

**The THUMB PRINT**  
**Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta**

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AMA Charter # 1834  
 FLYING ACES club

SAM  
 NFFS

**Jan.-Feb., 2015**

**HEADS UP**

Welcome to the first issue of 2015. We're off to our usual running start, as the contest schedule shows. Mark your calendars thusly. Pay particular attention to the flyer for the Peach State Indoor Champs at St. Lukes on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Let me brag on our indoor flying site and say it's probably the best category I site in the USA, and it gives up as many national and international (pending) records as anywhere else. The report on the banquet follows, along with a surplus of photos, and a good bit of club news. Don't forget about the Southeast Model Show in Perry and bring some cash. (Its flyer was provided in the last newsletter.) Yes, it's 99% RC, but Free Flight nuggets abound in the nooks and crannies. Make the short drive to the South Georgia heartland, and be a part of the world's largest model aviation swap meet! This writer never misses it.

Without further ado, I'll get out of the way. Show up somewhere with a model airplane!

**RENEWAL NAG**

OK, y'all, let's get serious. Not all of you have renewed for club membership dues. You know who you are. The membership renewal form follows. Send Karl "Karats" Hube your check. No fooling. It counts from now on. We have a list! Eyes on you!

**THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE**

You'll find below the full indoor and outdoor contest schedule for 2015. You can't say we don't provide plenty of opportunities for Fame and Glory "behind closed doors" at St Lukes or under the Cathedral of the Big, Blue Sky at the N GA Sod Farm. Be there or be square.

- March 7. Indoor. St. Lukes. Dohrman Crawford CD
- April 4. Indoor. St Lukes. Peach State Indoor Champs. David Mills CD
- April 26. Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. April Fools. Karl Hube CD
- May 16. Indoor. St Lukes. Nick Ray. CD
- May 17. Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. May Daze. Dohrman Crawford CD
- June 8-12. USIC Nats. Colorado Springs, CO
- June 20. Indoor. St Lukes. Bill Gowen CD
- June 27. FAC Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. FAC. Jim Altenbern. CD
- June 28. Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. June Bug Jamboree. David Barfield CD
- July 12. Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. Peach State Champs. Whit Russell CD
- July 18. Indoor. St Lukes. Dohrman Crawford CD
- July 27-31. USOC Nats in Muncie, Indiana
- August 9. Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. Pop Purdy's Contest. Graham Selick CD

August 15. Indoor. St Lukes. Nick Ray CD  
Sept 5 (Sat.). Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. David Barfield CD.  
Sept 19. Indoor. St Lukes. Bill Gowen CD  
October 4. Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. CD tba.  
October 10. Indoor. St Lukes. Nick Ray. CD  
November 8 (Sat.). Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. Turkey Shoot. Gary Baughman CD  
November 21. Indoor. St Lukes. Bill Gowen CD  
December 12. Indoor. St Lukes. Nick Ray CD

### **ANNUAL BANQUET**

The club's annual banquet is in the books, and a good time was had by all. The attendance was down a tad from last year, but twenty-eight (I think) came. The food was up to its usual high standard, and everything progressed without snafu, as we've come to expect from Petite Auberge. (My sea bass was wonderful, and the chicken whatever looked delicious.) It was great to see Thelma Hodson again.

The awards ceremony brought forth a greater diversity of winners, to the delight of this writer. All my nagging in the previous years has finally borne its intended fruit, and I'll be getting my dining table back in 2015. Yours sincerely won the Model of the Year Trophy with his thrashing of his Jimmie Allen Skokie all year. A glowing and very pregnant Hope Finn won the Spirit of Comet Award, due in large part to her heavy use of her Comet *Phantom Flash* throughout the year. She also won the Bob Baker Old Timer Trophy for the same reason. Josh Finn won the Scale Trophy by a very wide margin with his usual parade of good-flying scale models. Frank Perkins won the inaugural TTOMA Scramble Award for his many maxes in 2014. In terms of the Big Moose, Josh Finn won the George Perryman High Point Trophy by a wide margin, followed by Karl Hube, David Mills, Gary Baughman and the glowing and very pregnant Hope Finn.

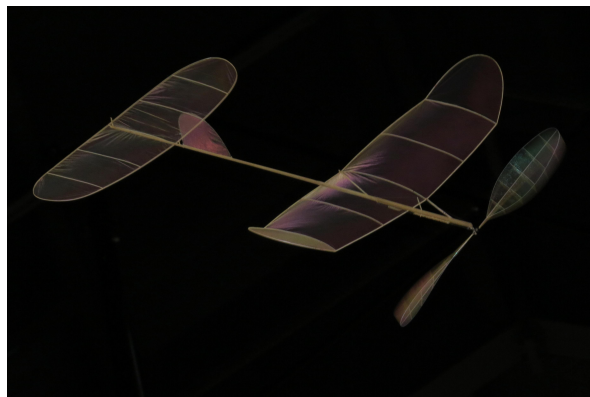
The club's forest of mahogany will be well scattered in 2015. There're plenty of opportunities for Fame and Glory in 2015. Get tah yer whittlin', y'all! The game's afoot.

### **THUMBS IN PRINT AND ON THE MARCH**

We benefit from a double-whammy in the January issue of *Sam Speaks*. The photo of David Barfield's lovely and lost (sleeps with the fishes) Jimmie Allen *Sky Chief* graces the cover. Also, therein, we get word that our own Ed Hardin won the Rubber Power Championship at the 2014 Sam Champs in Muncie. Well done, sirs.

### **THUMBS ON THE MARCH II**

A large swath of the world F1D community was outraged when the FAI rules were changed by an ill-advised Hungarian clique, and the rules were set to into effect January 1, 2015. Though suitably outraged, the Thumbs held a world records trial at St. Lukes on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a new category I world record (pending) was set by Josh Finn. Well done, sir, and put that in your pipe and smoke it, FAI!



## THUMBS IN PRINT II

It's been a while since I've pimped the general wonderfulness of the new and improved *Indoor News and Views*, edited by our own Nick Ray. The January issue is a dandy, running many times its usual length, and chock full of articles, plans and photos. It can be most easily downloaded from NFFS's website via the club newsletter page, upper left column. You'll also find the full archive of that fine rag, going back several decades, thanks to Nick and his industrious friends. Check it out!

## THUMBS ON CABLE

Josh and Hope Finn got their mugs on the cable show *Flight Test* and received some serious coverage. It's not often Free Flight gets such good coverage in the national, mainstream media, but it sure happened there. The program concentrated on Josh's rocket-powered gliders, but some FAC models got some serious airtime, too. We messaged a link to club members, and it was posted on the NFFS website. Hopefully, many saw it. If you haven't seen it, make the effort. Good stuff!

## THE OLD SWITCHEROO

Tim Lavender has been horsing around with small electric-powered RC models lately. He did a modification of Robert Stevens's veteran *Curtiss Robin* and entered it in E-Fest and won Scale Grand Champion with it. Well done, sir! The model's exquisite cuteness can be seen in the following photo.



## SAD NEWS

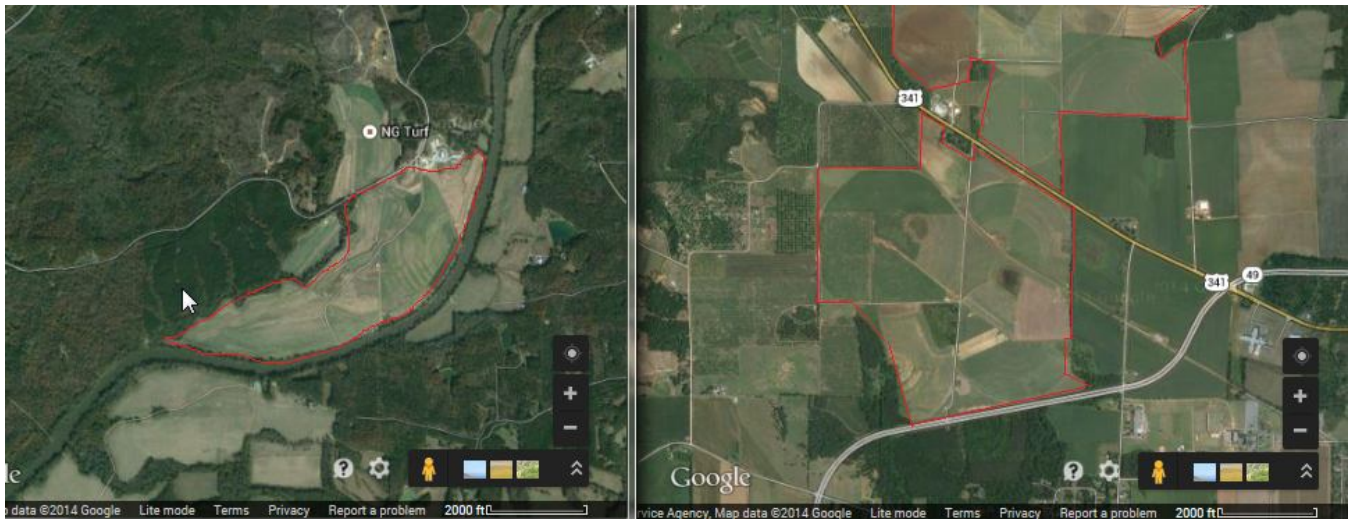
There was an official announcement that Lee Campbell is shutting down Campbell's Custom Kits. It says he's been diagnosed with the early stages of dementia, and he and his family are getting his affairs in order. They've put the company up for sale, and they'll announce anything forthcoming.

## A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Josh Finn and I were talking several months ago about some farmland west of Perry/Warner Robins that Rex Hinson said was suitable for Free Flight. Josh said, once he and Hope got settled in Perry, he'd go search for it. Well, he reported back with the first initial candidate. For apples-and-apples comparisons, he provides the following satellite photos. Note that Josh is a little chintzy with the N GA Turf farm (left) with the exclusion of the little field the other side of Snake Creek and the acreage north of Black Dirt Rd., but club vets will get the picture.

Both of us suspect there're other fields or assemblages thereof that might be even larger, but this is promising news. Unfortunately, for all of the convenience and virtues of our sod farm, it's always been too small for the big stuff, under all but the most ideal circumstances. Regardless, when it comes to flying fields, bigger is always better. Thanks, Josh.





## THE FINAL RECKONING

Here's the final count on the club's high point totals for 2104. As for this writer, the results for 2014 were exemplary, and we had our most diverse and competitive results in a long time. Josh led early and often, but below his tally, the podium finishes weren't settled until very late in the year. Thank you, my fellow Thumbs.

Josh Finn	61	Jim Altenbern	21	Nick Ray	10
Karl Hube	39	Gary Morton	20	Joe Ryan	6
David Mills	36	Dohrman Crawford	17	Bob Thoren	4
Gary Baughman	33	Richard Schneider	14	Graham Selick	2
Hope Finn	27	David Barfield	13		
Frank Perkins	21	Bill Gowen	11		

## NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in April, and it'll feature a report on the PSIC. Also, expect some serious nags about membership dues, some of which will be sadly lagging. We should have quite a few other indoor contest reports from "behind closed doors".

As is my accustomed plea, don't make me work too hard! Send along your articles, plans, photos, rants and raves. Ciao, y'all!

## December Indoor Contest Report

The December indoor contest was kicked off by the Russian School's New Years Celebration rehearsal. The contest saw a good bit of flying, but several participants forgot to turn in scores before packing up. Nick Ray increased the state Ministick record and Bill Gowen is creeping up on the Standard Catapult Glider national record.

The first of the year marks the reset of the F1D records due to the 2015 rules change. F1R (35cm) will also be joining the ranks of the AMA record events. 2015 promises to be another exciting year indoors.

### Std. CLG

Bill Gowen 44:8+44:1=88.9

### Ministick

Nick Ray 8:43\*

### S.O./Wright Stuff

Bill Gowen 3:24

\*new state record

## January Indoor Contest Results

Just for the record, here are the Phantom Flash and other scores from the January contest at St. Lukes. There was a lot of flying but not that many official scores to show for it. Bill Gowen flew his new A-6 with the allowed, new plastic coverings, but no scores were posts. It shows a lot of promise. The very pregnant Hope Finn set a new state record in Phantom Flash! Josh Finn, reporting.

### Phantom Flash (3 flts.)

Hope Finn 397  
Joshua Finn 183  
Joe Ryan 156

F1R  
Joshua Finn 19:22

### F1D (2 flts.)

Joshua Finn 38:02  
Nick Ray 35:??

Ministick  
Nick Ray 8:52  
Joshua Finn 7:43

### Contest report TTOMA Indoor Contest St. Lukes Feb. 14, 2015

Official flights were made in F1D, LPP, A6, No-cal, and Phantom Flash.

Here are the complete scores:

#### **F1D**

Joshua Finn 16:20, 17:44  
Hope Finn 10:55, 16:31, 12:41  
Nick Ray 9:39, 15:53, 15:55, 17:08, 17:34, 18:00

#### **Limited Penny Plane**

Bill Gowen 7:03, 7:28

#### **A6**

Bill Gowen 5:22, 5:33, 5:34

#### **Phantom Flash**

Hope Finn 98, 100, 107 (5:05 total)  
Joshua Finn 100, 96 (3:16 total)

#### **No-cal**

Richard Schneider 1:25, 1:32, 1:30 (4:27 total)  
(Boeing XP-9)

# PEACH STATE INDOOR CHAMPS

“America’s Flyingest Indoor Contest”

April 4, 2015

Great Hall, St. Lukes Presbyterian Church  
Dunwoody, GA

The Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta are hosting our twenty-third annual state indoor Free Flight championship. We invite all AMA members, family, and friends to come and join the fun. The public is invited, but only AMA members can fly, so bring your AMA card. However, kids with indoor free flight models who attend can fly; we’ll provide a complimentary AMA membership.

The contest is sanctioned by the AMA and all events, except as noted, will be flown per the AMA rule book as Class A and Category I. Registration and official flying begins at 8:00 am. The building must be clean and vacated by 8:00 pm. Lightweights will be segregated from the heavyweights per the flight schedule.

A strong effort will be made to fly mass launches in rounds per FAC for kanones if possible; otherwise, mass launch events will be flown sudden death with no kanones. Adults fliers are asked to bring at least one kit or suitable prize for any youths that might attend and fly. Advance thanks in this regard.

## AMA: Easy B

Ltd. Pennyplane (J, SO)  
Ministick  
IHLG (J,SO)  
Standard Catapult Glider  
Unlimited Catapult Glider  
Bostonian (J,SO)  
FIL  
F1D  
35 cm  
Helicopter  
F1M  
A-6

## TTOMA: Chattahoochee Challenge

Hangar Rat  
Mass Launches:  
Hangar Rat  
WW I  
WW II  
Racer  
Civilian  
Phantom Flash

## FAC: Dime Scale

Peanut Scale  
Rubber Scale  
No-Cal Scale  
Embryo  
Phantom Flash

Contest Director: David Mills, 404-509-4209, davidmillsatl@gmail.com

Fees: The adult (open) fee will be \$10.00 for unlimited events. The youth (senior and junior) fee will be \$1.00 for unlimited events. Adult test and fun fliers will be charged \$10.00.

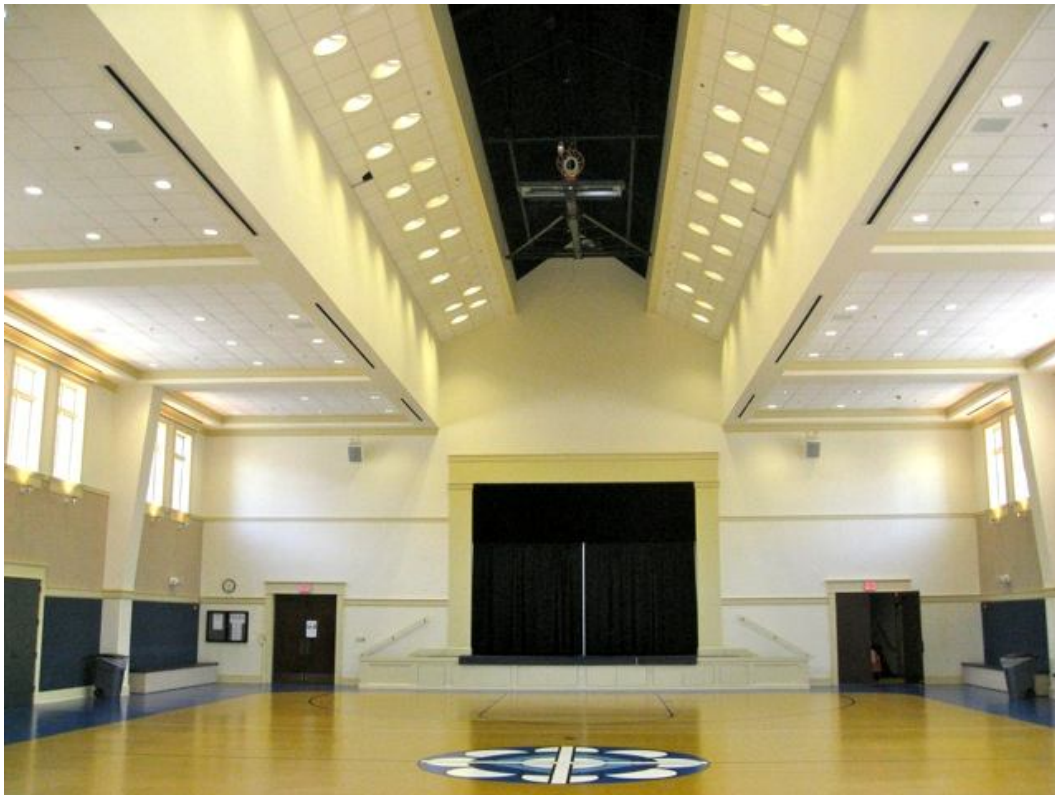
Directions: The flying site can be accessed from either the Hwy. 400/Abernathy Rd. exit or I-285/Ashford Dunwoody Rd. exit. The church is on Mt. Vernon Rd. about one mile east of Ashford Dunwoody Rd. The Great Hall is at the extreme opposite (NE) corner of the property from the Mt. Vernon entrance. A map is available at <thermalthumbers.com>. There’re numerous hotels/motels in the area with a wide range of costs. Useful search words might be: “Perimeter Mall”, “Dunwoody”, or “Sandy Springs”.

## **FLYING SCHEDULE**

Note the following schedule shows a start time of 8:00 am. We'll try to get in there as early as possible, but it'll be 9:00 am at the latest. We'll try to stick to the schedule as published, but the CD reserves the right to make reasonable changes based on circumstances in order to keep everybody happy. No whining allowed.

8:00 am registration  
8:00-11:00 am lightweights  
11:00-noon heavyweights  
11:30 am Hangar Rat mass launch  
high noon WW II mass launch  
12:00-1:00 pm anything goes, lunch  
1:00-2:00 pm heavyweights  
2:00 pm Racer mass launch  
2:30 pm WW I mass launch  
2:00-3:00 pm lightweights  
3:00-4:00 anything goes  
3:00 pm Civilian mass launch  
3:30 pm Phantom Flash mass launch  
4:00-6:00 pm lightweights  
6:00-7:30 pm anything goes  
8: pm site cleaned and vacated

Flying heavyweight models (No-Cal or heavier) in lightweight periods always requires CD's permission prior to winding and/or launch. Flying lightweight models during heavyweight time periods is at flier's risk. Special consideration can be given, but CD's word is final.



The Great Hall at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, Dunwoody, GA



