



# The THUMB PRINT

**Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta**

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**Jan.-Feb., 2020**

## HEADS UP

Welcome to the first issue of the year! It brings your editor no small amount of pleasure to present a great bounty of announcements and promising news of the coming year. We have a lot planned, so get busy getting into gear for as much of this activity as your spouse, life partner, girl/boyfriend, pets or creditors will allow.

We start with the upcoming contest schedule, but impresario Dohrman Crawford advises us to check with the relevant contest directors to ensure the good folks at St. Lukes haven't thrown us an inopportune curve on the day. Our annual banquet is now in the rear view mirror, and a full report follows. Suffice to say here, a good time was had by all. We're making some changes in the outdoor program this year, and the full details are given. Pay attention because some of them impact the FAC Chattahoochee Challenge and some throughout the year, and the full rundown follows for your use. Another flyer follows on the huge Southeast Model Show down in Perry, along with a promising indoor contest being held concurrently on site and hosted by our own Josh Finn. A number of Thumbs provide a multitude of contributions, for which we give thanks.

Time for me to get out of the way. Later, y'all.

## RENEWAL NAG

My fellow Thumbs, we're a couple of months into 2020, and it's time for a real renewal nag. Yes, no more Mr. Nice Guy. If you haven't renewed yet, you're no longer a Thumb and not one of the chosen few. You know who you are. Eyes on you. Do it! The membership form follows.

## THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE

The New Year is fresh as a daisy, and we're hard at it again. A long look at the following contest schedule testifies to the bounty of good times in front of us. We are indeed fortunate. So, let's not let these opportunities lie unattended, shall we. Ergo, go glue some sticks together and show up somewhere with a model airplane! The game's afoot.

Feb. 28-29: Southeast Model Show, Perry, GA

Feb. 28-29: SMS indoor contest, Perry, GA

March 14: indoor contest, St. Lukes, **new date**, starts at 11 am

March 14-15, Model Train Show, Cobb Galleria, Marietta, GA

March 21: IPMS AtlantaCon, Marietta, GA

March 24-26: KOI, Palm Bay, FL

April 18: indoor contest, St. Lukes

April 26: outdoor contest, NG Turf

May 16-17: Kudzu Classic, Raeford, NC

May 17: outdoor contest, NG Turf  
 May 23: indoor contest, St. Lukes  
 May 27-31: USIC indoor Nats, Round Valley Dome, Eagar, AZ  
 June 13-14: outdoor contest, Chattahoochee Challenge, NG Turf  
 June 20: indoor contest, St. Lukes  
 July 5: outdoor contest, NG Turf  
 July 14-18: FAC Nats, Geneseo, NY  
 July 18: indoor contest, St. Lukes  
 July 27-31: USOC AMA outdoor Nats, Muncie, IN  
 August 9: outdoor contest, NG Turf  
 August 15: indoor contest, St. Lukes  
 Sept. 6: outdoor contest, NG Turf  
 Sept. 19: indoor contest, St. Lukes  
 Sept. 10-13: FAC Nats/Ted Dock, Muncie, IN  
 Oct. 4: outdoor contest, NG Turf  
 Oct. 17-18: October Hurricane, Raeford, NC  
 Oct. 17: indoor contest, St. Lukes  
 Nov. 1: Turkey Shoot, NG Turf  
 Nov. 14: indoor contest, St. Lukes  
 Dec. 12: indoor contest, St. Lukes

### **THUMBS WELL-FED AND ALL DRESSED UP**

Another year's annual club banquet at Petit Violettes is in the books, and frankly, we didn't have a single quibble. It was a delightful time. The weather was clear, brisk and not bothersome at all. The turnout was a little down from last year, but we still had a roomful, and the restaurant didn't seem to mind. As we've come to expect, the food was delicious. Unless the Fates conspire against us, we've have it there again.

The Show and Tell portion of the evening was first-rate. Several brought many models and other cool stuff, and there was a bevy of plans to give away. The inaugural Ladies Book Club was a success and a bit of a pleasant surprise to those better halves assembled. The lesser halves walked away with kits and other goodies at the raffle. Like I said, there was little of which to complain. Well done to all who did the yeomen efforts at bringing it all together, including but not limited to Dohrman Crawford, David Barfield and Jim Altenbern.

The awards portion of the festivities produces a happy diversity of winners. The big moose, the George Perryman High Point Award, was taken home by Hope Finn with a whopping 90 points. She was trailed by Dohrman (79), Josh Finn (74), Doug Demasie (56), Richard Schneider (49) and Jim Conery (47). Richard Schneider walked away with the Scale Trophy. The SCat Jet and Old Timer trophies were more closely contested, with Jim Conery taking the former and Dohrman, the later. Frank Perkins continued his domination of the Scramble Trophy. Dohrman took home the Norm Purdy Service Award, justly deserved. Josh was tickled pink to festively hoist the Order of the Rainbow Unicorn Trophy again. For those seeking total coverage of the High Point Tourney, check the following scores. And thanks for participating.

Hope Finn	90	James Martin	32	Lee Russell	13
Dohrman Crawford	79	David Mills	26	Gary Morton	13
Josh Finn	74	Joe Ryan	23	Jimmy Jordan	11
Doug Demasie	56	David Barfield	21	Savannah Canady	9
Richard Schneider	49	Jim Altenbern	19	Ed Hardin	8
Jim Conery	47	Bill Gowen	18	Dan Crews	5
Nick Ray	42	Matthew Canady	17	Scott Lapraik	4
Frank Perkins	35	Karl Hube	16	Caleb Finn	1



collage by David Barfield

## THUMBS AT THE BENCH

This just in from Dohrman Crawford: “Experimenting this evening on making a plastic prop look like wood. I used Acrylic Ink, available at any art store like Blick, Hobby Lobby, or Michaels. Cleans up with soap and water, but dries very tough. Light, too. I used a light coat of the yellow, followed by a light coat of the burnt umber while the yellow was still wet. I used a small, stiff bristled brush to blend the colors. Oh yeah, used light sanding and pre-inking to cut the gloss and create tiny scratches that will mimic wood grain. More experimentation needed, but this is easy to do and very light.”



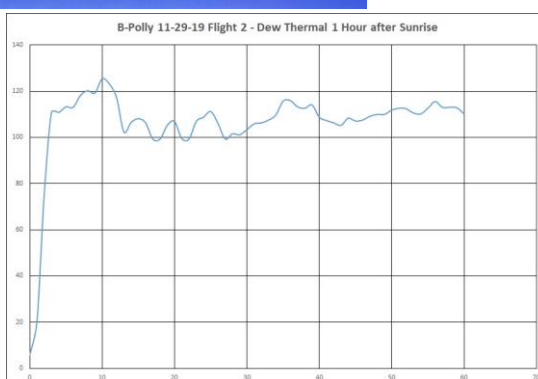
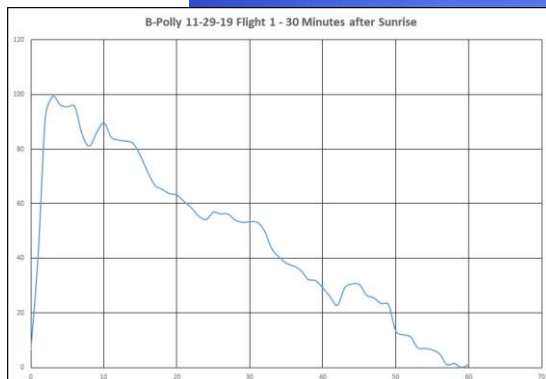
## THUMBS AT THE BENCH II

This just in from Frank Perkins, very cool stuff: “Just read through the latest newsletter. I think this is the biggest FF club newsletter I’ve seen. Well done.

“I’ve flown OT CLG at least five times at the Nats, and managed to come in 4th three times. So, for Nats 2020 I’ve built a pair of B-Polly gliders, as suggested by Don DeLoach. The B-Polly flies well, at least in calm weather, and gets quite high considering its large size. See attached photos.

“My long time flying buddy (50+ years) Kit Bays has asked me to do a Sympo article, so I will cover adding an altimeter to an electronic timer for 0.3 gm. I have two extra timer/altimeter boards for CLG, Embryo, etc. If any of you-all want to try one, let me know and I’ll bring them to the banquet. Some soldering will be required.

“At the 2019 Nationals I noticed CLG champions Kit Bays and Stan Buddenbohm were wearing golf gloves on their glider-holding hand, the latest fashion in CLG flying. So, after the Nationals I ordered a glove to try it out. The glove greatly reduces the pinch pressure needed to hold onto a glider. This is especially true for gliders that are held by a fuselage extension behind the stabilizer and fin. The reduced pinch pressure improves control of the glider’s launch attitude and significantly reduces hand fatigue when stretching the catapult band to its maximum extent. And golf gloves are available in a variety of colors, allowing you to coordinate them with your favorite flying field ensemble.”



## THUMBS MULTI-TASKING

This just in from Karl Hube: “Well folks, old Santa made a frantic run to the sod farm to deliver gift baskets yesterday, arriving just before lunch as planned, an easy trip out. After the drop off, I stuck around in the 45°F weather to fly gliders a bit. David Barfield had a photo delivery nearby and stopped to try some rubber flights before seeing his customer. Very quickly the temperature rose to 55°F, and it was a shirtsleeve day (if you had a great flannel shirt!)

“I can say the glider nirvana was reached as two 36-inch bungee gliders underwent testing. My Baby Buzzard, a scaled up British design, got two short launches at the end of the Turkey Shoot that showed promise. Yesterday, I staked the rubber end of the bungee to the ground and went to work. The line I am using is 100-foot long with 25 feet of 3/32 rubber, plus 75 feet of light Dacron line. There was a very light breeze part of the time, maybe 3-to-4 mph. This helped the model climb when launched. Initial flights were made by stretching the rubber one 25-foot length. By the end of testing, the stretch was 3 times to initial length. The Baby Buzzard tended to weave on the line, although it would maintain a centerline during climb. It took 7 grams of ballast to move the CG forward which cured the weave and smoothed the glide. Take note that the CG is at 50% chord and the hook at about 15%. The model would go to the top of the line and it picked up lift on two flights....a grand sight!

“My original design called Moon Dust displayed the same weaving under tow as the Baby Buzzard. Time ran out for more tests, but very likely a CG move will sort out this model as well. At 65 grams, this little bird will be a great flyer on calm summer days, while the heavier 102-gram Baby Buzzard will be the all-round model.

“For those planning to fly FAC scale glider, this line length is the same as specified in FAC rules, although I think FAC specifies 1/8 inch rubber. The real key to success has been the use of a swinging tow hook, which allows propped auto-rudder use. I’m not sure FAC has addressed this approach, but it has long been used with success in bungee flying in Britain, and we should use it.

“PS: The Santa hat felt good on my bald head when the breeze came up!!”



photos by David Barfield

## THUMBS SOON TO BE ON THE MARCH

There’re some changes in this year’s outdoor flying season, so read on. Largely the results of sage deliberations between Jim Altenbern, Gary Morton, Dohrman Crawford and Karl Hube, the changes need your attention. Some deal with the Chattahoochee Challenge specifically, others, the entire season.

Regarding the upcoming Chattahoochee Challenge, an effort is always made to have the same events from year to year so that you know what to expect and can plan ahead to build planes that can fly in the contest. But, each year we look at the number of participants for each event to see how many flew in that event to check the level of competition, looking for the magic cut-off number of three fliers. Ergo, this coming year we’ll drop the HLG event and rearrange the NBM events. **Also, we will be adding two new events.**

### Modern Military/Modern Civilian Combo Event

The first change is the Modern Military/Modern Civilian combined TOTF Scale. You will need to read the FAC Rulebook for both the General Rules and the event specifics later.

IV-5.0 MODERN CIVILIAN For civilian aircraft produced post-WWII, and post-WWII military high-wing cabin aircraft. Prewar designs, including those with post-WWII “upgrades”, are excluded.

IV-6.0 MODERN MILITARY For military combat aircraft produced post-WWII to the present.

Please note: Aircraft that were produced during late WWII but primarily served post-WWII are eligible for Modern Military Scale, if their mark and markings are appropriate to the period. Also, high-wing cabin types are excluded. Modern Military high wing cabin aircraft compete in Modern Civilian. Also, Modern LWMTs may compete in Modern Military if there is no LWMT event at the contest.

### Special Mike Nassise Dime Scale Event

The second change is a special event to honor Mike Nassise, who passed in late November. It'll be held during the Chattahoochee Challenge this June. Mike was the editor-in-chief of the *Tailspin* newsletter, and every other month he would publish the newsletter with one or two plans, the history of the aircraft he modeled and some advice on flying and building those models. His plans included Dime Scale, Simplified Scale, SCat Jet and some simple rubber and glider models and were always easy to build and fly. He published the newsletter for a number of years and there are more than 150 plans to his credit including about 30 Dime Scale plans. This event will be flown to regular Dime Scale rules, and you will need to bring your plan with you before flying the model.

A list of his Dime Scale plans follows, and Jim Conery, Dohrman Crawford and David Mills have a good stash of his plans and can copy some for you. Build one of his Dime Scale models and come out in June to fly with us.

Avia B-135 Fighter  
Avia BH-IIb Sport  
Bellanca Junior 14-9  
Cessna Airmaster  
Cessna AW  
Comper Swift  
Curtiss P-40E  
Curtiss SB2C Helldiver  
Curtiss SOC-3 Seagull  
Curtiss XSO3C-1 Seagull  
Douglas M-2 Biplane  
Fairchild PT-19  
Fairey Firefly Mk I  
Fairey Fulmar Mk I  
Fiat G.50bis Fighter  
Farman 400  
Gleanny & Henderson Gadfly

Hawker Sea Hurricane Mk IIC  
Hawker Tempest Mk.I Avia B-135 Fighter  
Hawker Typhoon Mk IA  
Heinkel He 113  
Howard GH-2 Ambulance Plane  
Marin MO-1  
Messerschmitt Me-109F  
Miles M 18 Trainer  
Nieuport 17 Scout  
S2N-1 Kingfisher Scout  
P-51A Mustang  
P-51D Mustang  
Piper YO-59 Liaison  
Porterfield Zephyr  
Russian Yak-7  
Ryan M-1 Mailplane  
Wright WP-1 Pursuit

### Outdoor Special Events

Through the outdoor flying season, every monthly flying session has a “Special Event” to highlight a popular model class or to promote a promising class. This event has a great Return on Investment (ROI) because when two or more flyers compete, the winner will have the day's entry fee refunded. Moreover, if the event is a Flying Aces Club (FAC) event and at least three flyers compete, the winner will receive a Kanone in the FAC scoring system. Join the fun and try a new event from the following 2020 event list.

April ~ CLG+DLG	July ~ Embryo*	September ~ BRS*
May ~ Simplified Scale*	August ~ SCat Jet*	October ~ P-30

\*Note: These are FAC events.

## THUMBS GOING ASTRAY

Spring in Atlanta brings more than showers. Namely, our friends in other modeling disciplines have some of their biggest soirees. Your editor tries to attend them and is never disappointed. First, we have the annual IPMS chapter big contest and swap meet on March 21. If you've any real hankering for, or even a casual interest in plastic modeling, this is a must-see. Not only is there an immense amount of eye candy on display, there's also a lot of plastic stuff for sale way below retail. There's usually a Free Flight nugget or two and always a wealth of hobby books and tools to be had. Admission is only a few bucks and free to kids. It's held at the Lockheed Union Hall at 1032 S. Marietta Pkwy/Marietta, GA 30060.

Second, we have many model railroad events being held in the metro area held throughout the year. Why, you ask? Well, for the umpteenth time, I'm happy to tell you. We all live amidst one of the vastest railroad networks in the world, and likewise, one of the most important railroad hubs in the USA. FYI, by comparison civil aviation is merely a pimple on the railroad's arse in this town, period! (And don't get me started about amount of inane largess the Federal government ladles out to the interstate trucking industry every year, an unholy dalliance between the Repub's trucking company owners and the Demo's Teamster's Union!)

By no accident, model railroading is also very prominent in this town. I usually attend their annual, big swap meet held at the Cobb Galleria and have a good time. This year it's on March 14-15, and entry fees usually aren't much for adults. This is a huge event with over 250 tables of merchandise for sale, some individual collectors and the rest, big time vendors. Also, there're a dozen or more working layouts set up, which are a big hit with kids and this and other adults. It's a great place to pick up hobby tools for cheap. A piece of advice: don't park crazy because there's a swarm of contenting retail outlets in the area now.

## GATHERING OF THE TRIBES

This year's Southeast Model Show down in Perry is just around the corner this February 28-29. Make plans to attend because this is the best place to be on Earth if you're a model airplane nut. There're over 1000 tables of merchandise for sale or trade in a good mix of industry and hobbyist vendors. (Josh Finn says the widely broadcast accolade that it's the largest such gathering in the world isn't true, the Joe Nall thing is, but I chose to ignore him.) I'll be the first to admit, the vast majority of the offerings are RC-centered. But what the heck, it's still about model airplanes and Free Flight nuggets abound in the nooks and crannies, and I guarantee you'll run into somebody you haven't seen in a long time.

There's another matter cooking there this year. Josh is hosting an honest Free Flight contest in one of the arenas. The room is quite large and warrants its category II rating. So, bring your indoor fleet if you're interested. He also needs some help in officiating, and he and GAMA will it worth your while if you help run it. Full flyers follow on these and related matters. Be there!

## KEEPING SCORE

It's never too early to start looking over your shoulder for one's adversaries. In that spirit we present the current high point standings for your review. Please note it only comprises the tally from two indoor contests, but hardy results are evident, and ten fliers have toed the line. Like last year, this year's effort will be well-contested. So, glue some sticks together and show up with a model airplane somewhere. The game's afoot.

Karl Hube	15	Richard Schneider	4
Hope Finn	13	Caleb Finn	3
Josh Finn	11	Joe Ryan	3
Doug Demasie	7	Jim Conery	1
Dohrman Crawford	5	Dan Crews	1





## January Indoor Contest Report

TTOMA's indoor flying for 2020 kicked off in spectacular form with the largest turnout we've seen since the days of Tim Lavender bringing his kids down. Nick Ray's students showed up to experience some indoor flying, and the team I coach at Dodgen Middle School also turned out for some glider practice, putting up some impressive flights. Graham Selick brought his grandson as well, and both of them flew up a storm. Caleb had his first rubber-powered model in attendance and put up a bunch of flights both with and without daddy's help. No-Cal Scale was a real shootout for the Kanone. What a contest! All in all, a great day of flying even with the A/C turning on mid-afternoon to end the opportunities for the lightweights crowd. Josh Finn, CD, reporting.

### Limited Pennyplane

Dan Crews 4:46

### HLG

Josh Finn 26.8+30.8=57.6

Caleb Finn 7.4+7.8=15.2

### Unlimited Catapult Glider

Hope Finn 25.5 + 22.0=47.5

Joe Ryan 22.2+21.2=43.4

Vashnavi 20.1+20.6=40.7

Christian Hable 17.0+6.0=23.0

### Ministick

Hope Finn 5:59

Josh Finn 4:14

### Chattahoochee Challenge

Josh Finn 1:59

Richard Schneider 1:52

### Ornithopter

Hope Finn 0:37

Josh Finn 0:17

### Hangar Rat

Karl Hube 1:41+1:26=3:07

Doug DeMasie 1:18+1:26=2:44

Dohrman Crawford 2:24+0=2:24

Jim Conery 1:04+0:44=1:48

### No-Cal Scale

Karl Hube Chambermaid 1:40+1:54+2:09=5:43

Hope Finn Chambermaid 1:51+1:55+1:54=5:40

Josh Finn Cassutt Racer 1:56+1:52+1:51 = 5:39

Richard Schneider Goon 1:43+1:03+1:19=4:05

### Phantom Flash

Dohrman Crawford 1:49+2:07+1:54=5:50

### P-18

Karl Hube 1:06

Caleb Finn 0:36

Doug DeMasie 0:30

### Order of the Rainbow Unicorn

Karl Hube 1.00

Josh Finn 0.716

Hope Finn 0.698

Dohrman Crawford 0.688

## February Indoor Contest Report

February 15 was chilly, but sunny outside with excellent flying conditions inside. Six participants flew. While we had few official flights, airplanes were in the air all day. We had a number of visitors, some with kids, and I took the opportunity to meet them, and get the kids helping me fly several models. A good time had by all. Respectfully submitted, CD Dohrman Crawford, reporting. Here are the scores:

### Chattahoochee Challenge

Richard Schneider 1:59 + 1:44 + 1:42

Doug DeMasie nice model, crashed into chair

### P-18

Doug DeMasie 0:55 + 0:59 0:55 = 2:49

### Phantom Flash

Dohrman Crawford 1:23

### Limited Pennyplane

Doug DeMasie 1:55



photos by Dohrman Crawford

# CHATTAHOOCHEE CHALLENGE

PRESENTED

BY

THERMAL  
THUMBERS  
OF  
METRO  
ATLANTA

JUNE 13/14, 2020



FOR CONTEST DETAILS, GO 2  
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DBC

# 2020 Chattahoochee Challenge

North Georgia Turf Farm  
1487 Black Dirt Rd./Whitesburg, GA 30185

**Saturday, June 13**  
8:00 am-5:00 pm EDT

**FAC Rubber Scale\***  
**Jimmy Allen**  
**Simplified Scale**  
**Jet Catapult Scale\***  
**P-30**  
**Embryo\***  
**Modern Military/Civilian combined**  
**No-Cal Scale**  
**WW I mass launch (11:00)**  
**Golden Age mass launch (1:00)**

**Sunday, June 14**  
8:00 am-3:00 pm EDT

**FAC Rubber Scale\***  
**GHQ Peanut Scale\*\***  
**2 Bit + 1**  
**Nassise Memorial Dime Scale\*\***  
**Catapult Glider-CLG**  
**Phantom Flash**  
**WW II mass Launch (11:00)**  
**Combined Racers mass launch (1:00)**  
**Blue Ridge Special mass launch (2:00)**

\*Judging will be done on Sat. morning. FAC Rubber Scale may be flown either day as long as the flights are completed in one day.

\*\* Judging will be done on Sun. morning.

**RULES** All events will be flown to either AMA or FAC rules depending on which organization supports the event. The sod farm is a category 3 field. The CD will determine if modified rules for maxes will be needed due to the weather. Any modifications will be communicated at the beginning of each day.

1. CLG has a 90 sec. max.
2. FAC Rubber Scale flight score will be the best of three.
3. A plane that qualifies for both Jimmy Allen and 2 Bit + 1 may be flown in either event but not both.
4. **The Nassise Memorial Dime scale event is being held to honor all of the contributions that Mike has made to promote building and flying in the Flying Aces Club. Only planes from Mike's dime scale plans can enter this event. Planes from Mike's Dime Scale plans cannot be entered into Simplified Scale but any other Dime Scale Plane can.**
5. Expect two or three rounds in the BRS mass launch. If a plane is lost on an earlier round, a new plane may be substituted, and the other planes still flying may change their rubber motor to make it fair.
6. Monoplanes will be allowed to compete in the WW I mass launch as long as they conform to the rules—no parasol or high wing cabin types.
7. All fly-offs will be a mass launched.

**AWARDS:** The award ceremony will be between 3:30 and 4:00 on Sunday. Certificates will be given for the first three places.

**ENTRANCE FEE:** \$20.00 or \$10.00 if you only fly one day.

**CONTEST DIRECTORS:** Jim Altenbern ([jaltenbern0705@charter.net](mailto:jaltenbern0705@charter.net))  
Gary Morton ([gmorton@centurytel.net](mailto:gmorton@centurytel.net))



Friday and Saturday, February 28-29, 2020 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter  
in Perry, Georgia

Full details for the show are here: <http://gamarc.com/2020SMS.html>



Josh Finn and TTOMA are hosting a two-day, category II flying session in conjunction with GAMA's Southeast Model Show in one of the big arenas. The room is large with a minimum of ceiling issues, and the flying should be great. Josh is hosting all manner of indoor flying and encouraging all to visit and fly. All events (AMA, FAC, FAI) flown concurrently. Lightweight models can fly on the west side of the venue while heavy weights fly on the east side

Josh needs some help in officiating. So, get in touch with him at the address given below. **Be advised:** TTOMA members who volunteer for assistant CD duties (6 hr slots) or gate duty slots (2 hr slots) receive FREE admission through the west gate as early as they wish to enter.

Contact Joshua Finn for details or clarification at: [joshuawfinn@gmail.com](mailto:joshuawfinn@gmail.com)