



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

www.thermalthumbers.com
David Mills Editor
 (404) 509-4209
davidmillsatl@gmail.com






Nov.-Dec., 2014

HEADS UP

Welcome to the final issue of the year. Looking back, we had a great year. We flew a bunch under the Cathedral of the Big, Blue Sky at the N GA Turf Farm, and the weather cooperated for the most part. If memory serves, the rain or blow outs can be counted on one hand with a finger or two left over. And all of us put one or two models across or into the river. The action at St. Lukes continued unabated. The usual suspects flew a ton, and a few records were posted, both state and national.

The year wasn't without some sadness. For example, we lost our old flying buddy Clarence Purdy. He'd been fighting cancer for over a decade, and it finally got him. Clarence and I talked occasionally about his long struggle with the Demon, and he agreed with George Perryman that the time spent building and flying model airplanes is added to the back end. Money in the time bank, he called it. I tend to believe it myself.

All of us have important things to do every day, and life grabs at us from all directions. However, it must be admitted that we fritter away opportunities for dips into the good life all the time. For example, we all need to build and fly more, and collectively, the club needs it, too. We've all noticed the level of activity has declined the last few years. On my short list of New Years resolutions is to build and fly more. We'll see how it goes. Anybody out there want to join me?

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

RENEWAL TIME

The holiday season is soon followed by the membership renewal nags, so let's ring in the New Year with a fresh and direct plea for your club dues money. For the adequately flush, the 2015 membership form follows. We hope this brief blurb will suffice, and we can go forth without all the fuss and bother. Just send Karl "Karats" Hube that check. Fair warning: you might see some more pointed language in the next issue!

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

Every year Canadian Jim Mosley runs a global postal contest with a ton of different events. Josh Finn and I've discussed the postal over the years, and he decided to enter it guns a-blazing in 2014. And according to the recently published results, he dominated the postal, winning numerous events, including Embryo. Well done, sir.

THUMBS IN SERVICE

The entire 2014 slate of officers agreed to serve again under the yoke in 2015, and we duly voted them in at the November meeting. Ergo, let's tip the collective hat to David Barfield (President), Jim Altenbern (Veep) and Karl Hube (Secretary and Treasurer) for volunteering for one more years' service.

As is my custom, your humble servant gallantly offered the position of newsletter editor to anyone who wished it, but as in all years past, no one stepped forward. As a result, it'll be once more into the breach for this pilgrim, an honor and a privilege to be sure, and a darn good bully pulpit on occasion.

THUMBS IN SERVICE II

The last few years, Gary Baughman has given presentations at Marietta's STEM School on the anniversary of the Wright Brothers first flight at Kitty Hawk, NC. This year he had a little help from Karl Hube, Richard Schneider and your trusty editor.

We were all impressed with what we saw. We ran a few hundred of students through the presentation in the school's gym, and each group was chock full of bright, energetic kids. They asked a lot of smart questions. We had a good time. And once again, the Hangar Rat proved itself as the ideal Free Flight demonstration vehicle. The school gave each of us a very cool sweatshirt. Go, Rockets! We'll do it again next December 17. Be there.



ANNUAL BANQUET

Dohrman Crawford is finalizing the details on our annual banquet. Once again we'll circle the wagons at Petite Auberge on North Druid Hills Rd. Mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday,

January 31. Expect the menu and reservation forms shortly. Complete them as directed and plan to attend. It's always a hoot. And don't forget about the Show and Tell portion of the program. Be there.

Our out-of-towners seem to prefer to stay at the hotels at the North Druid Hills Rd. exit on I-85. They feature somewhat reasonable in-town rates and are only a few miles from the Petite Auberge, as well as Lenox Mall and Phipps Plaza shopping!

The members of the club's sporting fraternity will find it convenient to the cosmopolitan wonders of Cheshire Bridge Rd. If anyone needs directions to the Claremont Lounge, let me know. Those with a little wind left in the sails after the banquet can adjourn to the nearby, cozy confines of Maggie's Place or the Famous Pub, both well-established dives offering safe harbor from the world's troubles.

Keep your eyes out for Dohrman's flyer. Fill it out and send him a check! Be there.

BETTER HALVES ON THE MEND

All of us have many things for which to be thankful this year. A few of us have much more, like Dohrman Crawford, Karl Hube and Gary Baughman. All three of their better halves are recovering from serious health maladies, and respectively, Sue, Margaret and Jeannie are doing much better and on the mend. Lessons for the living, my friends. Maybe that should be better two-thirds!

EXTRACURRICULARS

Most of us Free Flight modelers paint our way through life with a broad brush. An example would be our curiosity about other forms of modeling. We are especially fortunate to live where we do because the Atlanta area is a major national hub of railroad, RC and plastic modeling of all sorts.

All of these groups are active and organized. And like us, they gather for many events throughout the year. I try to make as many of them as I can because each offers its own brand of entertainment. The flyer for the SE Model Show is provided later in this issue. All Georgia model airplane nuts should be proud of what GAMA does down in Perry. Simply put, it's the world's largest model aviation swap meet with 1000 tables of stuff. It's held at the GA State Fairgrounds, right off I-75 at exit 135, and fills all four of their large arenas. Yes, it's 98% RC-oriented, but Free Flight nuggets abound and you always run into scores of people you haven't seen in a while. Be there on March 6 and 7. If you can get away, Friday is the best day. Bring cash, and haggling is both encouraged and rewarded.

The IPMS-Atlanta chapter's big, annual plastic modeling contest and swap meet is in Marietta at the Lockheed Union Hall on South Marietta Parkway on March 14, just west of the north entrance to Southern Polytech. This is a very big deal and worth an extended visit. The hundreds of models on display are a wonder to behold. And the swap meet offers plenty of spending opportunities. Plastic kits of all kinds are on sell at only a fraction of retail prices, as well as all manner of tools and supplies. Please take the time to commensurate with these comrades-in-arms. We're known as "stick and tissue" modelers, and they're aware of us and both respectful and bewildered. <ipms-atlanta.org>

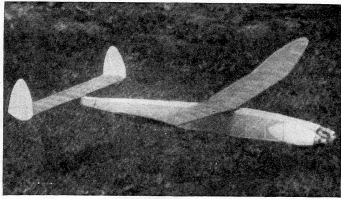
The model railroad guys in the state have a number of clubs that sponsor plenty of gatherings throughout the year. Their biggest trade show and swap meet is the annual soiree at the Cobb Galleria, this year on March 14 and 15. I try to attend this one, too. Kids of all ages will find it a hoot, particularly the youngest ones. There are running railroad displays of all kinds and offer plenty of eye candy. It's a bit outside our pale, but worth the trip. <themodeltrainshow.com>

Two other local, plastic modeling groups hold a collective swap meet and contest group grope. Basically, the local armor and figurine guys get together and do their own thing. The armor stuff is very cool and expertly done. (Personally, I don't get the figurine thing, but heck, these guys pay their taxes and don't rob banks, so I don't give them any grief.) This year their big do is at Clairmont Rd. and I-85 on Feb. 13-15. <ampsatlanta.org>

A LITTLE MISCHIEF

I've spent more than a little time going through some of Frank's old magazines. Long story short, I've come away with the not-too-brilliant or original observation on just how amazing these old

magazines were. Both grand truths and nuggets abound. Two such nuggets follow on changes made in the late forties on Art Horak's already capable *Wanderer* design. Well-regarded by Nostalgia Rubber fliers and now under the glare of SAM fliers for Small Rubber Stick, the only negative seen was the design's use of a free wheeler propeller. Imagine my surprise when I ran across these two published photos. Well, I went through the proper channels, and the SAM powers-that-be have approved the use of the folder and diagonal braces shown. No word yet from the Nostalgia Rubber subcommittee.



No. 6 Modified Wanderer by Frank Le Donne which was built from M. A. N. plans

M A N IN 1948. A recent letter from Pres. C. O. Wright of AMA, and directed to all AMA officers, contained a summary of accomplishments for 1948, together with a number of objectives for 1949. We are sure "C.O." will not object if we detail a few of the more interesting items here. Of top interest, of course, was the outstanding Vets held at Olathe. The Nationals is usually considered the AMA meet of the year, though of course it was actively sponsored last year by the American Legion, U. S. Navy, and the Olathe Chamber of Commerce.

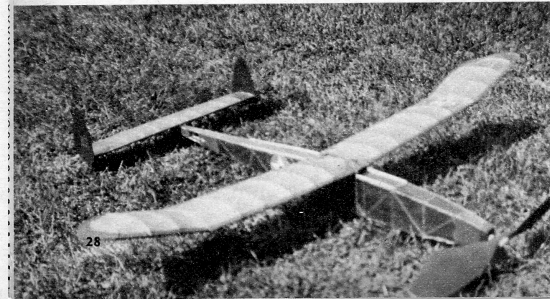
enters

In the line of meets, another success was chalked up in the re-establishment of the Wakefields, even though in this event the victorious English Team made off with the famed trophy.

Many active committees were established, and they

MODEL AIRPLANE NEWS • April, 1949

No. 4 Wanderer is a fine flier and was built from M.A.N. plans by Robert Villers



Some experiments have been made on sealing the pipe from tank to motor; this can do no real harm if care is taken to keep the heat away from the tank. A worthwhile gain in results can be obtained simply by soldering a number of washers to the feed pipe, as these washers absorb heat from the air which tends to keep the feed pipe from freezing.

A local flier gives us this tip to pass along; don't fail to follow the maker's instructions on oiling the motor after every few cartridges are run out. Aside from the necessity of lubricating the moving parts, the oil serves to protect the metal surfaces from rust. Every time the motor is run it gets very cold and, of course, moisture from the air quickly gathers on a cold surface. This moisture on the unoiled surfaces of your engine soon gets in its dirty work. 'Nuff said!

(Turn to page 64)

MODEL AIRPLANE NEWS • September, 1947

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in early February. We should have the full contest calendar by then, and we'll provide a report on the annual banquet. Expect this first, true nag about the renewal of club dues, and we'll turn the screws a tad.

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

Friday, March 6th and Saturday, March 7th

Buy, Swap, Sell

2015

SOUTHEASTERN MODEL SHOW
SMS

GEORGIA AIRCRAFT MODELERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Exit 185 from Interstate 75

Hours:
Fri: 1pm to 7 pm
Sat: 8am to 5 pm

America's premier Model Swap Meet

Perry, Georgia

Table Reservations: Use rcflightdeck.com

Tables

Over 1000 in three different buildings

search for SMS

gamarc@gamarc.com
Phone: 478-396-8731

Contest report
TTOMA Indoor Contest
St. Lukes Oct. 18, 2014

5 paying customers flew at St. Lukes on Saturday, Oct. 18. Official flights were made in F1D, LPP, 35cm, A6, No-cal, F1M, Wright Stuff, Peanut Scale and Phantom Flash.

Here are the complete scores:

F1D

Joshua Finn 25:00, 26:55

35CM

Joshua Finn 17:49

Limited Penny Plane

Karl Hube 3:38, 4:50

A6 (2015 rules)

Bill Gowen 6:38

Wright Stuff (2015 rules)

Bill Gowen 3:20, 3:27

Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 93, 104, 98 (4:55 total)

Joshua Finn 72, 65, 76 (3:33 total)

No-cal

Karl Hube 2:06, 2:10, 1:55 (6:11 total)

Peanut Scale

Joshua Finn 40

F1M

Bill gowen 5:23, 13:22

October Outdoor Contest Report

Well, the final official, outdoor contest of the year is in the books. Attendance was average with a few people unable to be there for various reasons. However, the rest of us had the usual fun time even though the wind direction was a problem at times. Case in point: a shift toward the river, a long fuse and a nice thermal caused the loss of my new Jimmie Allen *Sky Chief*, the one David Mills proclaimed the best flying *Sky Chief* he'd ever seen. (I don't know how many he has seen, so I don't know what that means. I do know that the last flight was glorious. I will definitely be building another this winter!) We were also treated to plenty of P-30 flights and some uncommon electrics, including some much improved E-20s.

Don't let next year pass you by without joining us at the field. When the last contest is over it is a long, cold time until we meet there again. The results follow. David Barfield, CD, reporting.

Electric A

Graham Selick 360

E-36

Gary Baughman 245

Graham Selick 120

Peanut Scale

Gary Baughman *Floyd Bean* 59

Catapult Glider

Karl Hube 150

Gary Baughman *Led Sled* 98

P-30

Frank Perkins *ePirate* 360

Karl Hube *Scorpion* 356

Small NosRub

Jim Altenbern *Wanderer* 240

HLG

Dohrman Crawford *Meercat* 183

Jim Altenbern *Meercat* 112

Blue Ridge Special

Dohrman Crawford 258

Earl Stahl Event

David Barfield *Skyfarer* 33

Jimmie Allen MOY

David Barfield *Sky Chief* 120

November Indoor Contest Report

The November contest saw the return of the legendary Chris Goins. Bill and Chris both flew sub-2 gm. Standard Catapult Gliders, but Chris' model suffered a hand strike on launch before making any official flights. We will have to wait until next month to see the potential of Chris's new model. Hope Finn strung together some very high times in Phantom Flash to best her husband, who returned the favor in No-Cal. All in all, it was another exciting day of flying at St. Lukes.

F1D (1.4g)

Joshua Finn 17:49+18:25=36:06

Wright Stuff

Bill Gowen 3:07

Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 117+117+112=346

Joshua Finn 59+77+91=227

No-Cal Scale

Joshua Finn *Spitfire* 234

Hope Finn *P-47* 164

35 cm

Joshua Finn 17:33

St. CLG

Bill Gowen 40.8+40.0=80.8

Fifth Annual Turkey Shoot, a Hoot

November 2 dawned cloudless and crisp. Whatever wind there was blew in from the north allowing flying from the secondary gate area toward the hangar. Two-minute maxes were landing just short of the river. Eight intrepid souls came ready to battle for the Publix gift certificates. As advertised, all the competition was mass launch except for the Cat Glider Tournament and the Target Time event.

There were 14 individual matches leading up to the eventual winner going through the double elimination bracketing. Jim Juliano won the tournament by winning four consecutive *mano-a-mano* matches against TTOMA's best glider flyers. More amazing, Jim had never flown a Cat Glider before that day. He borrowed one of Gary Baughman's gliders. Gary showed him how to use the catapult for launching, and the rest is history. Well done, Jim! Frank Perkins fought his way through the double

elimination brackets to challenge Jim, but had malfunction in the finals that precluded an official flight. He conceded the match like the gentleman that he is.

The Target Time event was won by Gary Morton in a fly-off with Jim Juliano. The target time was 44 seconds. Both flyers had tied with a 42 second flight sometime during the day.

David Barfield won the Model of the Year flyoff with a well-worn, but reliable Miss Canada Sr.

Karl Hube showed the rest how to fly Embryo by winning the Embryo mass launch with Barfield and Baughman keeping him honest.

The High Noon Shootout for the first max made after 12 Noon was won by Frank Perkins flying his almost unbeatable P-30.

Scale combat, anything scale, was hotly contested. Gary Morton bested the field by a considerable margin with a beautifully crafted Chambermaid. It flew like it was on rails for the win.

In the P-30 Shootout, the sky was filled with colorful P-30 models. The late John Oldenkamp devised the rules, and they have stood the test of time. P-30 is one of the most popular AMA events. Amazingly, your writer's old warhorse was the last to return to the sod for the win.

The Blue Ridge Special mass launch was won by Dohrman Crawford. Again, the sky was filled by those simple rubber models in all colors. The BRS event is always exciting and amusing. How can a simple little model built in an hour fly so well and be so much fun? Go figure...and go build and fly one. I promise that you will be hooked. If you want fun with kids and grandkids, the BRS is the one to build and fly.

The awards were given out to the winners at the end of the day. As in years past, the Publix gift cards were well distributed among the fliers.

We had flyers from Tuscaloosa and from Chattanooga. We have 40-plus local members. Where were they? The Turkey Shoot is the last event of the year and is a laid back, fun filled event. It doesn't take a Nats winning model to win the \$25 gift certificates. You don't even have to build a model to compete...just ask Jim Juliano! Maybe a turkey is in store for you in 2015. Be there or be square!

Gary Baughman, Keeper of the Turkeys and dutiful scribe.

2015 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 Karl Hube/104 Smith Forest Ln./ Alpharetta, GA 30004/770-886-0104