The THUMB PRINT

Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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AMA Charter # 1834

FLYING ACES club

SAM

NFFS

July-August, 2026

HEADS UP

Welcome to the fourth issue of the year. This is a good one, chockfull of club member news, contest reports and other happenings, plus some important announcements, so read on. The club's flying season's end is coming up with our final two contests this year, so show up and finish the year strong with us. Time for me to get out of the way. Ciao, y'all.

MEMBERSHIP RECONCILIATION

Yes, now it's time for a period of grace and forgiving. Unicorns will roam among the plains, and rainbows will abound in the skies. No negative waves here. So, if you happened to have somehow forgotten to renew your 2026 TTOMA membership, now is the time to do it on the cheap. Assuming your check doesn't bounce, you'll be back in our good graces. Ergo, fill out the form provided later in this issue, stroke that check, signed on the line that is dotted and mail it to the address indicated to James "Diamond Jim" Martin. You know who you are. Eyes on you!

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

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. CD-Jim Altenbern
Jan. 30ish: Annual TTOMA banquet. Lost Corners Preserve, Sandy Plains, GA
May 28-31: **2027** Indoor Free Flight Nats, USIC. Johnson City, TN.
July 19-23: **2027** Outdoor Free Flight Nats, USOC. Muncie, IN.

THUMBS BADD AND THUMBS NATIONWIDE

The Finns are all in with the annual NFFS National Cup competition. Josh, Hope, Caleb and Paul are in the thick of it across many categories, according to the latest report on the NFFS website. Summing up at this juncture, Hope is leading all in AMA Adult Rubber with 250 pts, 99 ahead of second! Josh is leading in Adult AMA Glider with seconds in Adult Classic Power and NFFS Rubber and a fourth in NFFS Large NosGas. Young Caleb is turning a few heads as he parades ahead of the grownups in Adult AMA Power. Yes, you read that correctly. In an equally spectacular fashion, young Paul is walking away with the lead in the combined Junior Summary with 476 pts, with Caleb trailing with 107, well ahead of third place's 78 and both against some young, serious competition. We expect this work to continue until this year's conclusion. Stay tuned for the final assault's results.

ONE THUMB'S FACT OR FICTION?

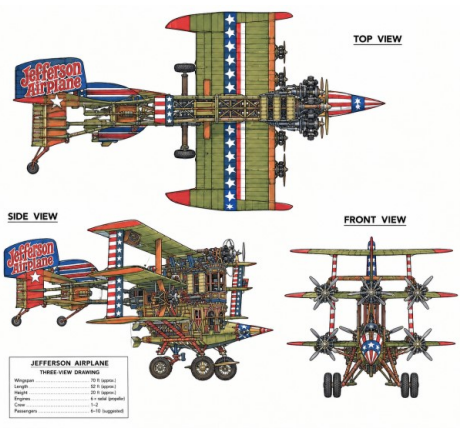
Over the last few weeks Doug DeMasie and your editor had a little fun over some of the artwork below, which is based on an early Jefferson Airplane album cover, its name *After Bathing at Baxter's*.

We were kicking around some of the more *outré* possibilities for a more outlaw version of the FAC's Fiction Flyer category, and David Mitchell, FAC C-in-C, offered his thoughts and some possibilities.

See Doug's initial offering below, partly initially done in jest. I say in jest, but it turns out Doug has a project going, or so he says. As evidence, he offers the additional 3-V below. We shall see. It certainly does offer more than its share of bonus points to this jaundiced eye, wings and engines galore.

Your editor thought it smart to at least look through the FAC Rule Book to see where this dramatic spectacle could be sequestered. Your editor is guessing some unholy amalgam of Fiction Flyer and Embryo would be necessary. The idea of building it to fly just for fun wasn't really considered. Who does that?! One observation was made: best to present all that detail on ink-jetted tissue than carving balsa. Otherwise, insanity may ensue mid-carve. Speaking of insanity, winding all those props? Launching?

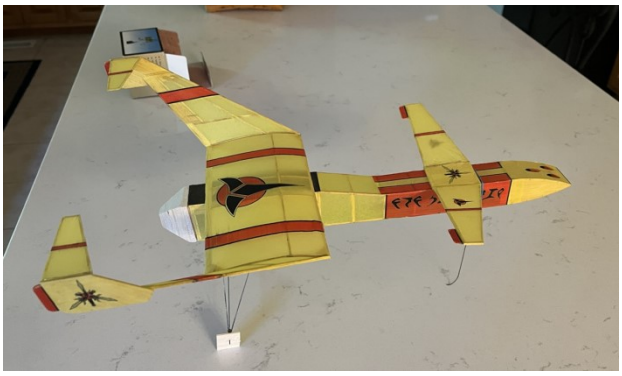




THUMBS AT THE BENCH

These beauties just came over the transom. First, Doug DeMasie has been additionally creative and busy, as evidenced by the two projects below. Whodathunk the Klingon Battle Cruiser would make the FAC Embryo ranks? We're figuring it was just another excuse for Doug to do another canard. Some claim it's the Devil's work, but what the heck, anything between consenting, adult organisms, I say.

The second offering is his new *30-30 P-30*. Unorthodox? Most assuredly, but it has been seen to actually fly. Just for grins and tickles your editor consulted the AMA rule book, and there's nothing in the rules about the number of wings allowed. This is the first of its kind in your editor's vast experience. Look for flight reports in these pages in the future, good or ill.





Dohrman Crawford's not been idle, either, and provided the SE5A project in the works below. It should be a flyer, as all well-built models of this aircraft are. This performance will be aided, no doubt, by the good and earnest work of its represented pilot, Flight Lt. Nigel Smythe-Bollocks. The well known airman is much beloved by his fellow Brits and was awarded the VC, DSC, MC, DFC,

AFC, DSM, MM, DFM, MSM and BWM for his gallant service in WW I and thereafter. There's a bit on the interwebs inferring he might've been awarded more medals, but he ran out of chest.





THUMBS CHASING CUTIES

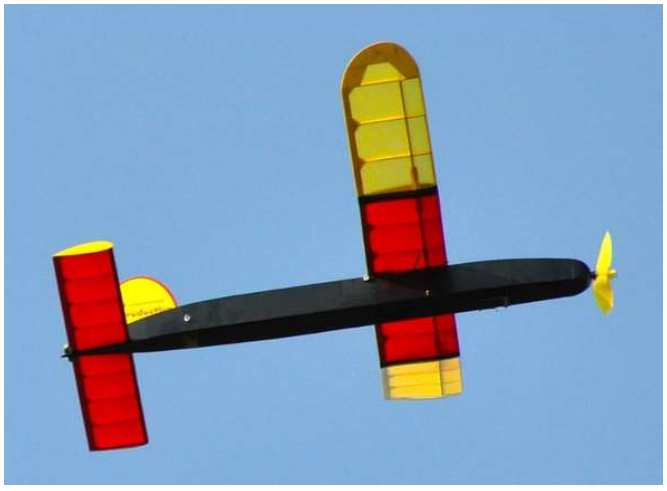
No, we're not talking about anything in the Ooh-La-La Arena, rather we're sticking with model airplanes of an attractive and alluring sort. Our club does have affection for such things. The much bally-hoed HP Sportster is a good example. The Hoot Owl and Blue Ridge Special further illustrate the point. Many more lie in idyllic repose within our collective memories.

A few weeks or so prior to this issue's publication another lively correspondence festered between Doug DeMasie and David Mitchell, and long story, short, let's talk about 1940's *Miss Production*, designed by Wally Simmers and flown then by a few of his flying buddies. A photo of this darling, little thing is provided below, as is a complete, but reduced building plan at the arse end of this issue. It certainly shares the genetics with the Simmers *Gollywock*, but David says it's a little older. Ergo, it might be the cause rather than the affect of the later, renowned classic. This definitely makes sense, looking at the *Miss Production's* soon-to-be obsolete underslung stab and presently, soon-to-be cursed underslung stab. (Stab DTs weren't invented yet! Why did it take so long!—DM).

All that woe being now dispersed, this design has much to recommend it. It's almost guaranteed to be a great flyer, easy to build, and its good looks are evident. It slots nicely into FAC's Old Time Stick category and would be competitive. Those rules dictate a freewheeling prop of up to one-third wingspan, which comes fortuitously to 9.24 inches, your basic P-30 prop. Plastic examples of same are on hand in bulk amongst our nooks and crannies. (Be advised, FAC auspices allow you to twist more pitch into any plastic prop, so go for it. (Note FAC also forbids folding props, BTW)

In the AMA/NFFS universe, opportunities await. P-30 is an easy choice with said prop, unfiddled. Mulvihill Rubber and Andrade Rubber (aka Small Mulvihill) are additional categories and will allow a fiddled plastic prop. (So, who's going to CAD and print some full size plans and give them out for free?) Surely, someone will, and let's don't be shy.

While I have your ear, let me discuss some of the text in the plan's notes. It says the *Gollywock* used a 12 inch, two-bladed folder. That's what was provided in the old Midwest kits. Actually, they were flown over the decades with all manner of prop diameters, pitches, and planforms, freewheeling or folding. After much boiler plating in the early SAM years, they wisely approved the widely used 13.5 inch prop, which works great. (It strikes me that the recommended 12 incher for the smaller *Miss Production* used with modern rubber might be way too much.) .



THUMBS IN PRINT

Frank Perkins's veteran Sidewinder catapult glider plan is featured in the latest issue of the NFFS Free Flight, and that plan follows in the arse end of this ETP. The design's been around for a long time and been through numerous iterations, many of which incorporate the latest in digital wizardry. This iteration is one of the more basic ones, and with care, can be built by most capable modelers. What's stopping you? Enjoy!

THUMBS SPREADING THE NEWS

Our own Jimmy Jordan, up Carolina way, relayed the news that CAFFC's annual October Hurricane contest won't be held this year. There's no word on their holding of their annual contest next spring at this time. We'll keep abreast of CAFFC contest developments and notify y'all of what we hear.

THUMBS COLLUDING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Several sources in the Free Flight yackosphere are passing along a recommendation from David Lindley, NFFS President, to vote for Randy Gibson in the upcoming AMA election. No details are given, but more are promised mid-October after some presently undisclosed, pertinent AMA meeting minutes are released to the membership. We'll probably find out what's the deal from him and other sources then. My sixth sense tells me we need to pay attention.

CALLING THE ANGELS HOME

It's time to ask all recipients of last year's TTOMA annual awards to return them to their Custodian of Record, your trusty editor. The redoubtable David Barfield and I will once again hoist the yoke of responsibility to update them for the awards ceremony at our annual banquet. The remaining October, November and any other pop-up contests henceforth will provide for a quick and easy handoff of same. So, go to your estate's most prestigious spot where you're prominently displaying your *medailles de guere* and remove them into our hands for safekeeping. Many thanks in advance.

FYI, Dohrman Crawford has begun the preparations for our annual banquet. It ain't broke, and we ain't fixing it. True to our past successes, we're planning to have it at the Lost Corner Preserve in Sandy Springs on or around January 30. Look for the latest final details here in the ETP and our *Bulletin* and make plans to attend.

FOR WHOM THE TALLY TOLLS

Please find below the current totals so far for our George Perryman Perpetual High Point Award. Opportunities for Fame and Glory are still available the next three months. So, go build a model airplane and show up somewhere to fly it with us.

According our late, great OFB George, the time spent building and flying model airplanes is added to the end of your life, either under the Cathedral of the Big, Blue Sky or Behind Closed Doors. What a deal! (I hear time fishing is, too.)

Doug DeMasie	25	Paul Finn	10	Hope Finn	4
Josh Finn	22	Jim Conery	10	Frank Perkins	3
Dohrman Crawford	18	Brett McFarland	8	Joe Ryan	3
David Barfield	16	Jim Altenbern	7	Stephen Griggs	1
Caleb Finn	12	Gary Morton	6		
David Mills	12	James Martin	5		

NEXT ISSUE

That's it for now. Look for something after the Turkey Shoot. We should have the October indoor and October and November outdoor contest reports and maybe the banquet flyer. As always I beseech the multitudes to send in all you have of merit in the way of articles, plans, photos, cartoons, rants or raves to these humble offices. Don't make me work too work. Ciao, y'all!

SOUTHERN FRIED AUGUST CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

Our August contest certainly lived up to its name and reputation. The weather forecast was fulfilled by the day's reality. However, sun shades were in full use, plenty of water consumed, and no one passed out. My tool box thermometer showed 100 degrees at one point. That's in the shade. We had a total of ten official fliers, making excellent use of great flying conditions. A few regulars didn't show, most likely because of the heat predictions. Side note, I got a rather harsh lecture from my cardiologist following the contest warning me of the dangers of high temperatures on old people, I promised never to do it again, with my fingers crossed behind my back! Three special events were flown, World War I Mass Launch, 2 Bit plus 1, and the Big Rig Boogaloo, and two kanones won. See the results below. CD Jim Conery, reporting.

WW I Mass Launch
Dohrm Crawford SE-5A 16 38*
James Martin Fokker DVII 35, broken motor
Jim Conery Fokker DVII 15, crash

Two Bit plus 1
David Mills FA Moth 137*
Dohrm Crawford King Harry 135
Dave Barfield Cloud Buster 34

Big Rig Boogaloo
David Mills Korda Wake**
Jim Conery Super Snooper
Dave Barfield Sky Chief

Guillows/Simplified Scale
David Mills Cessna 170 135

Catapult Glider
Jim Altenbern Cat-a-piglet 189-OOS
Dave Barfield Honeysuckle 61

Blue Ridge Special
Dave Barfield 148

Small Stick/Fuselage
Jim Altenbern Wanderer 192

Flying Finn Foursome

Large NosRub
Josh Finn Mercury 175

Small NosRub
Josh Finn HP Sportster 140

Andrade Rubber
Josh Finn HP Sportster 115

Mulvihill
Hope Finn NJAPF 176

Moffett
Hope Finn Sparky 97

P-30
Hope Finn NJAPF 127

E-36 Jr
Paul Finn Fubar X 95

HLG Jr
Paul Finn Spin-Up 79

Catapult Glider Jr
Paul Finn Finn Glider 39

1/2A Classic Gas
Josh Finn Mini Pearl 111

AMA 1/2A Gas
Caleb Finn Mini Pearl 111

AMA B Gas
Caleb Finn Sunstreak 690 142

AMA D Gas
Caleb Finn Witch Hawk 600 31

*Kanones won!

**wide acclaim only?!























Photos by Mills, Barfield and Crawford

FIZZLE WHILE YOU SIZZLE SEPTEMBER CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

We had a marvelous time on Sunday with great weather in the 80s (freedom units) degrees, mild winds and lots of thermals. We had some crashes but no fly-a-ways and some uninvited guests when a pair of caribou rambled through. Gary Morton said they were deer, but I think caribou for effect.

The Finns had some huge gas models, more noise than bluster, but impressive. Your CD got his 30-30 P-30 in the air, and it flew great until the tail feathers broke off landing. Back to the drawing board. Dohrman Crawford won a Kanone in Embryo competition. We ate a lot of cookies.

Think about next month's contest—it might be even bigger. There might be elephants grazing in the distance. CD Doug DeMasie reporting.

Guillows Scale
David Barfield Cessna 150 57

1/2A AMA Gas
Caleb Finn Mini Pearl 233

A AMA Gas
Caleb Finn Witch Hawk 380 233

C AMA Gas
Caleb Finn Pearl 540 105

SCat Jet
Paul Finn Miles M.52 44
Caleb Finn Canberra 43

Catapult Glider
Doug DeMasie DIY CLG 155
Paul Finn Multiplier 12 141
David Barfield Big Barf CLG 50

1/2A Classic Gas
Josh Finn Mini Pearl 269

AB Classic Gas
Josh Finn Hoosier Hot Shot 118

A NosGas
Josh Finn Lucky Lindy 134

B NosGas
Josh Finn T-Bird 500 172

Small NosRub
Josh Finn HP Sportster 100

Andrade Rubber
Josh Finn HP Sportster 109

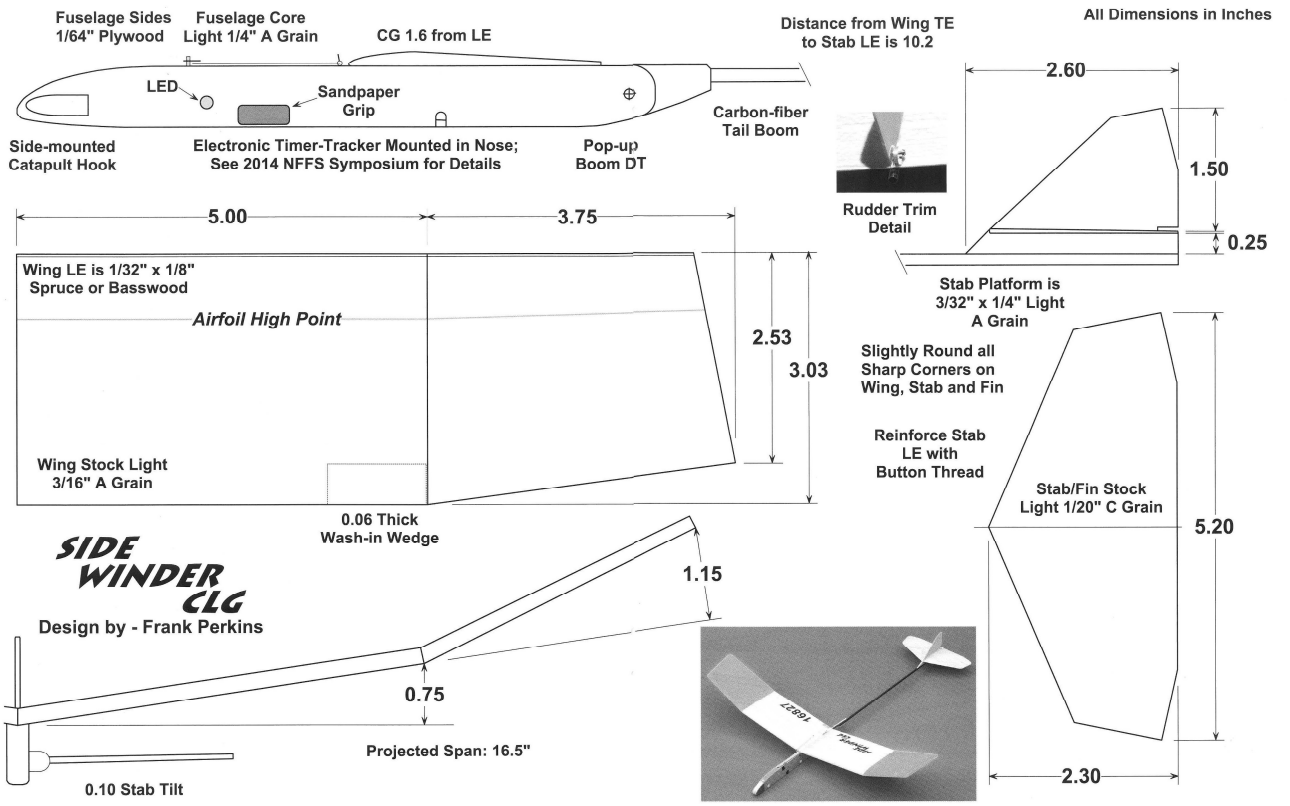
Blue Ridge Special
Brett McFarland 212
Doug DeMasie 188

Embryo
Dohrman Crawford Gonzo 276*
Brett McFarland Freshman 26
Doug DeMasie Prairie Bird 22

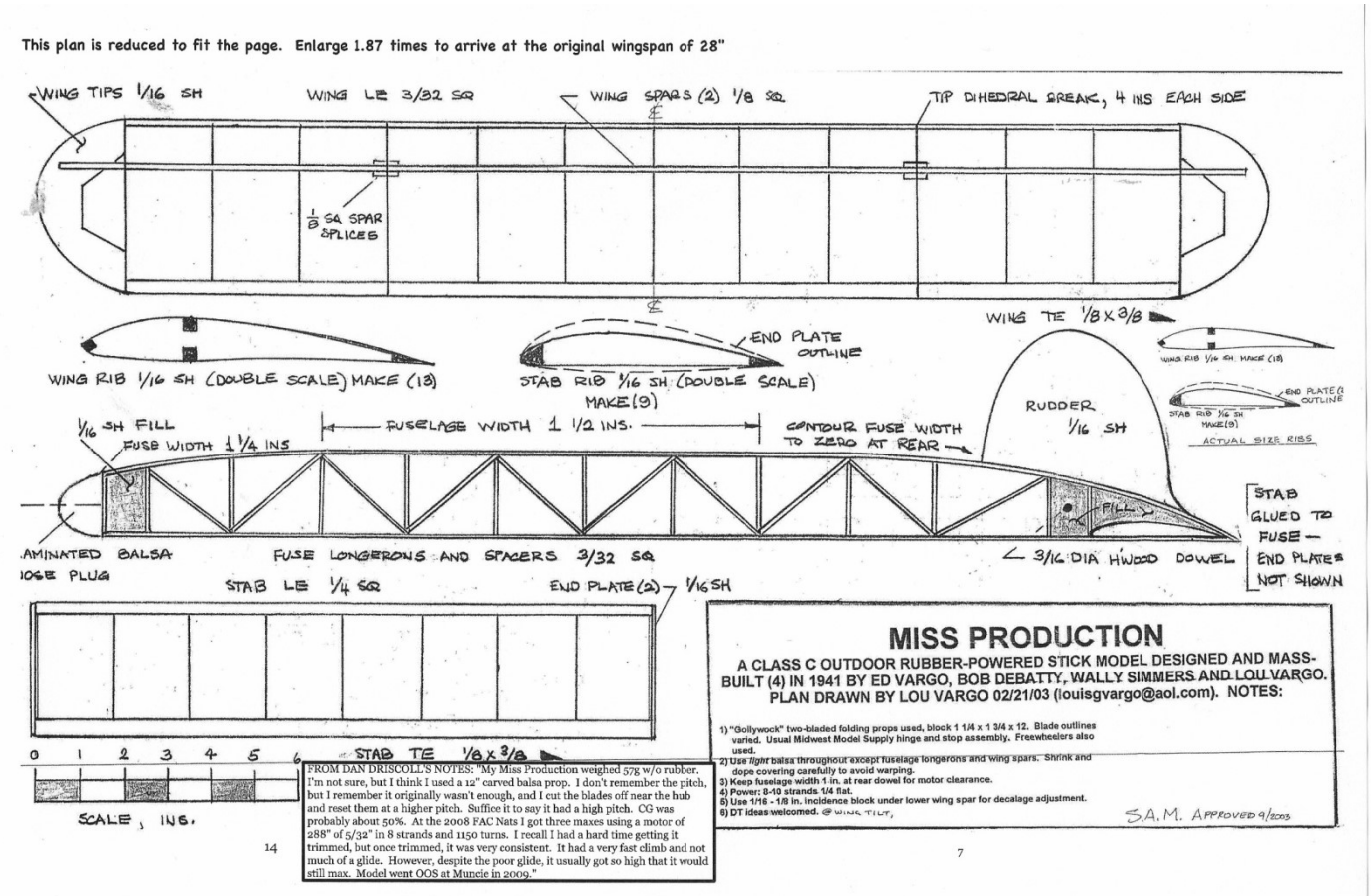
P-30
Doug DeMasie 30-30 17

*Kanone awarded





The above is shamefully stolen from the most recent issue of NFFS's *Free Flight*



Shamefully reprinted from an old issue of MaxFax, forwarded by David Mitchell, FAC C-in-C

Fifteenth Annual 2026 TTOMA Turkey Shoot

Nov. 1st, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

SCHEDULE

Mass Launches

Either one round, last one down or flown in rounds to **FAC** rules, as spec'ed by CD.
10:00 am- **P-30**-one round. Last one down or last one out of sight
11:00 am-**WW II mass launch**-flown in three rounds, FAC rules
1:00 pm- **Golden Age mass launch**-flown in three rounds, FAC rules.

Other Events

The following are flown anytime. Total Flight Scores-total of three flights

Embryo

Blue Ridge Special

Catapult Glider

Total Flight Scores-best three of six, 90 second max

Target Time

Record time of every flight. Time closest to target time wins. Target time will be announced at end of flying.

ADMINISTRATION AND AWARDS

All flights are hand launched.

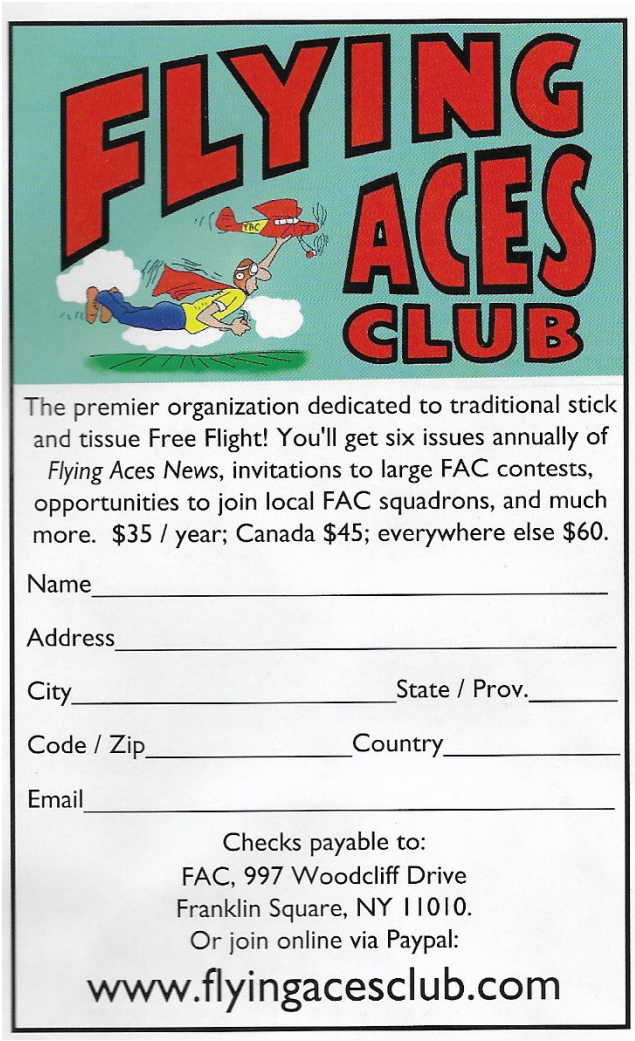
Winners will be awarded a $30 gift card, plus a Kanone if applicable. Please bring a stop watch to help time flights!

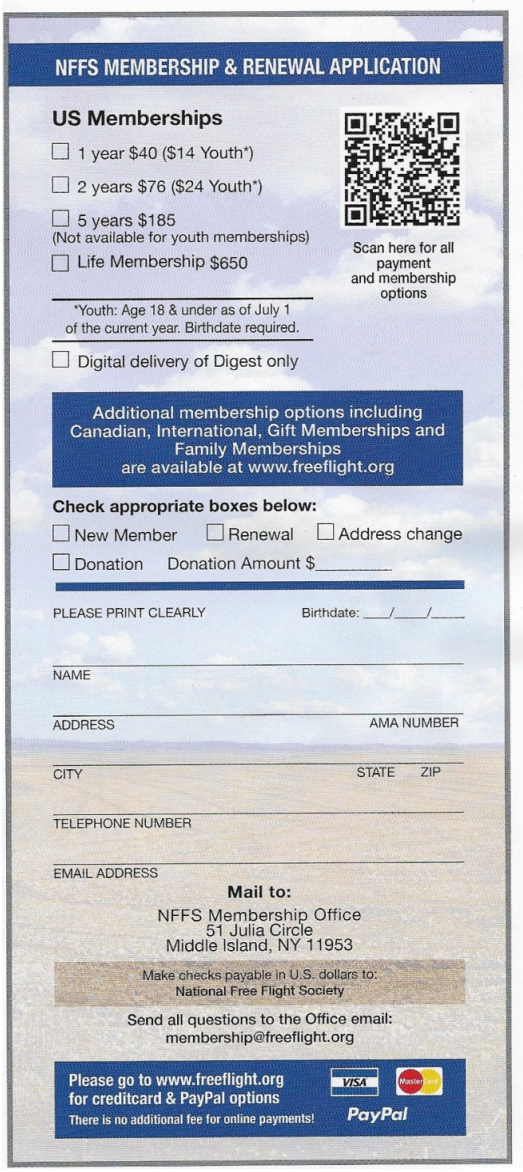
Fall in the area is usually a blessing with cool temps and gentle breezes. However, it can be hot and humid. So, bring water, sunscreen, TP, food or snacks, a proper hat, and some shade. No Lone Ranger retrievals. Prepare to be nagged if muggy.

Jim Altenbern CD
jaltenbern0705@charter.net



The 2025 Turkey Shoot flightline, a lovely fall scene, looking southeast across the Mighty Hooch and into the horse farms beyond





Last Half 2026 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. **Only good thru 12/31/26.** 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