



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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Sept.-Oct., 2014

HEADS UP

Welcome to the September issue. Herein you'll find a wealth of contest coverage because we've had a busy summer at the N GA Turf Farm and the cozy confines of St. Luke's Grand Hall. And we're not done yet. We've still the remainder of the indoor schedule and the October outdoor meet and Gary's annual Turkey Shoot. Be there or we'll feel sorry for you. (Be sure to check at Gary's flyer, which follows.)

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

THUMBS IN SERVICE

Young Robert Marier has stepped up to serve as Chairman of the Model of the Year Committee for the 2015 NFFS Symposium. We're all sure he'll do a fine job. No doubt, many of life's most important lessons will be learned. Like, people can be both magnanimous and petty, and committees are both great vehicles to get real work done and dreadful black holes for your time and effort. *Bon chance, mon ami.*

THUMBS IN PRINT

Hope Finn got her photo and a little text devoted to her by Josh in the September issue of *Model Aviation*. The blurb evens uses his father's Beechcraft Bonanza as a backdrop. Well done, newlyweds! (While you've the September issue in your clutches, you need to carefully read and digest the prominent coverage of the latest confusing and dangerous goings-on by the FAA. Scary stuff, if you ask me. Send those bureaucrats your comments as directed. Else, we may have to water the Tree of Liberty with the blood of patriots and tyrants.)

THUMBS IN PRINT II

The fall issue of *Free Flight Quarterly* features two fine articles by contributors Josh Finn and your trusty editor. Both articles provide informative text and tasty graphics. In Josh's case, he discusses the development path of his Embryo efforts. In your editor's case, he closes out his treatise on the Jimmie Allen models with part three of the series. Both are worth a close read and download if you're getting it digitally.

THUMBS IN PRINT III

The July issue of *Free Flight* has a ton of coverage on our club's comings and goings. Bill Gowen's Limited Pennyplane, *Copper Penny*, got some serious attention with a lovely plan by Bill, some excellent photos, and lengthy text by Bill. It's a wonderful article, befitting a model that's won Limited Pennyplane at the USIC Nats for the last three years in a row. Actually, its fame precedes this a tad by scoring second in the previous two years. Well done, Bill!

Elsewhere in the issue, a multitude of Thumbs are presented in contest coverage and photos from the USOC Muncie Nats and the USIC Kibbie Dome Nats. Not too surprising, the issue discusses great models and competitors. (No Thumbs were shown in the issue's FAC Nats coverage, mainly because none of us went. And so, it was.)

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

A number of Thumbs made it to the Labor Day Contest on the Lakehurst, NJ blimp hangar, and Karl Hube provides the following report:

“Our indoor guys have done it again! Look at the following scores from the Lakehurst Labor Day competition. At first glance there are so many local names that it looks like a day at St Luke's. Bill and Nick picked up two first places each, and Bill got another national record (F1M) in the process. Our friends, the Finns and Kang Lee, did well, too.

“Maybe it's time for you to try some indoor? Winter is coming and indoor action at St Luke's comes up every month. We have some of the best flyers in the world here, and they are all very generous with advice and suggestions based on many years of experience—a great resource. Again, well done !

F1D 1.2g

Kang Lee 35:35

Hand Launch Stick

Tony D'Allessandro: 32:43

Nick Ray: 35:44

F1D 1.4g

Josh Finn 22:28, 21:15

Brett Sanborn 30:25, 28:34, 28:07

John Kagan 27:36, 22:10

Leo Pilachowski 21:01, 21:00

F1L

Hope Finn 14:32

Leo Pilachowski 23:01

Limited Pennyplane

Max Zaluska 16:32

Bill Gowen 17:58

Ministick

Josh Finn: 11:00

Nick Ray 13:42

F1M

Bill Gowen **22:05 (AMA Cat 4 record)**

THUMBS NOT ON THE MARCH

For the first time in recent memory, no Thumbs made it to the FAC Nats in Geneseo. Whatever, they looked like they had a good time anyway. The latest issue of *FAC News* has all the coverage. Delving into the details is worth the effort and brings forth a few profound observations. First, the workmanship of these models can't be matched anywhere, in this writer's view. Second, the level of actual flying is quite high, and it takes a max-out or very near it to win the most popular categories. (This is particularly impressive because the winners typically built models for the bonus points, and the more *tres outré*, the better. Biplanes, multi-engines, canards, floats, you name it.) And finally, what's the deal with all the silly hats and *faux* air combat gear? You can tell the contest wasn't held down our way. People would die from heat exhaustion wearing that crap. (Not that I'm bearing judgmental or anything).

THUMBS ON DISPLAY

As most of you know, the Powers-That-Be have blessed/cursed me to be the go-to guy to find places for your stuff after you've slipped the surly bonds. Probably done, the work scatters all your beloved belongings, some to places you'd not expect. Such was the case when I delivered Sandy Down's 1996 Nats-winning Moffett and a nice chunk of Frank Hodson's magazine collection to the AMA Museum. About the former, the model is a real beauty and could be flown today, such was Sandy's loving care over the years. Of the latter, such was the immensity of Frank's collection of books and magazines that

we found 166 magazines and 20-odd books the AMA archives didn't have in their huge archives. (Think about that for a second!)

Our late friend Frank reset the bar on free flight man caves, or at least he did for me. (But, I'll offer the following qualifier: the late Linwood Cochran's was equally impressive, but he was running a cottage business and merits an exception, in my view.) One day Thelma Hodson said, "Frank was such a packrat!" My ready response was, "Thelma, Frank was a magnificent packrat, and don't forget it!" We both chuckled a bit and then went on about our business there that day.

BTW, the work is about done. The only items left from Frank's modeling estate is the Bert Pond compressed-air motor and the imposing bulk of his CO2 motors and related paraphernalia. In a month or two, these will be gone, too, I hope. I think we've done OK so far. Thelma is several thousand dollars richer, and all of us have a lot more cool stuff. Given the circumstances, I think this is the best we could've hoped for.

The Big Lesson learned: don't wait until the very end to sell off your crap. Do your family and friends a favor and start as early as makes sense. To Frank's credit, he had already started, but events overtook him. Timing is everything in life.

THUMBS ON THE WEB

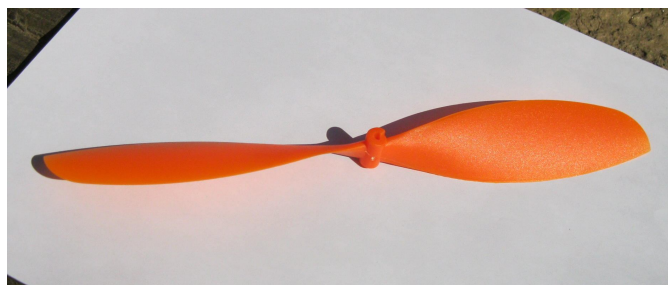
Dohrman Crawford was lucky enough to get a great photo of his own baddself and the impressive visage of his Jabberwock from the Nats on the NFFS homepage. It's a great action shot of him launching his model from the table in competition in OT Rubber Cabin. (Your editor will take credit for clicking the shutter.) It's a great shot, so check it out <freeflight.org>.

WORKERS ON THE WORLD, UNITE!

The Free Flight press is all a-twitter over the new line of plastic propellers from the Chi-coms. Well, this writer finally got his hands on some at the Nats, and they live up to their advance billing. This line of props may be a game-changer. Shorty's Basement had them for sale in various sizes at two bucks each, and I inspected all. Our long-rendered prayers for a better plastic prop have been answered. A photo of the P-30 item follows.

A technical study for the next *Free Flight Quarterly* is underway, as I peck. There's no mystery as to if these are better than the Peck or Czech types, just how much better. One guy I talked to at the Nats did a quick and dirty pitch study of the new commie props and pegged the P/D ratio at 1/2 radius at 1:1.2. That looks about right, a little fatter near the hub and less at the tips. The planform speaks for itself. They're a little heavy than the Peck, 7.5 gm. rather than 6.5 gm. and about the same as the Czech.

I'm gung-ho about sticking them onto as many models as possible. My new P-30 will be the first. Barfield found a website selling five for seven dollars, American, and both of us went deep on that one. I suggest you jump hard, too. No telling how long the Chi-coms will be cranking them out. They're not known for long production runs on specialty items.

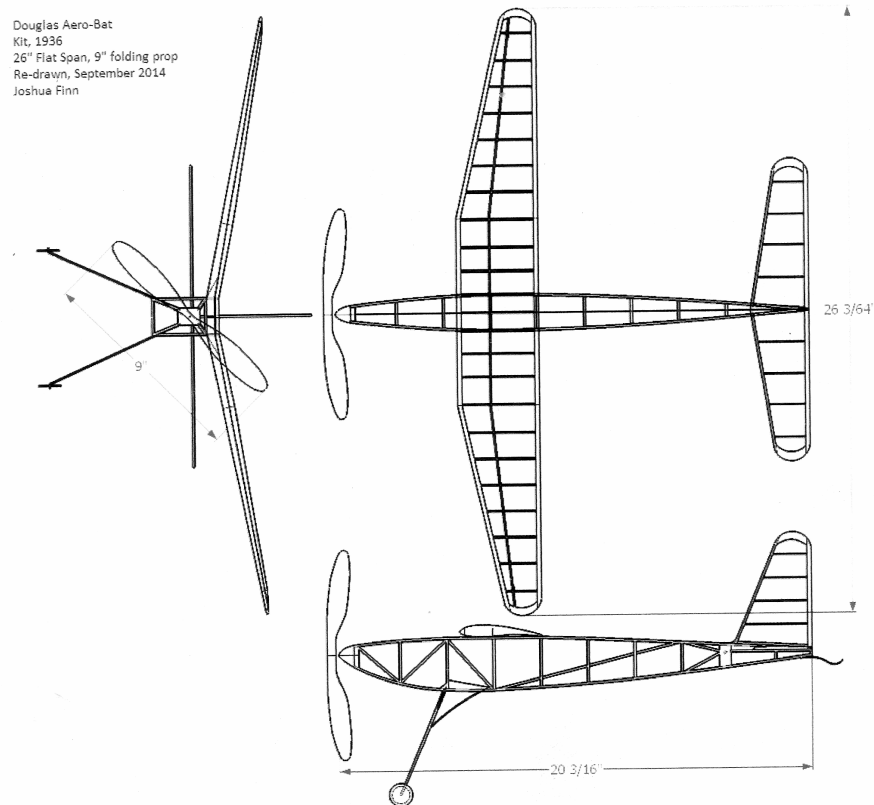


THIS JUST IN

At the recent FAC contest Josh Finn handed your trusty editor the following drawing for a candidate for the Two Bit Plus One event. The *Douglas Aero-Bat* looks like a flyer to me and might do well

against its peer in the category, many of whom suffer from a malady or two. It certainly could be built lighter than my Lidgard *Foo* or Jimmie Allen *Skokie*. How well it matches up against the *FA Moth* is another story. The areas and moment look right, as does the prop diameter, airfoils, and wing dihedral. The wing tips look way too narrow of chord, but nobody knows what airfoils are doing as these chords, anyhow.

Who'll be the first to build one? Get with Josh about a full-size plan or kit sourcing.



SOME USEFUL FOOTWORK FROM KARL

At the last outdoor meeting, there was considerable concern expressed about several of our vendors. Karl offers the following survey. If you have a favored supplier, let him know and he'll pass the information around.

“**A2Z** in Colorado has dropped their model products to concentrate on the machine tool side of the business. Not sure what this means for the supply of Peck products.

“There were reports of uneven response from **Lee Campbell**. . . .slow service, shipping errors, etc. Any feedback on this matter will be useful to others in the club. (I understand there are health issues involved.—DM)

“**FAI Supply** is a bit of a mystery. I have not gotten any response to my e-mails, although I believe Charlie Jones is operating and shipping rubber to both retail and wholesale customers.

“Mike Woodhouse's **Free Flight Supply** in Norwich, England. Jim Altenbern and I ordered an assortment of goods from Mike Woodhouse in the UK with remarkable results. Mike delivered as quickly (or maybe quicker) as our domestic suppliers. Postage is 20% of the price of the goods, but that is not much above what domestic guys charge. By the way, I found Mike sells a lot more Mylar for the money than the USA guys do.

“**Shorty's Basement** (aka Volare Products) has a good web site and a useful selection of props and accessories. Some props are not available right now because of the Peck supply chain being apparently

broken by A2Z. Monitor your plastic prop needs carefully. Note that Shorty's has the new Chinese P-30 prop available. (I've met the guy that runs it, Bredehoft. First rate person.—DM)

“National Balsa. I have been going to these folks for balsa and spruce stock with good results.

“If you want some higher density, tough balsa for some outdoor applications, head to our local craft and hobby shops like **Michael's** and **Hobby Town** and rummage in their bins of stock. (Better yet, call your humble editor and take some off his hands. For free!)

“I am placing an order with **McMaster-Carr** out in Mableton for small machine screws, spring-making wire and a few other miscellaneous items. A report will follow later.”

THE RULES, THEY ARE A'CHANGING

The AMA Indoor and Outdoor Contest Boards have completed their review of and votes upon all proposed rules changes for this cycle and announced the results, all effective January 1, 2015. Some are reasonable housecleaning measures that make sense to all, and some are controversial to large chunks of the membership. We'll leave a full discussion to the next issue, but very briefly, the highlights follow.

A number of vague or inconsistent items were corrected in various event rules. The Builder-of-the-Model (BOM) rules were thrown out for all the AMA outdoor duration events. And the sun rose the next day like nothing had happened.

A number of indoor events had detail changes made in a few events. A major change was made to A-6, whereby plastic coverings will be allowed.

The provisional status of NFFS's set of Electric Nostalgia events, or E-Nos, was extended into 2015. Again, the subcommittee felt it needed another to clarify the rules further and to legitimize any official status. Only one change was made, whereby fliers will have a choice of using either fixed or folding propellers. All the other boilerplate remains in effect.

MAKING A LIST, CHECKING IT THRICE

Here's where we stand in TTOMA's High Point Tourney, including up to September's results. Note we've still the remaining indoor contests and the September 30 outdoor contest to make your mark. The games still a-foot.

Josh Finn 53
David Mills 36
Karl Hube 34
Gary Baughman 29
Hope Finn 22
Gary Morton 20
Jim Altenbern 19
Frank Perkins 19

Richard Schneider 14
Dohrman Crawford 14
David Barfield 11
Nick Ray 9
Joe Ryan 6
Bill Gowen 4
Bob Thoren 4

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in late January. Hopefully, we'll have the details of the annual banquet in January. Also, we'll report on the October and November contests. Look for the first membership nag of the new year!

Once again, I'll beseech the multitudes for contributions in the way of articles, photos, plans, rants or raves. Don't make me work too hard. Ciao, y'all!

June Indoor Contest Report

We had a low turnout, partly because Bill and Nick were at the USIC. Overall, we posted not half bad scores. Hope was getting it together in F1L, but got tired after her many exploits with other classes and called it a day. She earned it with a nice increase in the state Phantom Flash record. I made a lot of F1D test flights and finally made two full-motor flights and concluded that my record prop needs reworking. The spring has been deformed. We ran out of time to get the other props tuned enough for record level performance, though it was definitely becoming a possibility.

Folks need to come and enjoy the fantastic conditions. Note my score in F1D would've won any category I contest in the country—not anymore! The air was really smooth late in the day. Seeing Frank Hodson's old planes flying was a nice touch. Here are the scores. Josh Finn, reporting.

F1D

Joshua Finn 25:12+26:56=52:08

Phantom Flash Mass Launch

Hope Finn

Joshua Finn

Richard Schneider

F1L

Joshua Finn 10:56

Hope Finn 7:43

Phantom Flash-total of 3

Hope Finn 5:39 (new state record!)

Joshua Finn 4:24

Richard Schneider 0:33

Peanut Scale

Richard Schneider *Nesmith Cougar* 38

Joshua Finn *Pogo* 31

No Cal Scale-total of 3

Richard Schneider *XP9* 5:19

Embryo

Joshua Finn *Maxout IX* 3:03

Peach State Champs July 13, 2014

Whit Russell, reporting

<u>Events:</u>	<u>Contestants</u>	<u>Model Name</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Total Time</u>
Blue Ridge Special	D. Crawford	<i>B.R. Special</i>	7, 53, 91	211
	Jim Altenbern	<i>B.R. Special</i>	59, 54, 61	174
British Lightweight	David Mills	<i>Senator</i>	115, 120, 88	328
	D. Crawford	<i>Pirate</i>	43, 69	112
P-30	Frank Perkins	<i>e-Pirate</i>	120, 120, 120	360
CLG	D. Crawford	<i>Sidewinder</i>	48, 59, 97 , 105 , 44, 120	322
	Jim Altenbern	<i>Bo Weevil</i>	49 , 73 , 43, 120	242
	Frank Perkins	<i>Sidewinder</i>	45, 61 , 35, 49 , 83 , 32	193
	Bob Thoren	<i>Shrodinger's Cat</i>	29 , 23, 40 , 24, 38 , 27	107
Coupe/F1G	David Mills	<i>Coupe de Brie</i>	120, 120, 120	360
Embryo	Gary Morton	<i>Nit</i>	21, 43, 24	88

Jimmy Allen	David Mills	<i>Skokie</i>	81,99,46	226
	David Barfield	<i>Sky Chief</i>	51, 49	100
Earl Stahl	David Barfield	<i>Skyfarer</i>	70,69	139
SCat Jet	Gary Morton	<i>Vickers Valiant</i>	10, 19, 19	48
Small Rubber Cabin	Jim Altenbern	<i>Miss Canada Sr.</i>	120, 120, 95	335
Small Rubber Stick	David Barfield	<i>Gollywock</i>	44, 83	127

July Indoor Contest Report

A small but enthusiastic crowd of six fliers flew at St. Lukes on Saturday, July 19. Official flights were made in F1D, LPP, F1L, Ministick, No-Cal Scale and Phantom Flash. Bill Gowen, reporting. Here are the complete scores:

F1D

Joshua Finn 25:12

Limited Pennyplane

Karl Hube 5:28

No-Cal Scale-total of 3

Joshua Finn *Cassutt Racer* 8.04

Karl Hube *Chambermaid* 7:19

Richard Schneider *XP9* 5:10

Ministick

Joshua Finn 9:19

F1L

Joshua Finn 12:39

Hope Finn 11:33

Phantom Flash-total of 3

Hope Finn 4:23

August Indoor Contest Report

The August contest at St. Lukes featured a special mystery guest. Reigning F1D World Champion Kang Lee paid the Thermal Thumbers a visit. He flew his F1Ds to within 23 seconds of the Cat I national record and would have likely broken the record if not for a 10 ft. slide down the wall of the slot.

Overall, we had a decent turnout. The numbers of official flights were somewhat lower than normal due to the majority of the participants practicing for the upcoming Labor Day contest in Lakehurst NJ. Stay tuned to see how the TTOMA members fair at Hanger I in two weeks. Nick Ray, reporting.

F1D

Kang Lee 27:54+25:20= 53:19

Nick Ray 25:54+0= 25:54

Limited Pennyplane

Karl Hube 5:53

F1L

Joshua Finn 14:20

Hope Finn 11:51

Mini Stick

Nick Ray 7:27

F1M

Bill Gowen 15:06

F1D 1.4g

Joshua Finn 19:05+19:27=38:33

No-Cal Scale

Karl Hube *Chambermaid* 2:08+2:23+2:29=7:00



August Outdoor Contest Results

Seven contestants flew in what started out as nearly ideal conditions in the morning, but turned windy in the early afternoon and finished with rain of biblical proportions. Our exit from the field looked more like the rout of the Napoleon's troops from Waterloo.

Joe Ryan offered up his good flying P-30 to the "Gods of Big Thermals and Wayward Airplanes". Fortunately, it was on his third flight, and he finished right behind Karl the "Bald Eagle" Hube and Frank "Electronic Man" Perkins. Both of whom maxed out and then decided to let it go in the books as a tie rather than risk life, limb and airplanes for a fly-off. Good choice, guys. The results, such as they are, follow. (Please note: the above scores are all that were turned into me at or by day's end. If you don't see your score reflected here, the erstwhile CD accepts no responsibility for it not being herein recorded.)

P-30

Karl Hube *Scorpion* 360
 Frank Perkins *e-Pirate* 360
 Joe Ryan *Sparrow Hawk* 235
 David Mills *Hammer Head* 149

CLG

Frank Perkins *Sidewinder* 132
 Bob Thoren *Schrodinger's Cat* 103
 Karl Hube *Moon Shot* 46

Earl Stahl

David Barfield *Sky Chief* 30

Commercial Rubber

Jim Altenbern *Miss Canada Sr.* 187

British Lightweight

Bob Thoren *Tiercel* 1

SCat Jet

Gary Morton *Canberra* 73

HLG

Jim Altenbern *Meerkat 29*

September (Fall) FAC Meet

Well, once again the weather proved the weatherman wrong! After dire warnings about strong winds and maybe rain in the afternoon, the weather did an about face and actually got better in the afternoon. We had five flyers, who filed a lot of official flights, and in the end, five Kanones were awarded. Everyone had a great time and some great times were recorded especially by Hope Finn in Phantom Flash and Old Time Rubber Fuselage. Glue some sticks together for FAC models and join us next year. Now here are the scores. Jim Altenbern, CD, reporting.

Embryo

Joshua Finn *Supermax II* 326

Karl Hube *Voodoo* 265

Gary Morton *Prairie Bird* 264

Hope Finn *Eaglet* 109

Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 340

Joshua Finn 61

David Mills 11

Gary Morton 6

Dime Scale

Joshua Finn *Bristol Brownie* 161

David Mills *Cessna Airmaster* 155

Gary Morton *Waterman Racer* 24

No-Cal Scale

Joshua Finn *Cassett Racer* 419

Gary Morton *Extra 400* 208

Hope Finn *P-47* 52

Old Time Rubber Fuselage

Hope Finn *Pacific Ace* 317

Joshua Finn *Korda Conqueror* 182

Scale Catapult Jet

Gary Morton *Valiant* 76.5

Joshua Finn *Canberra* 75.0

Karl Hube *Hawker Hunter* 64.5

Summer Swan Song Contest Report

The weather report wasn't promising for Sunday, and that might explain the low turnout. If so, that'd be a pity because the conditions were very flyable all day. Although overcast and cool, the winds were never a concern and were blowing out of the east, the long way of the field. Temps never got beyond the mid-seventies. Karl, Frank and Jim flew all day and I officiated. Watching Karl "Short Pants" Hube tow up an A-1 made me want to fly my *Super Talon*. Maybe I will next time. The results follow.

Commercial Rubber

Jim Altenbern *Miss Canada Sr.* 204

P-30

Karl Hube *Scorpion* 360

Frank Perkins *e-Pirate* 326

Catapult Glider

Frank Perkins *Sidewinder* 235

Karl Hube *Moon Shot* 101

Classic Tow

Karl Hube *Moon Shadow* 228

Fifth Annual TTOMA Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot

9 AM to 4 PM **EST**, November 2, 2014
North Georgia Turf Farm Field, Whitesburg, GA

Last chance to fly outdoors in 2014! The entire flying day will be spectacular and the events will be a hoot. Ask the guys who have been there before. Load up, bring Mama along, have fun, win some prizes.

Build, Beg, Borrow or Lease a model from your OFB and fly for a cash prize.
No excuses. Make one official flight...be eligible for end of day drawing!
Multiple event winners OK. No Fly-No Win!

ALL EVENTS (except Target Time) are MASS LAUNCH

All Day: The Famous Target-Time Event.

10 AM: Any TTOMA Past Model of the Year (MOY)

11 AM: Embryo (Hand Launch)

Noon: Any AMA model, Cat 3 rules, first MAX wins!

1 PM: Scale Combat, any FAC Scale Model

1:45 PM: P-30 AMA rules, 10gm max rubber

2:30PM: Catapult Glider Tournament (D'bl Elim)

3:00PM Blue Ridge Special

3:30PM Awards Ceremony

\$25 Publix Gift Certificates will be awarded to winner of each event. Use the gift for purchasing your Thanksgiving Turkey or Pumpkin Pie at Publix.

Contest Director: Gary Baughman, gjbman@bellsouth.net 770-422-8489

*Events and/or rules may be amended to fit weather conditions or whims of the CD.

*Any modeler with gripes, arguments or pithy excuses will be referred to "*Sadie*" my short-tempered Yorkie or "*Gabriella*," my frosty-nosed Weiner dog. Believe me, you don't want a Cold Nose or an "Achilles Nip" from either of these canines!

Campbell's Custom Kits is a commercial friend of
TTOMA

campbellcustomkits.com

August Meeting Minutes

The August 17 meeting of TTOMA took place at the North Georgia Turf Farm. Eight members were present when President David Barfield called the meeting to order.

Treasurers Report

Karl Hube reported that the club treasury has a current balance of \$X,XXX.XX. There have been no expenses since the last report, and the income has been from dues (\$22.00) and both indoor and outdoor entry fees (\$360.00) for the period since May 1, 2014. There are no outstanding debts. David Mills made a motion to accept the report as presented and Jim Altenbern gave a second. Members made a unanimous vote to accept.

Old Business

David Mills reported that the Frank Hodson estate sale is complete, although some magazines are still available which David will detail later. Frank Perkins told us that some new photographs had been added to the TTOMA Facebook page for your viewing pleasure!

New Business

Jim Altenbern asked everyone to be aware of the two-day contest in September with a view toward trying to develop a two-day all FAC format in the future. Our field is ideal for the generally small FAC models with a reasonable expectation of keeping a two-minute flight on the field under most conditions. Karl reminded everyone about the two-day, November 8-9 contest in Raeford, North Carolina which features a heavy schedule of FAC events, plus a few AMA and NFFS events packed into Saturday, November 8.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm. Respectfully submitted, by Karl Hube, secretary.

September Meeting Minutes

No regular meeting was held on this date (September 28, 2014) because only three contestants were present. However, when everyone gathered for a lunch break, a useful conversation took place. Frank Perkins suggested more communication with his previous club, the Texas Cloud Climbers, as one means of increasing interest in our FAC program. Frank said that the folks in Texas were very much inclined to travel great distances to compete, so they may be a help to TTOMA. This idea may have increased merit given the closing of the Pensacola field for the foreseeable future.

Karl Hube reported the treasury status as being healthy at \$X,XXX.XX with no outstanding debts. It's time to consider how we select special events for next year. Give some thought to the idea of our Model of The Year and/or any other fresh thoughts.

Officer selection for 2015 will soon be at hand, so get ready to throw your hat in the ring to help move us forward. A huge issue is that our membership is ageing out of the hobby. Fully fifty percent of our members are from outside the State of Georgia which shows how thinly we are scattered. We have so many model choices to fly which are low budget, yet give a huge return for the cost an effort. Think Blue Ridge Special, Phantom Flash, Embryo, P-30, etc.....