



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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March-April, 2014

HEADS UP

Welcome to the spring issue. We've a lot of announcements and the year's first contest reportage. First and foremost, read the blurb on the Frank Hodson estate sale, May 3. Make plans to attend. We'll see you there. Bring serious money and an empty vehicle. The outdoor season starts April 27, so make plans to start flying under the Cathedral of the Big, Blue Sky. With all the recent rain and sun, the sod farm should be in great shape. The indoor season continues at St. Lukes, where we've seen a lot of records broken recently. Also, no one knows exactly why, but we've been attracting a lot of visitors, too. Who knew indoor Free Flight was a spectator's sport?

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

RENEWAL NAG

OK, y'all, it's time to get serious. A number of you haven't renewed. You know who you are. The membership form follows. Send that check to Karl "Karats" Hube and get me off you back.

FRANK'S FREE FLIGHT ESTATE

We'll be having Frank's estate sale on Saturday, May 3, at 1:00 pm at the Hodson residence at 150 Hills Ave., downtown Woolsey. It's easy to find and get to; it's on Hwy. 92 between Fayetteville and Griffin. It's an unimaginable horde of collectibles and other goodies. For those unfamiliar with our late friend's Free Flight man cave, a collage of photos follows.

At this time, everything is for sale except for his magazine collection and CO2 stuff. In terms of the magazines, we're in communication with a number of museums and looking at some serious charitable deduction write-offs. The CO2 stuff is an extreme specialty item and needs a specialty buyer, which will take some time. Everything else has to go. Fair warning: the family isn't looking to give anything away, but will be reasonable, particularly with bulk purchases. There's a ton of plans, balsa, engines and parts, kits, hardware, supplies, tools, books, whatever.

The plans and engines will be of special interest. Frank said he had 5000 plans and I believe him. Whatever the actual count is, there's eight (8) filing cabinet drawer's worth. There's approximately 100 engines, some loose, some in-the-box and some mounted on models. There's also a large box of engine parts, bagged separately by manufacturer. (Both of these boxes are pictured in the collage. I've a list of the engines and parts I can send you.)

Bring money and an empty vehicle. Thelma needs her garage back.

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE

Never let it be said that TTOMA doesn't provide plenty of excuses to leave the house. Go glue some sticks together and show up with a model somewhere! It's the most fun you can have with your clothes on.

April 27 April Fools, Outdoor, Sod Farm, Dohrman Crawford CD
 May 3 Frank Hodson Estate Sale, Woolsey, David Mills point man
 May 4 Science Expo, Marietta High School, Gary Baughman, point man
 May 10 Indoor, St. Lukes, Dohrman Crawford CD
 May 18 May Daze, Outdoor, Sod Farm, Dohrman Crawford CD
 June 7-8 Fiesta of Five Flags, Pensacola
 June 21 June FAC, Outdoor, Sod Farm, Karl Hube CD
 June 22 June Bug Jamboree, Outdoor, Sod Farm, David Barfield CD
 June 28 Indoor, St. Lukes, Nick Ray, CD
 July 13 Peach State Champs, Outdoor, Sod Farm, Whit Russell, CD
 July 19 Indoor, St. Lukes, Bill Gowen, CD
 July 28-Aug. 1 AMA FF Nats, Muncie, Indiana
 Aug. 16 Indoor, St. Lukes, Nick Ray CD
 Aug. 17 Pop Purdy's, Outdoor, Sod Farm, Graham Selick, CD
 Sept. 20 Indoor, St. Lukes, Dohrman Crawford CD
 Sept. 27 Sept. FAC, Outdoor, Sod Farm, Jim Altenbern CD
 Sept. 28 Summer's Swan Song, Outdoor, Sod Farm, David Mills, CD
 Oct. 11-13 Gathering of Turkeys, Pensacola
 Oct. 18 Indoor, St. Lukes, Bill Gowen CD
 Oct. 26 Last Fling til Spring, Outdoor, Sod Farm, David Barfield CD
 Nov. 2 Turkey Shoot, Outdoor, Sod Farm, Gary Baughman CD
 Nov. 15 Indoor, St. Lukes, Nick Ray CD
 Dec. 13 Indoor, St. Lukes, Dohrman Crawford CD

THUMBS AT THE READY

Gary Baughman has had a long relationship with the Cobb Co. school system. Lately, he's been working the principal and faculty of Marietta High School. There's a big event on May 4 at the school that's worth your attention. It's called Science Expo, and he's looking for a few Thumbs for a little help. TTOMA will be running a table and pressing the flesh thereby.

We won't be the only ones. The military will be there in force, with exhibits like a battle-ready Hummer and all kinds of combat gear and electronic stuff, as well as some racing teams and local businesses and colleges. Gary wants us to fly indoor models over people's heads in the gym. Sounds like a hoot, if you ask me. Let's hear from Gary:

“Gents,

“We are one of the sponsors at the Science Expo at the Marietta High School on Sunday, May 4, 2-5 pm. We will be in the auxiliary gym location. It'll accommodate some simple, indoor model flying. I need some help with demo model flying and static display of indoor and outdoor models.

“A model under construction or an uncovered model structure would be interesting to spectators.

We could also build some AMA Cubs on site to give away, as well as some Cub kits. We need a sign that we can hang up at our table, perhaps with our logo and the website address. It would also help if we had some club literature that we could give away. We might pick up a family like the Mariers, if we had a pamphlet or card to take away.

“Karl, Richard and I flew models at the Stem School recently in front of the 3rd graders one day and the 4th graders the next day. I have received some great feedback from the assistant principal and some teachers who were in attendance.

“If we work this right, I believe we can one day obtain the main gym for another flying site (probably category II), if we ever need it. I have made a good contact in the Marietta High School computer science department. The instructor's son is graduating from the Air Force Academy in June. I think this would be great advertisement for our club and for the sport of Free Flight. We could get a big bang for

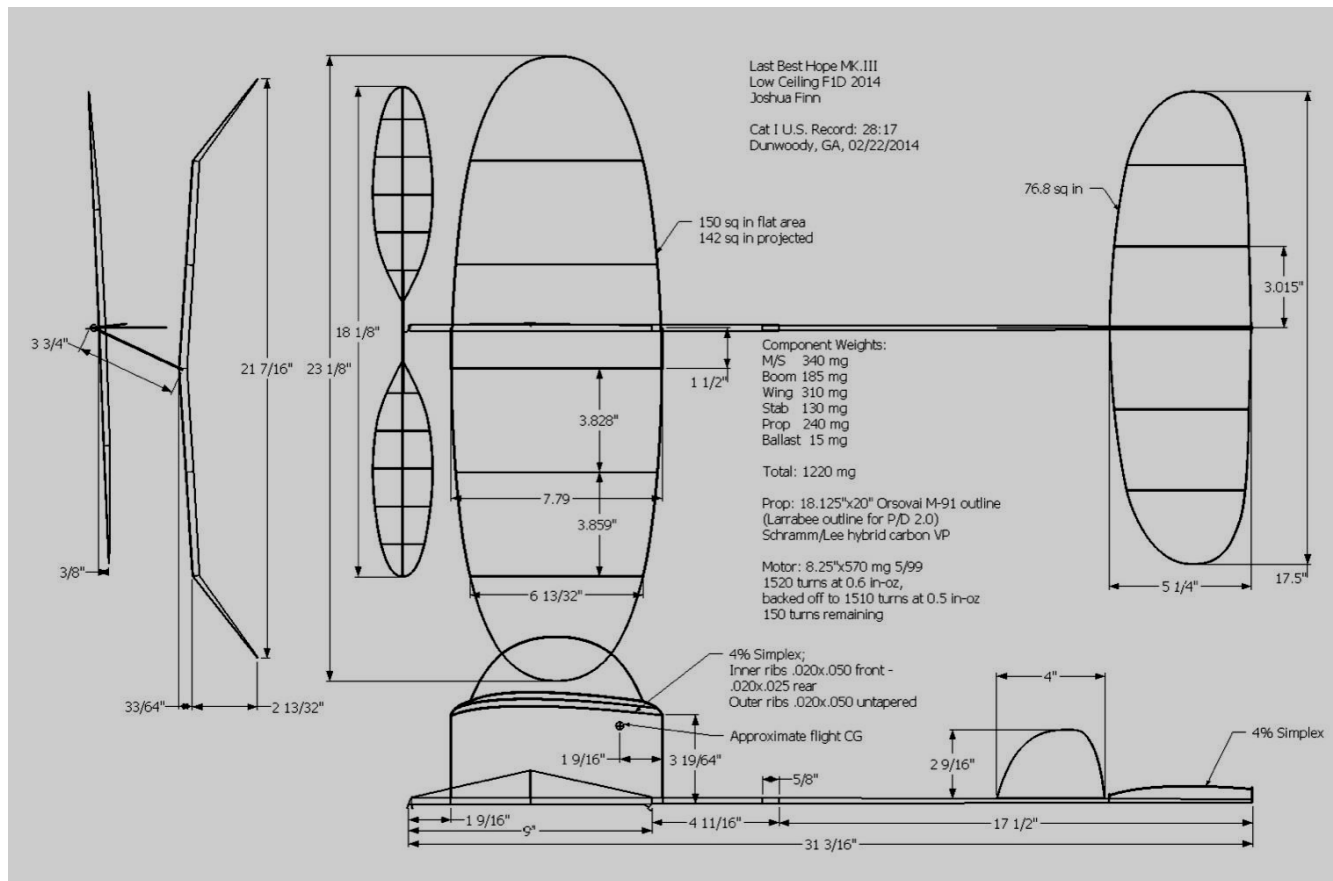
our bucks with only 3 or 4 hours of effort. The school is at 1171 Whitlock Rd. (Dallas Hwy./Hwy. 120) about 2.4 miles west of the Marietta Square. Is anybody up for this? If so, call me.”

THUMBS ON THE MARCH I

Gary Morton and Frank Perkins attended the Winter Coupe contest down in Pensacola and did some damage. Frank scored seconds in Coupe, CLG, HLG and P-30. Gary scored firsts in Commercial Rubber and P-30 and a second in SCat Jet. Well done, sirs.

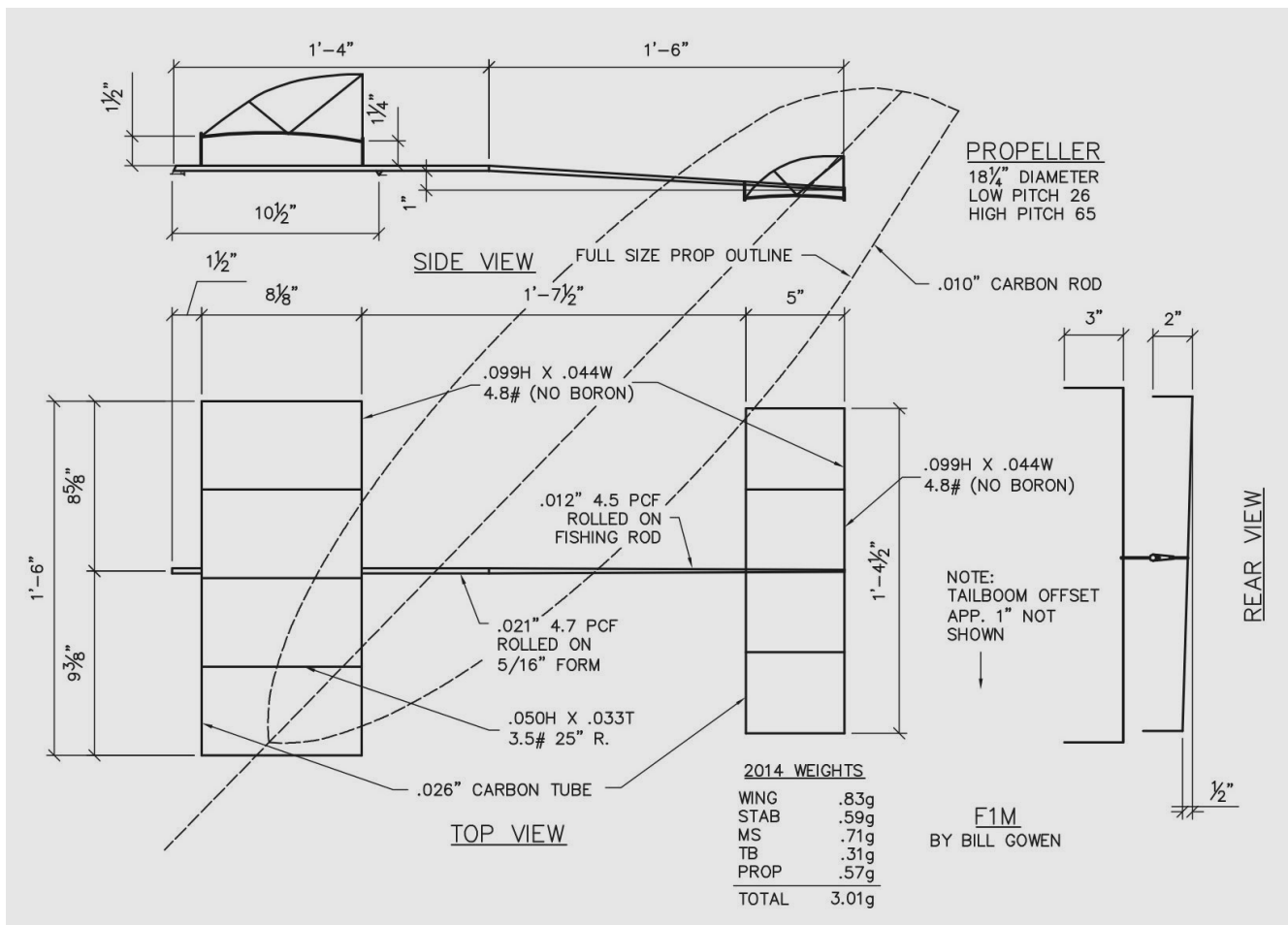
THUMBS ON THE MARCH II

A good group of dedicated Thumbs and national luminaries have been chasing the national, category I F1D and other records at St. Lukes for a few years now. After quite a few “almosts” and “what-ifs” in F1D, Josh Finn finally did it at the February indoor contest with a flight of 28:17. Josh was kind enough to publish the plan in *INAV*, which is shamefully copied below. (BTW, Josh, that’s a great name for the model—happy wife, happy home.) The Grand Hall at St. Lukes is gaining further reputation as a record-killer. The February and March issues of *INAV* have more details and some great photos. (Go to <freeflight.org>, click onto “club newsletters” and look for “*INAV*” at upper left.)



Josh was also able to announce his being hired for an engineering position in Warner Robins. He’s now slogging away at it two hours south of us. Hopefully, he’ll be seeing him and Hope on a more regular basis.

Bill Gowen had a good, couple of months at St. Lukes, too. First he set a new national F1M record in February, and then he reset the record in March, busting it by almost a minute. This plan was also published in *INAV* and is shamefully copied below. Well done, sir.



ANOTHER ELECTRIFYING DEVELOPMENT

The Willamette Model Club (WMC) has been flying an event called E-20 for a couple of years and having a lot of fun. They successfully applied to the powers-that-be for NFFS provisional event status for 2014. Graham Selick had two for Show and Tell at the banquet, and they look like fun and easy-to-build models. The formal set of rules follows, if you're interested. This thing might catch on. Time will tell. Graham Selick has a few built and flown some. Get with him.

E-20 Model Eligibility: Projected wingspan not to exceed 20 in. (monoplane only). No auto-surfaces, except dethermalizer. Minimum weight ready-to-fly is one ounce (28.4 gm.).

Motor Eligibility: Models must use an 8.5 mm diameter coreless electric motor (example: a Parkzone PKZ 3616 motor is commonly used). No gear drives allowed.

Propeller: The propeller is not to exceed 2.7 in. diameter.

Battery: The battery is not to exceed 160 mah, 3.7 volt single-cell Lipo.

Motor Timer: Use of an electronic or mechanical timer is acceptable.

Flights: Three flights of 90 sec. out of unlimited attempts of 20 sec. or more. Motor run is limited to 20 sec. max.

Attempt: Motor timer malfunction (fails to shut off or restarts once stopped) is an attempt. A flight of 20 sec. or less is an attempt; a flight of 20 sec. or less may be used as official, if declared at that time.

Flyoff Flights: If three, 90-second max flights are scored, fly-offs will held with a 10-second motor run and a 2-minute max flight until a winner is declared. At the discretion of the CD, fly-offs may be in a mass launch style before the end of the contest.

DIFFERENT STROKES

The Atlanta chapter of the International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS) is hosting their annual contest and swap meet on May 10 at the Lockheed Union Hall in Marietta. The address is 1032 S. Marietta Pkwy., just a little west of the north entrance to Southern Polytech. Tickets are five dollars and kids under twelve get in for free. Unfortunately, this date conflicts with our May indoor contest. I'll probably catch the IPMS show in the morning and bump the walls and ceiling for a while at St. Lukes in the afternoon. You can see this as a problem or a great opportunity. Me, I prefer the latter.

I go every year and enjoy it immensely. It's really quite a hoot. The swap meet part abounds with books, tools, and other supplies. A ridiculous amount of plastic kits are for sale, many at giveaway prices. There's even the occasional Fee Flight nugget or two, if you prowl the nooks and crannies.

The main attraction is the models on display, of course. The craftsmanship shown across the board is just amazing. These guys are nuts! The time and talent they devote to something that just sits there and looks great is beyond my (and perhaps your) comprehension. Hats off to those so persuaded!

It usually starts mid-morning and lasts until late afternoon. A quick google will get you the exact hours. Bring cash and have some fun. Also, be prepared to proselytize Free Flight while you're mixing and mingling because most of these guys have some knowledge of us. We're known as "stick and tissue" modelers. Fair enough. BTW, they think we're nuts, too. The idea of spending the time and talent we do on our models and then flinging them into the air to suffer whatever slings and arrows come their way is beyond their comprehension. Big planet, room for everybody.

SAME CHURCH, DIFFERENT PEW

As is our custom, the south's model aviation community made their way down to Perry, GA for the Southeast Model Show. As we've come to expect, the four arenas were active and full. I saw very few vacant tables, but the mix was more swap meet than trade show this year than last. The state fairground parking lots looked just a full. Interest in the event shows no sign of slackening. (Fine with me, and kiss my grits, Hershey, PA!)

I ran the NFFS table and had a good time bringing wisdom unto the multitudes. Graham Webster was on-hand and helped throughout the day. As usual, we met a lot of folks and talked shop all day. As always, the demographics and overall content of the show were 99% RC, but that's OK. Free Flight nuggets could be found here and there in the nooks and crannies. I scored a mint Bolton-Paul Defiant kit from Golden Age for ten dollars, American. Sweet.

Rest assured, we had plenty of people dropping by to chat because Free Flight does intrigue a small but solid fraction of the RC community. We sold more NFFS merchandise than last year and handed out a number of old, color digests with the 2-for-1 offer to likely takers. I brought a number of models and put them on display, and they were very effective eyecandy. It always works. You might not appreciate it, but our models are very exotic to the RC good-old-boys. For whatever reason, my Bukin Coupe drew the most attention and comment. I suspect the intricate carbon/Kevlar/ARF aspect is the most familiar to them, an understandable allure. (They're all amazed at how cheap our store-bought FAI models from the Slavic Ubermensch are. Contrast that with how expensive many of us think they are. Go figure. BTW, the former is correct.)

Make plans to attend next year. It's the best place on earth to be if you're a model airplane nut. At ten dollars a day for a ticket, it's a great deal and only two hours away from Atlanta. Be there.

PERSONNEL SOAPBOX

Every year or so, I provide a comment or two on that year's inductees into the NASCAR Hall of Fame. As some of you will recall (and possibly agree), I usually bring a harangue on the deep North Carolina bias of the selection committee. They recently announced the 2014 inductees, and this year is no different. Three of the five are from the Tarheel State. However, they do include two that aren't, and both are heroes of mine.

The first, Tim Flock, was born in Alabama but grew up as an Atlantan by his family's wise, later choice. He was a charter veteran of the rough-and-tumble racing world of the Deep South of the forties and fifties. Growing up, he and his brothers made meager ends meet running moonshine from North Georgia into Atlanta. Like elsewhere in this part of the world, the moonshine runners started organizing races, being rowdy good-old-boys with more energy than sense. The rest is history.

Racing was a family affair to the Flocks, and his brothers and cousins either raced or wrenched. He won thirty-nine NASCAR races and countless hundreds more in the lesser and meaner bullrings of the rural south of the time. He was the real deal. His career with NASCAR went south when he and others attempted to organize his fellow drivers because, then as now, the France family ran NASCAR with a tyrannical, iron fist. The drivers of that era were getting the financial and safety shaft. Bill France, Sr. suspended him, Curtis Turner and others for life in 1961. The hatchet eventually got buried to a degree, and he was reinstated in 1965. Humpy Wheeler saw fit to hire him (and irritate Bill France, Sr. mightily) at the Charlotte Speedway where he worked for over thirty years until retiring. Flock is also known for racing with his pet monkey Jocko in a dozen or more races, but he had to stop because the monkey wouldn't behave in the car. (You see, back then NASCAR drivers were much more interesting!)

The second, Fireball Roberts, was my favorite racer when I was a kid, partly because he had such a cool nickname. He was one of the best of his era and a major fan favorite, but unfortunately, he was also well known for the fiery crash in 1964 at Charlotte Speedway during Memorial Weekend that eventually took his life. A native of Daytona Beach, he was a bit different from the other good-old-boys. He attended college at the University of Florida (very rare for a NASCAR driver even today), liked classical music, collected stamps and played fast-pitch softball and jai-alai as a semi-pro. That's where he earned his nickname, BTW, on the mound not on the track.

Fireball was a complicated guy. While fearless and tough enough to haul fast and dangerous Detroit Iron around a racetrack all day, he was painfully shy and avoided the media. He never was comfortable with the sport's publicity machine. A theory goes he suffered from what we know now as panic attacks. I remember the day of his crash and when his death was announced six weeks later. I was eleven years old, and it made me cry.

A CALL TO ARMS

You'll find below the first installment of the club high point totals to date. It's an honest start of our annual tourney. The outdoor season starts this April 27 at the sod farm. The indoor schedule continues. Be there. The game's afoot.

Gary Baughman 15
Richard Schneider 8
David Mills 8
Nick Ray 6

Karl Hube 6
Bill Gowen 2
Joe Ryan 1

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in early June. Hopefully, we'll have some groovy pictures of the plastic model contest/swap meet, some promo of the June FAC contest and some contest reportage.

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

FEBRUARY INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

On February 22, St. Luke's played host to an exciting day of indoor flying. Two, new national records were set. The category I F1D record was increased by 27 seconds with a time of 28:17 by Joshua Finn. Bill Gowen set a new F1M record of 14:23. No-Cal was the Event of the Day, with three contestants, and Josh took the cash pot. The year is off to a good start, and we are likely to see even more records as the temperatures improve. Nick Ray, CD, reporting.

F1L

Gary Baughman 15:32

Ministick

Nick Ray 4:56

F1M

Bill Gowen 14:23*

Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 244

Joshua Finn 215

F1D

Joshua Finn 54:47*

Nick Ray 52:59

Yuan Kang Lee 52:14

No-Cal Scale

Joshua Finn 453

Richard Schneider 296

Gary Baughman 292

*national record pending

MARCH INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

A pretty good crowd of 8 fliers paid for the privilege of flying at the world's best category I flying on Saturday, Mar. 15. Many models shared the airspace during the day, with Limited Pennyplane being the model-of-the-month. Gary and Karl had a good battle with Gary coming out on top. Other models flown were Karl's helicopter, Gary's Ministick, Nick's F1D, several Hangar Rats, five (!) No-Cals, plus my F1M and LPP.

I spent the first part of the day making motors for LPP and F1M, then flying quarter motor flights in LPP and finally flying my F1M to a new AMA record of 15:21 – which bettered last months flight by almost a minute. Bill Gowen, CD, reporting.

F1D

Nick Ray 27:14, 26:48

Limited Pennyplane

Gary Baughman 6:42, 4:10

Karl Hube 4:18, 4:27

Helicopter

Karl Hube 2:19

Ministick

Gary Baughman 4:52

F1M

Bill Gowen 13:45, 15:21

Hangar Rat

David Mills (best 2 3:50)

Gary Baughman (best 2 3:37)

Richard Schneider (best 2 2:54)

Joe Ryan 1:04

No-Cal Scale

Karl Hube Chambermaid (best 3 5:33)

Richard Schneider XP9 (best 3 5:07)

Gary Baughman F4F (best 3 4:32)

David Mills Lacey M-10 (best 3 3:28)

Gary Baughman Chambermaid (best 3 2:12)

2014 PEACH STATE INDOOR CHAMPS

Attendance was down from last year, but the level of flying was high in the events contested. None of the Smyrna, TN crowd showed, but that left a lot of airspace for those that did. We had a good shootout in No-Cal Scale, and Josh and Nick had some fun chasing the national category I record in F1D. Nick was very close once, but a steering error nixed it. A pity, something north of 29:00 was looking like a real possibility. Also, Josh is probably the only man in the history of mankind to be beaten in *Phantom Flash* by his wife. Well done, Hope!

A bit of excitement ensued when I debuted three, one-pound boxes of 1999 Tan II (Feb., March, and July) from the Frank Hodson estate. Nick did a few quick tests, and the July box was exceptional and the Feb. box slightly less so. (A fat check to Thelma was soon put in the mail.)

We have an excellent flying site at St. Lukes that is underutilized by club members, frankly. And we may be on the verge of having more opportunities "behind closed doors". Nick has an on-going relationship with the Howard School on Atlanta's Westside, and Gary is neck-deep with Marietta High School. Both of these have clean, category II indoor sites. Stay tuned. (And get off your backsides.)

F1D

Josh Finn 53:13
Nick Ray 53:11

Bostonian
Gary Baughman 2:31

No-Cal Scale

Josh Finn Cassutt Racer 7:19
Gary Baughman Wildcat 7:03
David Mills Lacey M-10 4:44

Ministick
Josh Finn 8:17
Nick Ray 7:09

Hangar Rat

David Mills 5:12

Dime Scale
Josh Finn SE5A 1:40
Gary Baughman Cessna C-34 0:25

Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 291
Josh Finn 230

Peanut Scale
Josh Finn Owl Racer Pogo 87 pts.

2014 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ AMA # _____

Address _____

State and Zip Code _____

Other Family Members and AMA # _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

\$25.00/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 Lane/ Alpharetta, GA 30004/770-886-0104.

Frank Hodson Estate Sale

