

The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta

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AMA Charter # 1834
 FLYING ACES club
 SAM
 NFFS

May-June, 2014

HEADS UP

Welcome to the May issue. It's a little briefer than usual but still carries a lot of good information. We've been busy at St. Lukes and the sod farm, and those contest reports follow. Also, there're updates on a number of items, so catch up and stay current. Blurbs follow on upcoming contests, first and foremost, the FAC-only contest on June 21. Glue some sticks together and show up somewhere!

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

RENEWAL NAG

This'll be the last time you'll get a plea to renew your membership from your trusty editor. You know if you've renewed or not. If you're not sure, Karl "Karats" Hube would be happy to tell you. A membership form follows. Send Karl that check!

FAIR WARNING

Now that the badgering for membership renewals is drawing to a close, it's time to start the shellacking about your not belonging to the National Free Flight Society (NFFS). Prior to the emailing of the next newsletter (presumably right before the Free Flight Nats), I'll be mailing all of the membership who aren't NFFS members a complimentary, digital issue of "Free Flight". After that, let the guilt ensue, and the nagging begin anew. For those wishing to nip this in the bud, a NFFS membership form follows. Note the one-half-off offer for new members and those fallen from grace.

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO BE AND PEOPLE TO SEE

The upcoming contests are listed below. You can't say there aren't opportunities to get out of the house and take your mind off things. It's the most fun you can have with your clothes on.

- June 21 June FAC, Outdoor, Sod Farm, Karl Hube CD
- June 22 June Bug Jamboree, Outdoor, Sod Farm, David Barfield CD
- June 26-30 AMA Indoor FF Nats, Moscow, ID
- 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 Outdoor 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

A CALL TO ARMS

We've two FAC-only contests on Saturdays this summer, June 21 and September 27. They were a hoot last year, and we had some decent participation in most of the offered categories. However, in several events we were short the necessary fliers to earn *kanones* for the victors. This is a PITA because a number of us are just a smidge short of promotions or the coveted Blue Max. Ergo, let's all make a special effort to attend and fly. We've little in the way of excuses. Our flying field is ideal for scale flying. And if you don't enjoy flying scale model airplanes, well, go have a long talk with yourself.

Please find below the list of events we're flying. Note the changes made from the previous edition of this newsletter a few days ago. My bad, I should've checked with CD Karl first. I'll take a pay cut.

Embryo	Two Bit + 1
SCat Jet	FAC Old Time Rubber Fuselage
No-Cal Scale	FAC Old time rubber Stick
Peanut Scale	Simplified Scale
Rubber Scale	Phantom Flash
Dime Scale	Mass Launches: Racer @11 am, WW II @1 pm
Jimmie Allen	

THUMBS AT THE READY

Speaking of scale flying, the latest issue of the "Flying Aces News" is out, and it carries the current Kanones List. Of the many Thumbs listed, Air Marshall Easy Dave Niedzielski leads the pack with 74. Major, and General Dean McGinnis follows with 30. Next up is recently promoted Colonel Gary Morton with 23, followed by Lt. Colonel John Barker with 18. Major David Barfield and the recently promoted Major David Mills both come to post with 13. Captains Dohrman Crawford (9), Gary Baughman (6) and Karl Hube (6) are next. Several Lieutenants complete the list: Brook Dixon, Sr. (3), Jim Jennings (3), Ed Hardin (2), Al Pardue (2), the late Don Peacock (2), Jim Altenbern (1), Richard Schneider (1) and Barry Sholder (1).

A few errors were made. They left off the late Frank Hodson (1) and listed Jim Altenbern twice (1). The late Oscar Smith (21) is missing from the Blue Max Memorial List. I sent a list of corrections to FAC HQ, and they responded quickly with either remedies or explanations. Oscar will be added to the Memorial List. Jim will be listed only once on the next one. They informed me of the rule dealing with deceased members who haven't earned Blue Maxes; they're dropped from the active list. Ergo, Frank will remain off and Don Peacock will be dropped. (This last rule is a little screwy, but what do I know?)

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

Gary Morton and Frank Perkins made the trek to the Fiesta of Five Flags down in Pensacola and did a little damage. The weather was funky at times and discouraged a few, but the hardier types had a good time. Frank won firsts in P-30 and HLG, and Gary won FAC Two-Bit +1.

THUMBS IN SERVICE

Gary Baughman has been working with the science/technology people at Marietta HS for a while. One Sunday afternoon in May the school hosted Science Expo at their two gyms. Gary, Dohrman Crawford, Nick Ray and your editor showed up and waved the Free Flight flag.

The Expo was a very impressive affair. Several dozen groups set up booths in the largest of their two gyms, like members of the military (they brought guns!), a police forensics team, Polytech's racing team, Kennesaw State and GA Tech, and all kinds of professional associations and hobby groups. TTOMA had the other gym to fly models. It was a large space and a little catchy up top but plenty OK.

We had to share the space at intervals with a RC rotary-hover group, but that was no big deal. They never did turn off the AC, but the air was calm enough for the heavier stuff. We still had a good time.

We enjoyed a steady stream of interested kids and parents, and we were prepared. We had all kinds of models on display and flew No-Cals, Hangar Rats and old Pennyplanes all day. I had my laptop out playing a steady loop of some of the F1D flying at St. Lukes in March to a steady group of stunned passersby. As we've come to expect, the crowds didn't know a darn thing about Free Flight—they didn't even suspect it. We had many of them jot down their email addresses, and we sent them some info. Little may come of it, but you never know. Pix follow. It was amazing just how befuddled the public is at the sight of an indoor Free Flight model circling overhead. BTW, we agreed that the Hangar Rat was the perfect indoor Free Flight demonstration vehicle.



THUMBS AT POINT OF PURCHASE

We had two estate sales at the Hodson residence, and we've been able to put about 2,600 dollars, American, in Thelma's hands. We managed to haul off a lot of our departed OFB Frank's Free Flight man cave, but we've only made a dent, such is the magnitude of his collections. (There's still a lot left if you're interested. Engines, tools, kits, supplies, or whatever. Contact me, if so)

The next step will be to have another sale under GAMA auspices. Josh Finn has made a lot of contacts with those guys since moving to Warner Robins. This installment should bring in a lot of RC guys from middle and south Georgia because GAMA is very organized and know how to draw a crowd. Stay tuned for the time and place. I'm **guessing** it'll be sometime in July.

WHAT A RELIEF

Like many of us, I've started building some scale models. Also like many of us, I've jumped into it with the blessings and baggage of many decades of flying rubber duration models. Some of this transfer has been good, and some bad or useless. Such was the case with my simple finishing of the tissue-covered flying surfaces with two or three light coats of nitrate and thinner. I've always counted on the tautening of the nitrate as a necessary structural aid.

Such is not the case with the frailer tail feathers of scale models, it turns out. Warping of the stab and fin of duration models wasn't usually a big problem because the steam kettle or heat gun was a quick and ready fix. However, my spanking-new *Mr. Smoothie* (from the excellent Easy Built laser kit and highly recommended) broke the bank on stab warps. It looked fine when I boxed it for the winter, but then I took it out after spring poked out its eager head. The razor-straight stab of the first freeze was a flagrant corkscrew warp with the blooming of the dogwoods. Repeated ministrations with the steam kettle and heat gun were to no avail. I soon wished I'd added a bucket of plasticizer to my usual nitrate/thinner cocktail.

While attempting to scrub away some of the nasty oil/pollen matrix on the hood of my ancient Volvo, a solution worth trying came to me. Why not put an ounce or two of thinner into a cup, add a drop or two of castor oil and then work some of it into the dried nitrate on the stab with a soft brush? A test was soon tried. It was interesting how easily the nitrate dissolved and was quite happy to be swirled around the stab's surface. I monkeyed with it as it dried and then set it aside. A few days later, half of the corkscrew warp was gone, but again, the steam kettle did no lasting good on the remainder. I repeated the thinner/castor oil swirl, and only a tad of the original warp remained after a few days, and again, the steam kettle did no lasting good. I repeated the thinner/castor oil swirl again, and long story short, the stab was flat with only a small warp at one tip. This time a little steam proved a lasting solution. Problem finally solved.

Live and learn: perhaps I'll add a drop or two of castor oil to the nitrate for all of my scale stab and fins. Having just turned 61, I guess I'm entitled to the old codger remedies. I'll refrain from the highly effective internal use of same for other worrisome conditions.

WORTH A LOOK

David Barfield brought an electric Free Flight ARF model to the April contest that looked pretty good. It was an Air Hog product called "Zip Wings". It actually flew OK, zipping around the flightline at good speed for maybe thirty seconds. A structural and performance evaluation by a panel of experts soon ensued. All of us decided a Free Flight modeler must've been in the room when Air Hog designed it. The foamie airframe was a bit of a disaster, but we'd seen a lot worse. The power unit looked much better. The prop and geardrive looked like a winner. Unfortunately, much of the power unit's weight was taken up by a single and heavy AAA battery where a one-cell Lipo would've been much lighter and added a little more zip.

I finally saw one at my neighborhood Walmart, selling for a reasonable \$14.97. With a decent stick-and-tissue airframe and a Lipo battery, I bet the modified power unit would work very well with a snub-nosed, scale model of 20.0 in. wingspan or thereabouts. Anybody want to try it?

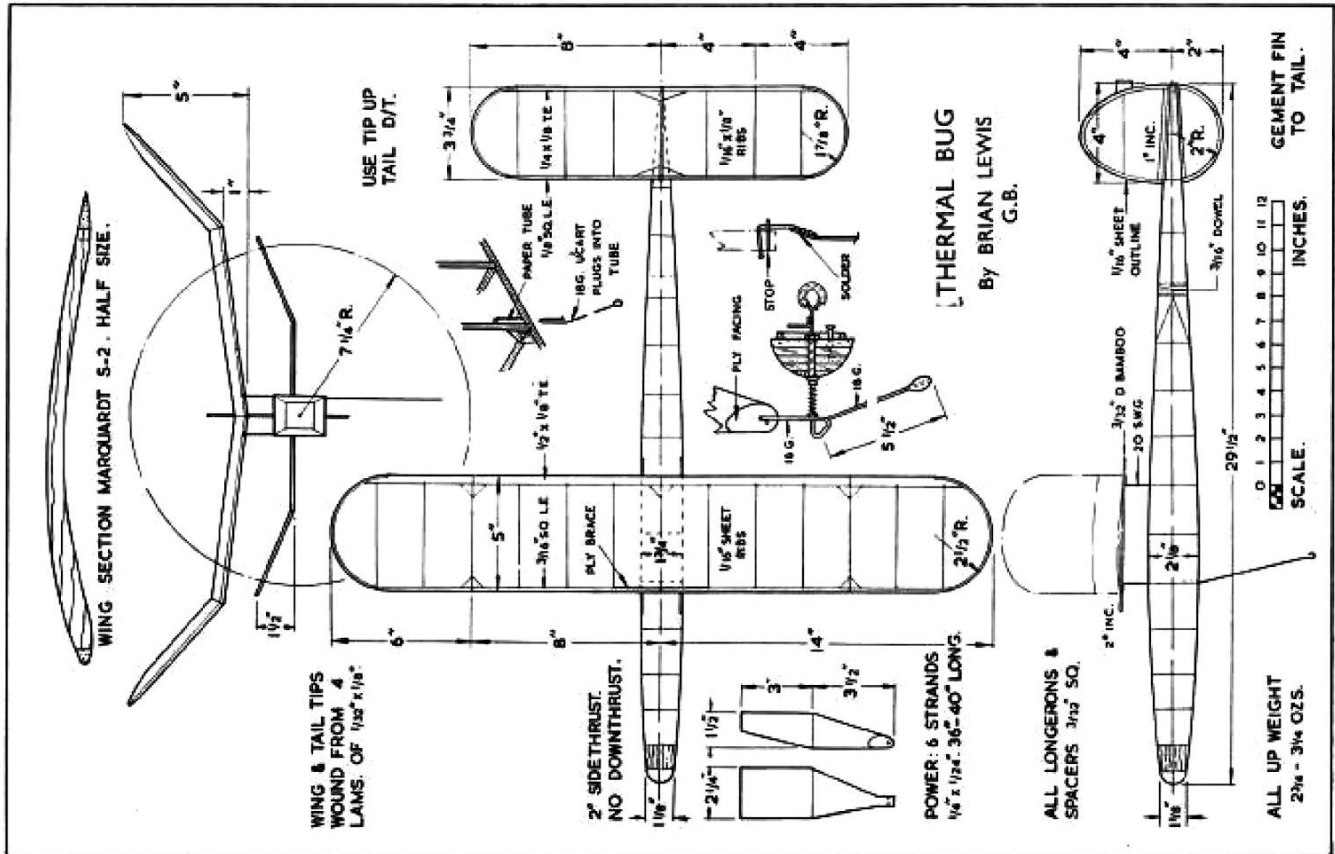
BUILDER ALERT!

Your editor has messed up. Several issues back, I presented the *Holt Five Minute Lightweight* as a British Lightweight and eligible for our EOY. A recent issue of "Sticks and Tissue" has a delightful article on the *Holt* that furnishes a ton of useful information, including a stated date of plan publication of August, 1953. This makes it not a card-carrying British Lightweight, as the allowed cut-off date is December, 1950. My bad, I'll take a pay cut.

This is too bad because it looks a killer in the category. All is not lost, however, because it's mighty eligible for Small Nostalgia Rubber and looks pretty good for it, too. It's as ugly as homemade sin, but could possibly give the *Last Resort* a run for its money. The *Holt's* name doesn't seem much of a stretch to me. Wound to full extremis, that's about what my *Last Resort* can do.

THE SUN ALSO RISES

The only Thumb that mentioned the *Holt* as a possible project was Karl Hube. I quickly messaged him about the bad news, and he said he'd started building another British Lightweight design, the 1944 *Thermal Bug* by Brian Lewis. Unknown to me, he sent along a scan, and it looks like a winner. It's very much akin of its brethren: lightly built, one-bladed prop, Marquardt-esque airfoil, vestigial LG and flat plate stab with a tip-dihedral flourish. My guess is it'll fly like crazy. The scan follows. Enjoy.



MAKING A LIST, CHECKING IT THRICE

Please find following the club high point tallies to date. It's early, so there's plenty of time to make a surge and join the fray. Glue some sticks together and show up somewhere!

Karl Hube	16	Jim Altenbern	3
Gary Baughman	15	Frank Perkins	3
David Mills	12	Bill Gowen	5
Richard Schneider	9	Dohrman Crawford	1
Nick Ray	7	Joe Ryan	1
David Barfield	3		

A LITTLE HELP PLEASE

My old friend Tom Campbell passed away from cancer a few months ago. Some of you might remember him; he was a club member in the eighties and nineties. He was a serious, far-ranging collector and had an E-bay business selling all kinds of cool stuff. However, he left a good bit of his

cache behind. He willed his Free Flight stuff to me. It wasn't a large pile by then, but one really neat thing was a tall stack of the British "Profile Publications". Frankly, I'm not that far from having a complete collection and almost another. I've missing quite a few issues, but I have many more duplications. If you want to flesh out your stack, too, message me. I'll send you my list. I'm sure we can work out something. Free Flighters and their collections, was it not ever thus?

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something just prior to the Nats. Hopefully, we'll have some colorful coverage of the June FAC contest, as well as how our Thumbs fared at the Indoor Free Flight Nats. Look for some major promo of the Free Flight Nats in Muncie. Make your plans today!

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

April Outdoor Contest Report

"It felt good to start the outdoor contest season once again. We had perfect weather from 9:00 am until about 11:30 am with sun, very light breezes and low humidity. We had five official flyers and six flyers overall. Karl Hube immediately took advantage of the weather to max out in P-30. David Mills also put up one max in P-30. Graham Selick showed us what an E-20 will do—don't ask. Then, about 11:30 the wind started. It was 8–12 mph, and it was out of the south for the rest of the day. We flew gliders, and the scores reflected the difficult weather conditions with small thermals and the wind. Hopefully, the weather will be better in May. Come out and fly with us. Here are the scores. Jim Altenbern, reporting."

Catapult Glider

Karl Hube 163
David Mills 141
Jim Altenbern 109
David Barfield 80

Earl Stahl Scale

David Barfield Skyfarer 42

P-30

Karl Hube 360
David Mills 120

HLG

Dohrman Crawford 119
Jim Altenbern 83



May Daze Contest Report

"Disclaimer: I filled in as CD for Graham, who was hauled out of the state on family business. Or Federal charges, I forget which. Sunday, May 18 had an early downer element to it. I awoke to pouring

rain and surprisingly chilly temps. However, the radar showed the weather was all north of the field so I headed out. Arriving about 10 minutes early, I discovered Herr Hube waiting with the news that we could not get in. Once again, the lock controversy surfaced. Luckily, there were workers present, and Karl got some assistance for us. We discovered that the sod farm workers were the villains in this case, and the manager swiftly fixed things up. No, it was not the fault of the RC guys.

“We set up at the Grassy Knoll with just a little rain drop action from time to time. The clouds went away for a time, and it was very nice. Later the wind picked up and the clouds returned, and late in the day it began raining. At that point, we all skedaddled. Most of the day was not so hot for thermals, but we enjoyed a stretch around noon that was very nice.

“We had a small turnout due to the weather iffy-ness, but some excellent flights made, and a lot of laughter. David Mills finally showed up in his new ride, a very nice, old Volvo with the usual very comfy Volvo seats. The manual sunroof is an especially nice touch. Plans for customization of said Volvo are rapidly being drawn up by an *ad hoc* group of freedom fighters. Would the TTOMA member who borrowed my spray painting template for flames please return it.

“Here are the results, respectfully submitted by Dohrman Crawford, cub reporter:”

P-30

Karl Hube Scorpion 360

Classic Glider

Karl Hube Moon Shadow 184

CLG

Frank Perkins Sidewinder 161

Karl Hube Moon Shot 130

FIG

Frank Perkins Candy G 309

HLG

Dohrman Crawford Meerkat 38 297

Earl Stahl

David Barfield Skyfarer 73

May Indoor Contest Report

“This Indoor Report is brought to you by Volvo. A nice day at St Luke's and a small number of official fliers sums up the action. Several flew for just fun with six official flights for the day. We had the usual excellent conditions. Some visitors showed up, and flew some very successful flights with a Mountain Lion and a Bostonian. Much excitement!! Here are the results, respectfully submitted by Dohrman Crawford, cub reporter:”

F1D

Nick Ray 28:14, 28:18.....this is a new National record. Well done, Nick! I am glad to have been there to see it.

Limited Pennyplane

Bill Gowen 6:16.....half motor flight

No-Cal

Richard Schneider Boeing XP9 1:56, 1:30, 1:29an excellent flier, very light and well constructed. All of us need to get off our duffs and build some No-Cals.

C'est Fini!

Dohrman Crawford, CD, reporting

2014 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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\$25.00/yr. adults, plus \$1.00/yr. for all juniors and for additional family members in same household.
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