participation. Our merry band is no squadron of lawn chairs—we build and fly! So, gird your loins for 2026. The game is afoot.

Caleb Finn	48	Brett McFarland	21	Maximo Munoz	16
James Martin	43	Gary Morton	20	Josh Finn	14
Jim Conery	33	Paul Finn	20	Hope Finn	13
Doug DeMasie	30	Jim Altenbern	18	Nick Ray	2
Dohrman Crawford	29	David Barfield	18	Richard Schneider	1
David Mills	25	Steven Griggs	17	David Fletcher	1
Joe Ryan	23	Frank Perkins	16		

THUMBS RESURGENT

The four photos of our new array of club trophies are provided for those who couldn’t attend the banquet. Much progress has been made, but much remains. Fear not, we’re up to the task.

Accordingly, let me introduce the freshly resurrected trophy from eons past brought to the banquet by Graham Selick, namely the David Raymond “Where Eagles Dare” Award for Excellence in CO2. Cast your gaze to the right hand member of the quartet. It ain’t no slouch. We were flying a lot of

CO2 back in the late nineties and early zeros, and we had several of the nation's top fliers in the club, using that delightful power source and Nats wins to prove it. Many of us have handfuls of these engines and other gear stashed away in forgotten corners, neglected for decades.

David Barfield and I are musing at to what to do with this magnificent trophy, a real looker. Our first thought is to rebrand it as a combined power high point perpetual award and track the club's electric and gas power flying throughout each year, as we do with all else.

It would be cool to see some CO2 flying again, too. CO2 is perfect for FAC work, employing some beloved, short-nosed designs that don't get much usage by the heavy handed tyranny of aerodynamics. Fokker DVIIIs, Sopwith Camels, Mr. Mulligans, FW 190s and many others have suffered from neglect and tortured flight times for too long!

Anywho, let us know what you think about the power thing. We're easy to find.



THUMBS AT THE BENCH, SORT OF, THEN AND NOW

The two photos that follow are two recent additions to Dohrman Crawford's and your editor's flying fleet. The first, Dohrman's recently completed Korda Wakefield, is ready to go. We expect many of these big rigs to be flown this year. It'll be fun, especially since the event's *major domo* proclaimed it will be flown as mass launches, one flight *mano a mano* each month. Where and when eagles dare, indeed.



The second photo, Bill Brown's 1955 Altmann Wakefield, is one of the best choices for NFFS's Vintage Wakefield category, also Large Nostalgia Rubber. It's in the 1955-56 Zaic Yearbook, if you're curious. Bill gave it to me last year, wishing it a good home. Well, that it has, and it'll see some airtime this year. It's a real handful, and the eagle-eyed will notice the 45 rpm record provided for scaling purposes. The even sharper eyed will notice it's an old Decca pressing of "Mule Skinner Blues" by Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys. A recent find, it's graced on the flip side with that old campaigner's rendition of "My Little Georgia Rose". Yes, Bill, it'll see some airtime.

Bill is still with us, Brown not Monroe. David Barfield reports he's no longer living at his house, but is now at a good assisted living center nearby. Friends and family are close by. Bill is pushing the mid-90s now. Keep a-chugging, brother.

This juxtapose is worth a comment or two. Both models are regulation Wakefield designs, separated by almost two decades and multiple cycles of rules changes. Which and why you ask? Well, the combined projected maximum wing and stab area allowed are the same and remains so today. The category's cross-section rule and ROG requirement was mercifully dumped along the way. A maximum rubber weight was eventually imposed and consistently lowered ever since, and the elegant long models of the above right are gone forever. And now we live happily with the magnificent creations of our modern era which, aided by their current technical sophistication, outperform by wide margins all that has gone before them. Whatever your building desires might be, fret not, you can build and fly your choice from the past 90-odd years of their history.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

I just received the pulp September-October issue of the NFFS digest, eagerly anticipated and long awaited. Anywho, a thorough read indicated that our man Guy Menanno ventured to the 2025 World Free Flight Championships in Romania?! How did he do? Well, he finished fourth in F1C, just missing the podium. His was the top USA placing and strongly served to put the USA into F1C team third, not bad for his first foray into international competition. Well done, sir!

Our man Guy certainly did some good work on the international stage, but not to be outdone, the Finns did a number on NFFS's National Cup competition. Their awards are almost too numerous to relay, but we'll do our best. Starting at the top, Josh won National Cup Grand Champion and first in AMA Gas and seconds in NFFS Large Nostalgia Gas and AMA Classic Gas. Hope scored first in AMA Rubber. The Finn younguns did fine. Caleb was first Junior Champion, and Paul was third. Paul was first in NFFS Small Nostalgia Gas. Fleshing out the podium, Steven Griggs scored second in Senior Champion, and Guy placed second in AMA gas among those of voting age. Well done, all!

THUMBS GOING POSTAL

The FAC universe is awash with enthusiasm for their new Guillows 100 year anniversary postal to be held this year. The rules and rationale has been thoroughly pimped in the national media and every club newsletter worth mentioning. There seems to be a lot of genuine excitement for it.

The TTOMA and the ETP will be no exception, and here we are. Many rules sets are in the media with expositions on same. Well scoured, your editor's favorite summary follows with a little editing to fit on a single page. The geniuses at FAC HQ did a pretty good job with the rules, and they shouldn't present any controversy at the flight line. Right? Whatever, a careful reading reveals a reasonable bit of wallow room in the judicial nooks and crannies. Let's hope any forthcoming creativity will be prudent. (I can't help but think what George Perryman would try to pull. I really miss that old man.)

Club members will recall the international Guillows postal of a few years back where Brits challenged the globe, pitting the Guillows Lancer and Javelin against each other in the hands of all mankind. These same members will recall TTOMA did pretty well. Kicked arse, actually. We usurped the podium without mercy, scoring first, second and third in the vengeful hands of David Mills, Dohrman Crawford and Josh Finn, respectively. Good times!

We've been flying our own Guillows event, this being our third year. This should boost us take on the world again. So, gird your loins, lads and lassies. I almost feel pity on those not as blessed as us. Those that matter know—those that don't know, don't matter. Pity the fool. The game is afoot.

SAME CHURCH, DIFFERENT PEW

Every year the Atlanta IPMS chapter has their big contest and trade show, and several Thumbs attend. Such was the case this year, and the old Lockheed Union Hall was filled. Richard Schneider, Eugene Rush and your editor had our usual good time. As for me, the five dollar, American, entry fee for three hours of amusement is a righteous value. A few photos follow. Eugene had a few model entered for judging and awaited victory, but he was jobbed by the man. I got out of

there, spending only ten dollars, American. Dare I say, that fresh 1/32 scale Hawker Hurricane kit by Revell/Monogram will soon find a cozy and eternal home amongst my closeted, plastic kit collection, slowly accreting from similar, past efforts. Was it not ever thus?















NEXT ISSUE

Look for something soon, hopefully in early May. The highlight will be the 2026 Chattahoochee Challenge flyer, so start planning now. We'll be pimped about that and the upcoming FAI Indoor World Championships, both the AMA indoor and outdoor Nats and anything of any heft that's gaffed over the transom.

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

2026 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

IRISH OPEN MARCH CONTEST REPORT

The weatherman promised winds in the high, single digits with occasional gusts in the low teens. Well, it wasn't not the first time we've been lead astray by the network hairdos. By midmorning the gusts were ever present and up a knot or two, or three, or ten. However, the temps were warm and the skies sunny. For late March, we'll take it.

The blustery conditions, balmy climes and lack of any interest in submitting official flight scores made for a very pleasant and relaxing day. The eight or so fliers brought out many models, old and new, and did a lot of flying. Much airtime ensued. Crashes and swearing was not rare. Time outs were taken at all opportunities to catch up and lie to each other about stalled projects and completion times. However, many brought new models that were actually finished, and these saw some battles with gravity. This reporter broke something on every model in took out of the box and flew. Often, actual flying wasn't required. Others suffered similar fates.

Doug DeMasie provided the following, excited screed on his experience on that day. Caution to the readers, his tone is a little more festive than we are accustomed to, and some merriment may have transpired along the way. Regardless, he relates: "As I entered the field (late) I found a typical scene, a bunch of old guys wearing green or Guinness T-shirts, drinking whiskey and fist fighting. (He may be referring to Dohrman Crawford here—DM.) All were attempting to win Grand Champion status at the Irish Open and took a few breaks to eat the cookies my wife provided to calm them down. It didn't work this time. Meanwhile, I assembled the model shown in the photos away from the skirmish, trimmed it up, and during a break in the fist flight action I flew it. Gary Morton was calmly keeping score, eating cookies and looking at me with cookie crumbs on his shirt. He shook his head and told me that will never fly. He would be proved wrong."















CAFFA
Carolina Area Free Flight Association



Kudzu Squadron 13

Kudzu Classic 2026

May 16- 17, 2026 Raeford, N. C.

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

Saturday, May 16

FAC Mass Launch
WWI 10:00
Navy Scale Pat Daily Memorial 1:00 @
Mod Civil / Mod Mil Comb 3:00

FAC Judged / Timed
Embryo
FAC Jet Catapult
Dime Scale
FAC Peanut Scale

Other
AMA Catapult Glider
AMA P-30
Timed Target @@
Non-scale Flying Hoard Mass Launch @@@

End of Day
Guillows Scale "Modern Era" Flying Horde @@@@

@ Any Naval Aircraft (including Marine and USCG); any era / nationality; must be in service colors and markings

@@ Any rubber powered airplane or glider. Closest to target time (+ or -) wins.

@@@ Any rubber powered non-scale - max 26" wingspan

@@@@ See Guillows Scale "Modern Era" Rules:
http://www.flyingacesclub.com/RULES/guillows_scale_modern_rules.pdf

Sunday, May 17

FAC Mass Launch
WWII 10:00
Air Racers Comb. 1:00
GA Multi-wing / GA Monoplane Comb 3:00

FAC Judged / Timed
2 Bit + 1 OTR
FAC Scale Glider
Blue Ridge Special (NBM)
No-Cal Profile

Other
NFFS E-20
SAM Twin Pusher Mass Launch

Any FAC rubber powered scale

FAC Events CD:
Dave Mitchell davedge@me.com

Other Events CD:
John Diebolt jdiebolt@mindspring.com

CAFFA Contact:
Jimmy Jordan jjordan18@ec.rr.com

Fee: $5.00 per day – Juniors (18) Free

Motorized chase vehicles allowed on roadways only

Water and soft drinks provided

On field comfort facility

GUILLOWS POSTAL CONTEST!!

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of Guillows, the FAC will hold a year-long Guillows postal contest! Tom Hallman has graciously offered to "host" this event, which is open to the world-wide community of FF rubber flyers who can't make the trek to Geneseo for the 2026 Nats. We'd like to see the many flyers from various states, countries & continents join in on the Guillows free-flight fun. NOTE WELL: this postal contest is intended ONLY for those of you who CAN'T attend the 2026 FAC Nats in Geneseo. If you are planning to attend that event, this postal contest is not for you!

The event will have two scale model categories:

Guillows Modern Era You must build to the plan, use the kit wood and the plastic parts, as outlined in the rules for the "Guillows Fever" event being held at Geneseo. See the rules posted in this issue, FACNL #346, and on the FAC website.

Guillows Golden Age will be for any scale model built using one of the numerous "Golden Age" Guillows plans, which began in the 1930s and continued up through the 50s. Some of you collectors may already have plans or kits even for these. There are a bunch of plans posted at www.outerzone.co.uk. Just do a search for "Guillows". You do NOT have to build from a kit for these models--although there are many collectable vintage kits floating around out there, we expect you'll want to preserve the kit and build from scratch. There's little if any plastic on these early designs. Build to the plan, and use the good wood! The usual FAC allowances apply - you can modify the nose block to make it more functional, move the rear rubber peg up, increase the stab size moderately, etc.

Build as many models as you would like! Fly as often as you can! Builder of the Model rules apply.

To enter the contest, simply take a photo of your model and include it with your best flight score. Rubber power only, please. Update your best flight score whenever merited!

Email your times to Tom Hallman at maxfliart@hallmanstudio.com or mail them to 2553 Mill House Road, Macungie, PA 18062

Scores will be posted in future issues of the FAC News. The contest begins now and ends on December 31, 2026. Top flyers in each category will receive a kanone, along with the admiration of the entire FAC Community! We use the honor system for postal events, so build, fly & have tons of fun!!

OK

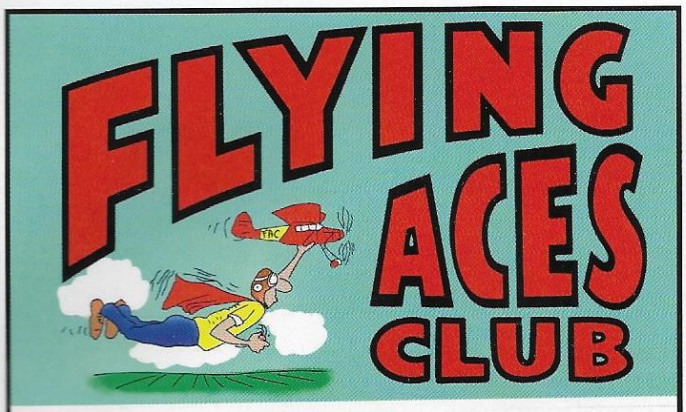
First - all kits built must be SCALE aircraft - I guess this since at the Genesco contest has a separate category for "SPORT" which include the Lancer, Javelin, etc.

Guillows "Modern Era" are those kits that have plastic parts - and are currently available from Guillows.

1. **Build to the kit /plan.**
2. **Use the kit wood and kit parts.**

Guillows "Golden Age" also known as Guillows Classic - These are your early kit plans with typical "dime-scale-like" structures. These are Guillows designs that are scale - beginning in the Golden Age of modeling of the early 1930s and continuing up through the 50s. "Plastic" on these early designs is generally only seen in the form of celluloid windscreens and canopies--there's no profusion of plunge molded plastic parts! You can find a bunch of great subjects if you do a search of Guillows plans at www.outerzone.com.

As far as I can detect from the rules - the scoring is single flight - total seconds. OOS - keep an eye on it and report it the time when not seen again. Enter as many times as you record. Enter multiple planes if you so desire. Unknown when the contest ends! FEVER RULES DO NOT SPECIFY - Just keep reporting.



The premier organization dedicated to traditional stick and tissue Free Flight! You'll get six issues annually of *Flying Aces News*, invitations to large FAC contests, opportunities to join local FAC squadrons, and much more. $35 / year; Canada $45; everywhere else $60.

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www.flyingacesclub.com

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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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Send all questions to the Office email:
membership@freeflight.org

Please go to www.freeflight.org for creditcard & PayPal options
There is no additional fee for online payments!
VISA MasterCard PayPal

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Membership Rates:

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

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal SAM# _____

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Email:_____

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

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