

The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta
www.thermaithumbers.com

AMA
 Charter # 1834

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NFFS

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HEADS UP

My, how times flies! Summer is almost over, and we're all so surprised. Your editor is no exception. Summers are always so fleeting. At least, we were able to cram in a lot of flying at the sod farm and elsewhere.

Welcome to the August issue. We've been very busy, and as you might suspect, we've some contest reportage and other news items to relate. The weather this year has been outstanding, and we've made the most of it. Also, quite a few of us have new laurels to our credit, which we're happy to relate. Also, please find and read the notice for the two-day contest in September, particularly the Flying Aces Club contest on Saturday, the 22nd. Not only are the Flying Aces events fun to fly in, but there's plenty for spectators to enjoy. Seen you there!

Time for me to get out of the way. Ciao!

THUMBS IN PRINT

In our last newsletter I heaped praise upon the good people at *Model Aviation* for their judgment in filling the majority of their July issue with Free Flight material. Alas, the August issue doesn't reprise their previous foray, but I'm giving them a pass. I do this for the sole reason that our OFB Mickey Walker is featured in a major article on his role in the founding of the Senior Pattern Associations twenty years ago. Since the SPA has grown into a national organization with members in fifty states.

What is the SPA you might ask? It's sort of like a SAM organization for the RC pattern fliers. They limit the designs to those prior to 1976 or thereabouts, nixing many of the bells and whistles common to contemporary models. Basically, it allows its members to fly pattern RC within a relaxed and fun atmosphere, like SAM does with the Old Timers.

(The article doesn't mention it, but Mickey told me long ago that he and his buddies just couldn't see the models well enough anymore to run a tight pattern program. That and their more "experienced" reflexes made the SPA a very reasonable idea.)

The article also didn't mention the fact Mickey has been responsible for being part of the founding of more AMA clubs than just about anybody. We can add TTOMA and SAM 47 to the list, as well CCRC and the Paulding Co. club. I believe there were about a handful more in the metro area, spanning several decades. Time well spent, sir. Thank you for your service, Mickey!

THUMBS IN PRINT II

On other fronts, Al Pardue is loaded for bear for the SAM Champs! He has a photo of his new Hanford *All American* Nostalgia Wakefield in the September issue of *Model Aviation*. He also has a photo of a very resplendent Dietrich Convertible in the September issue of *SAM Speaks*. As is his wont, they're really fine pieces of work, quite lovely, really. No doubt, he intends to cause a little trouble at the upcoming SAM Champs Concourse event. *Bon chance, mon ami!*

THUMBS IN PRINT III

Boy, is this the newsletter issue for literary props or not? Well, we've done it again! The July-August issue of *Free Flight* has a number of contributions and mentions from our fellow Thumbs. First, Gary reprises his article on E-36 that appeared earlier in FFQ. I can't help but think how pretty our field looks in the background.

Second, Bill publishes his plan of his catapult glider, WIF7, in the same issue of *Free Flight*. For those living under rocks, WIF7 is the current record holder in both catapult glider classes, category I, and has been voted as a 2012 NFFS Model-of-the-Year. Bill is also flattered by another article in the same issue by his OFB Kang Lee on the "special" techniques employed at the recent 2012 USIC in Johnson City. Good stuff.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

A number of Thumbs made the trek up to Muncie and did a modest amount of damage. Basically, it was a great trip, and we had a great time. The Thumbs there were limited to me, Dohrman, the Marier's (father and son), Graham, and the Walston's. Robert, Graham, Dohrman, and I flew a ton, and Jim did a little business.

The weather offered a refreshing change of pace from last year and its infernal heat. Temperatures only got into the low nineties one afternoon. The remaining days were in the eighties and seventies. It got quite chilly at night, so those camped out on the field enjoyed sleeping under blankets every night. Fall was definitely in the air when the sun went down. That and the twelve-ounce sleeping pills made for delightful slumber.

We had our fair share of rain, which thankfully occurred mainly at night. We had drizzle during the early mornings most days, but the skies cleared in a few hours. It only stormed mightily one night, Saturday, our first day on the field, and it was a duesy. It flattened a few tents and shredded Dohrman's large sunshade. Said sunshade will be missed, a steadfast campaigner all these many years. It was toasted a few times, Dohrman being visibly distraught most of the week. .

The winds were low speed all week, except for Friday which proved to be something of a blowout. The drift was either mostly out of the south-southwest or northeast, the long way of the field, but a couple of days it was out of the west, not the best vector for retrievals. However, the majority of the times the drift was very minimal. I had a nine-minute Small Mulvihill flight that landed a quarter-mile away! For most of the fliers only Friday posed problems in the way of off-the-field adventures.

The thermal conditions were tricky all week, which was theorized by sages and wags to be a consequence of all the wet nights and mornings which saturated the ground, and this was only heated slowly and irregularly throughout the day. Altogether, this produced atypical thermal patterns, or so the theory went. Whatever. The result was thermals were

plentiful, but small and of brief, almost phantom-like in duration. The conditions comfortably explain the overall low scores despite relatively easy retrieval conditions.

For those keeping score, your editor placed second in Moffett and Small Mulvihill and a respectable fourth in NosRub. Dohrman placed second in Embryo. The two of us did OK in Catapult Glider, around ninth and tenth as I recall, under the aforesaid tricky conditions and against a large field of almost forty, serious competitors. These modest victories aside, Dohrman and I finished comfortably in the middle of the pack, otherwise.

Young Robert Marier enjoyed a bit more notoriety. He flew a ton of categories like always, placing second in Catapult Glider Sr. and comfortably in the middle of the pack in all else. Persistence pays because he won the High Point Senior Trophy.

Overall, the 2012 Nats was a real hoot. Those that deferred for reasons of weather made the wrong decision. In terms of physical wear and tear, it was the easiest Nats in memory, and sleeping under blankets at night was a real treat.

I did a little research, and my trip was on the cheap, as usual. I spent about \$180 on gas, as much on entry and camping fees and the banquet, and \$30 with Lee Campbell. The rest was just food and beer out of the grocery store and the Hot Dog Man. That, my friends, is a cheap, one-week vacation. And I got to fly model airplanes the whole time!

THUMBS ON THE MARCH II

Young Nick Ray did us proud in Serbia at the Indoor World Champs. Through his and the rest of the team's efforts, the USA earned team gold! No small feat there, my friends. As sometimes happens, people with names you can't spell easily won first and second, but team members Sanborn and Kagan won third and fourth and Nick's placing in the middle of the pack secured the gold. Nick was snakebite all with his variable pitch prop and the usual stuff that happens, but he persevered and edged out several others in the team gold hunt. Well done to Nick and the rest of the team! USA! USA! USA!

PLENTY OF FUN LEFT

In spite of the summer being almost over, there are still gobs of fun to be had. I'll highlight the two-day contest later this month at the sod farm for starters. Note Saturday is all Flying Aces and Sunday, the usual duration dance card. This just in, the church pulled the indoor October date, so don't show up then. In closing, also note the reprise of last year's indoor record trials in November. Be there!

22 Sept.	Sept. FAC, sod farm
23 Sept.	Summer's Swan Song, sod farm
06-08 Oct.	Gathering of Turkeys, Pensacola
21 Oct.	Last Fling til Spring, sod farm
04 Nov.	Turkey Shoot, sod farm
10 Nov.	Peach State Indoor Record Trials St Lukes indoor 9-5
08 Dec.	St Luke's indoor 9-5

MAKING A LIST, CHECKING IT TWICE

Here's the club high point tally up through August. You'll see no major changes in the rankings, although some gained in statue and some lost. I don't know where we are in terms of last year at this time, but these numbers seem pretty robust to this reporter.

Anywho, it's time to get busy if you're interested in getting on the podium by year's end. The game's afoot.

David Mills 84
Dohrman Crawford 69
Jim Altenbern 44
Gary Baughman 31
Karl Hube 30
David Barfield 27
Bill Gowen 25
Al Pardue 24

John Barker 23
Bob Thoren 22
Joe Ryan 14
Richard Schneider 12
Barry Sholder 8
Graham Selick 6
Dean McGinnis 4

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in October. We'll have a solid reportage of the two-day contest in September. (Your intrepid reporter will try to remember to take some photos, unlike this past June!) And look for some pimping of November's Peach State Record Trials.

As always I beseech the multitudes to send any worthy contributions in the way of article, photos, rants, and ravings to these humble offices. Don't make me work too hard! Ciao!

July Meetings Minutes

The meeting was called to order by David Barfield, club president, at 12:35 pm on July 15, 2012. There were eight members present. The minutes of the June meeting were read by Jim Altenbern. David Mills motioned for the minutes to be approved and the club approved the report.

Treasurer's Report

David Barfield reported that last month's balance was \$X,XXX.XX. During the month the club had \$259.00 deposited to the club account. No money was spent. The new total is \$X,XXX.XX. The club members present approved this treasury report.

Old Business

David Mills will check on a price for placing a brick in honor of deceased club member, Don Brown, at the AMA Headquarters in Muncie, Indiana. This brick will have his name embossed on it.

The George Perryman model giveaway event had five people present, and all complete models were given away by the Perryman family. David Mills only has a few bits and pieces left over, and he will get these together and give them to club members.

The club decided to have a 'Mini-Maxer' on the club logo as an option to the present HLG logo. David Barfield will send the new logo to Dohrman Crawford who will then send it to Café Press. Club members will be able to go online to Café Press and order items they wish to purchase.

New Business

The club approved a motion that due to the large balance in the treasury a \$500.00 gift will be sent to St. Luke's Church in Atlanta to express gratitude for the use of their gym for our club indoor meets. The club, also, investigated the idea of sending a donation of the same amount to the NFFS. David Mills volunteered to check out a specific part of the NFFS organization for which this gift will be designated.

David Mills has been asked to write an article about the TTOMA Club history. This article will appear in the Free Flight Quarterly.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm on a motion by club president, David Barfield. This motion was seconded and approved. Respectively submitted, Jim Altenbern, acting secretary.

August Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by David Barfield, club president at 12:40 pm on Sunday, August 19, 2012. There were nine members present.

Treasury Report

The club began the month with \$XXXX.XX in the treasury. The club spent \$150.00 for charter and insurance and took in \$130.00 from the indoor and outdoor meets. The new treasury total is \$XXXX.XX.

Minutes

The minutes were read and Frank Hodson stated that the TTOMA T-shirt "Mini-Maxer" was in addition to the TTOMA "Hand Launched Glider" logo, instead of replacing the "Hand Launched Glider". The minutes were amended, and David Mills motioned the minutes be approved. The club seconded and approved the amended minutes.

Old Business

David Mills stated that \$500.00 donation to NFFS should be directed to the scholarship fund. Also, David told the club that he had seven pounds of rubber from George Perryman's model estate. Some was thrown away, being too old; some used by him at the Nats; some was given to Robert Marier; and about three pounds were left for members to divide up. A bag with the rubber in it was placed at the August meet CD table. David said he will inquire about the price of bricks with deceased club member's names on them at the AMA headquarters in Muncie, Indiana. Frank Hodson told the club that plain bricks cost \$100.00 each and the black granite bricks trimmed in gold cost \$500.00 each. The club will decide at a later date how many bricks and what kind will be purchased.

New Business

Gary Baughman told the club that he is the new NFFS Hall of Fame chairman and invited club members to give him nominations to be considered by the NFFS committee.

Frank Hodson asked the club to consider the idea of cash awards at the end of the year for different events such as Dime Scale, Model of the Year, and Embryo. Frank asked members how they felt about the idea and after discussion the idea was tabled.

David Mills asked about getting an AMA sanction for the Indoor Record Trials in November. David said he'd submit a request for sanction to the AMA. David gave a report on the Nats, the weather and raffle. David said the weather was mixed with Friday being the only bad weather day. He stated that he thought the raffle was not as good as in years past because there were fewer raffle items. In addition, he told the club that the NFFS yearly Sympo was late this year due to various reasons. The NFFS hopes that Sympo would go to press by the end of August.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 pm on a motion by David Barfield, club president. The motion was seconded and approved. Report respectfully submitted by David Barfield, acting secretary.

SEPTEMBER FLYING ACES CONTEST

Sept. 22, 2012
N GA Turf Farm, Whitesburg, GA

TTOMA is hosting our second all-FAC contest of the year. We had a pretty good turnout last June, so maybe we can repeat it this month. We generally have participation in the categories listed below. Our flying field is perfect for this sort of flying, baring weather cataclysms. At the previous contest in June we flew like crazies all day, and a few of us earned some kanones. It was fun. Be there.

Rubber Scale
Peanut Scale
Dime Scale
No Cal Scale
Dime Scale

Earl Stahl MOY
Phantom Flash
SCat Jet
OT Rubber Cabin
Two Bit Plus One

Tail Spin is a commercial friend of TTOMA
tailspinaviation.com

Campbell's Custom Kits is a commercial friend
of TTOMA

campbellcustomkits.com

(Due to some pilot error, the following report was left out of the last newsletter. What can I say? I'll take a pay cut.)

MAY DAZE CONTEST REPORT

Greetings, folks! Sunday was another great day of flying at the sod farm. We all can recall the normal cold, wind, fog, and rain we have had in past springs. This year April was near perfect, and May was almost as good. Plus, we had ten paying customers and a total of 99 official competition flights were logged for the day.

The morning was near calm with some soft dew thermals cooking off early, as evidenced by my new Blue Ridge Special flying away on its first test flight at 9:30 am! The afternoon brought some breeze with turbulence from the upwind trees. A look at the flight times shows that mostly the models that could get high above the turbulence did well. A check of the CLG times in particular shows how tough it was to pick up lift.

This was my first time to serve as a CD, and I appreciate your help. Although insults were hurled at everyone in the contest, there were never any fist fights along the flight line, and no official protests were filed. That makes for a good day. "Under separate cover" I will compile the Scramble data for both April and May soon. Good news! Dohrman's lost HLG was found on Monday morning in a familiar hay field on the Bowen Farm across the river.

The results follow. Karl Hube, CD, reporting.

CLG

D. Crawford	Pathfinder	194
David Mills	Straight Up	111
Al Pardue	Crowbar 13	109
Bob Thoren	Lil-Mat 15	89
Jim Altenbern	Straight Up	88
David Barfield	So. Fried Buzzard	51

P-30

Dohrman Crawford	NJAPF	345
David Mills	Hammerhead	298
David Barfield	Kiwi	225
Bob Thoren	Pirate	135

HLG

Dohrman Crawford	Who Dat?	267
David Mills	Dynamo Hum	129
Bob Thoren	Twirly Bird	75

Blue Ridge Special

Dohrman Crawford	242
Graham Selick	153
David Barfield	132

Embryo

Karl Hube	Voodoo	119
David Barfield	Sparky	37
D. Crawford	Gonzo	5-crashed

Rubber Scale

D. Barfield	Comet Taylorcraft	13
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SCat JET

David Mills	Yak 15	75
David Barfield	P-59	61
Karl Hube	Hawker Hunter	51

Stahl MOY

David Mills	F4F Wildcat	78
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Comet Phantom Flash

David Mills	85
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Dime Scale

Karl Hube	Bristol Brownie	148
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Contest results for July 21, 2012 TTOMA Indoor Contest
St. Lukes Presbyterian Church

A small group of indoor flyers did a lot of serious flying in the afternoon and evening of Saturday's contest. The day was shortened when the building custodian went AWOL and left the A/C on in the gym. Dohrman persevered for several hours and finally got the problem fixed around noon. After that the air settled down and the usual great St. Lukes flying conditions returned. The most contested event of the day was a battle between Joshua Finn and Nick Ray in F1D. Joshua eventually came out on top with a 21:30 on his last flight of the day. This is also the highest time ever flown at St. Lukes regardless of model class.

Joshua also raised the state EZB record by 2 minutes – a record previously held by Jim Richmond!

A highlight of the day was the return of the Brown family. Various members did a lot of flying during the day but no flight times were recorded.

I took another shot at the AMA F1L record but fell a couple of minutes short while battling a bunch of problems associated with flying F1L with 2 grams of rubber. Maybe next time!

EZB

Joshua Finn 18:40 (state record)

F1D

Joshua Finn 21:30 (state record)
Nick Ray 18:29

Pennyplane

Joshua Finn 8:58

F1L

Bill Gowen 13:46 (state record)

JULY OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

We had a great turnout, and the weather was great. We've had a banner year in that regard. There was quite a bit of flying but not a lot of registered flights. Below are the scores, David Barfield, CD, reporting. (We think they may be some scores missing due to a recording snafu. If you've anything to add, contact your editor.)

Blue Ridge Special

D. Crawford 357
J. Altenbern 213
D. Barfield 152
A. Pardue 80

Catapult Glider

J. Altenbern 179
D. Barfield 83
D. Mills 81

P-30

D. Crawford NJAPF 349
D. Mills Hammerhead 348
J. Altenbern Airshark 286

Embryo

D. Mills Megalon Mk III 317
J. Altenbern Cruiser 213
A. Pardue Eaglet 80

Earl Stahl MOY

D. Mills Wildcat 71
D. Barfield PT-19 9

AUGUST INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

F1D

Josh Finn 41:11
Hope Finn 29:01

A-6

Jessica Brown 2:21
Matt Brown 1:53

F1L

Bill Gowen 12:08

Std CLG

Jessica Brown 48.0
Lisa Brown 44.0

Easy B

Matt Brown 7:00
Jessica Brown 5:37

IHLG

Jessica Brown 34.0
Lisa Brown 28.0

Mini Stick

Lisa Brown 2:44
Kayla Brown 2:43

No Cal Scale

David Mills Lacey M-10 5:56

35 cm

Bill Gowen 9:44

Dime Scale

John Barker Comet C. Robin 1:01

Limited Pennyplane

John Barker 5:29
Jessica Brown 5:05

Legal Eagle

John Barker Rumpole 1:40

Pop Purdy August Contest Report

Eighth contestants flew under cloudy but better than average conditions with light and often variable winds. David Mills sacrificed his winning CLG to the "River God" and Frank Hodson returned to flying after a hiatus of more than a year. Lots of on-lookers, about as many as flew. Graham Selick, CD, reporting.

P-30

D. Crawford NJAPF 357
A. Pardue Potent-30 258

E-36

G. Selick Accorte-E 360
D. Crawford Mini Pearl 196

Blue Ridge Special

D. Crawford 267
J. Altenbern 258
D. Barfield 156
A. Pardue 149
D. Mills 148

Catapult Glider

D. Crawford Sweet 17 253
D. Mills Straight Up 243
J. Altenbern Straight Up 132
D. Barfield So. Fried Buzzard 121
A. Pardue Crow Bar 60
F. Hodson Vartanian 55

Earl Stahl MOY

D. Mills Wildcat 151

Rubber Scale

D. Barfield Comet T-craft 79

Embryo

J. Altenbern Cruiser 157

HLG

D. Mills Dynamo Hum 123

OT Rubber

D. Barfield Gollywock 74

SPECIAL LAST 1/2 OF YEAR, 1/2 HALF OFF SPECIAL!!

2012 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ **AMA #** _____

Address _____

State and Zip Code _____

Other Family Members and AMA # _____

Telephone _____ **E-Mail** _____

\$20.00/yr. adults, plus \$1.00/yr. for all juniors and for additional family members in same household. Send check, payable to TTOMA, to David Barfield/2000 Trophy Dr./Marietta, GA 30062/770-9775517. \$25.00/yr. after Feb. 15, 2012. **\$12.50/yr. for the rest of the year. It's never too late to be a Thumb!**

AUGUST SCENES

