



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

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






**Sept.-Oct., 2015**

### **HEADS UP**

Welcome to the September issue. You'll find a bevy of news items, most festive and congratulatory and a few, worrisome. We've set some more records within the cozy confines of St. Lukes and made a bigger name for ourselves in numerous ways elsewhere. However, it hasn't been all bouquets of roses at every turn. The weather was unkind to us recently under the Cathedral of the Big Blue Sky, and the situation for our friends down in Pensacola is several notches past dire. All due elaborations follow. Don't forget about the Gary Baughman's Turkey Shoot November 8 at the sod farm. And steady yourselves, another pointed National Free Flight Society membership nag simmers a few pages hence. Ciao, y'all!

### **THINGS TO SEE, PLACES TO BE AND PEOPLE TO SEE**

We've only the fall flying season left, so don't neglect what opportunities that are left. You can't say we don't provide them. Show up with a model airplane somewhere, sometime!

November 8. Outdoor. N GA Turf Farm. Turkey Shoot. Gary Baughman CD

November 21. Indoor. St Lukes. Bill Gowen CD

December 12. Indoor. St Lukes. Nick Ray CD

Dec. 29-31. KOI. Palm Bay, FL.

Jan. 30. Annual Banquet. Petit Auberge. Dohrman Crawford

### **THUMBS ON THE MARCH I**

It's with a truckload of pride that these humble pages present the USA's 2016 F1D World Championship Team, and the Thumbs figure heavily in it. The results are: John Kagan, Brett Sanborn and our own Josh Finn and Nick Ray (alternate)! What can you say? Well done, sirs! Club friend and indoor luminary Kang Lee didn't vie for the podium, but he coached his son who's going as a Junior. This is another of those rare occasions when being sent to the salt mines is a good thing!

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

The most recent issue of the *FAC News* published the results from the Muncie Nats, and the Thumbs made a little noise. Your trusty editor scored third in Dime Scale with his old Cessna Airmaster. Ed Hardin (Skokie) and Robert Marier (BA Parasol) scored second and third place, respectively, in Jimmie Allen.

Elsewhere in the same issue the results from the FAC Non-Nats can be found, and buried in the details is one performance for the ages by Wally Farrell, a friend to many in the club. First, a little background: Jet Catapult Scale has a small but loyal following from sea-to-shining-sea, offering Quixotic thrills a-plenty. Yes, it's aggravating and never suffers from lack of running commentary, either. Well, Wally recorded a 5:03 OOS flight with his well-traveled Bell Airacomet. Over five minutes and still going, it's probably the

best official, single flight in the event's history. Had he not had witnesses, this rare achievement probably would've been debased into just another fishing story. Well done, sir.

### THUMBS AT THE BENCH

These offices are frequently sent photos of member's models. It's always good to see our brethren aren't frittering away their time or not being overly burdened with honey-dos. Tim Lavender isn't a member, but close enough to same whereby we can publish his new Fokker D7. It's a lovely model. The D7 is like the SE5A in that I've never seen one by a competent modeler that didn't fly well. This one should, too.

Dohrman Crawford has been busy, too, and has a new canard E-20 to show for it. A bold stroke, it looks to be take-off on the BMJR Tail Firster P-30. Many E-20s are showing up in the Free flight media and among the Thumbs. A good thing, we need to put electric motors on as many model airplanes as possible.



### THUMBS IN PRINT

Your editor was tickled pink to publish the final part four of *Free Flight Quarterly's* saga on the Jimmie Allen phenomenon and the models. Frankly, it's one of my very favorite published articles among the many vessels of ink I've splashed around over the years. Hopefully, with the assemblage of all four parts, Sergio and I've written the book on the Jimmie Allen models. (And please let there be no more, ferchristsakes!) Part four features the nine (9!) lost and long-fabled Jimmie Allen scale models from 1932 and 1933 and is quite tasty, if I do say so myself. We began the research in early 2014 and concluded it with the recent October issue, quite an enterprise for the two of us.

Also, reprints of previously published reportage by your editor and Bill Gowen were featured in the Nats coverage in the July issue of the NFFS digest, mine from the USOC and Bill, the USIC. The digest continues to offer sparkling coverage of Free Flight matters under the able editorship of Don DeLoach.

### THUMBS ON THE SIDELINES

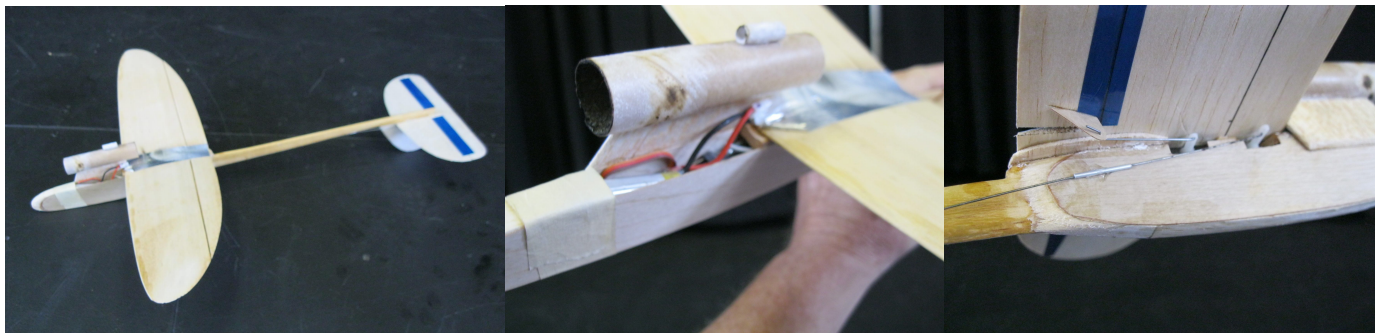
The Fates weren't kind to the Thumbs at the sod farm in September. By mid-morning a small group had gathered for the contest, but Mr. McWhorter drove by and asked us to leave the field. His family was hosting a 500-person cookout and didn't want us confusing the assembling multitude as to where to gather. We said OK, passed a little time around the lower gate in case anybody else showed up, and then left.

The Fates weren't very kind to us at the October contest, either. Long story, short, that week's torrential rains soaked the field throughout the week, and Sunday offered nothing than steady drizzle. I was CD and made the trip for purely officious reasons, but it was obvious no flying was going to be done. Everyone else must've agreed because I was alone for the few hours I hung out. I left around 10:00 am. Life happens, but it was a minor inconvenience compared to what the good people of South Carolina endured.

### BOYS, TOYS AND NOISE

Joshua Finn shows up occasionally with something both fascinating and *outré* to the Free Flight aficionado, as was the case at the October contest at St. Lukes with a radio-controlled, rocket-powered

glider. Yes, it was an eyeful, and a few photos follow. He says the top speed once off the vertical launch pad is well in excess of 100 mph! (He did the math. I'm glad he's on our side!)



## **BOYS, TOYS AND NOISE II**

We'll have to take Dohrman Crawford at his word here. Below you'll find a photo from his recent Montana vacation. He was very fortunate to be on a shooting range with a big-ass sniper rifle and a few friends. His professed score: 2 of 5 at 1000 yards. Me, I tend to believe the Old Campaigner. However, had it been in a boat with a rod and reel, I'm not so sure . . . . .



## **SAD NEWS DOWN PENSACOLA WAY**

The news is out that the Pensacola group is shutting down their club. The loss of their flying sites figured heavily into this. The Navy played a generous host to them and their friends for decades. However, the hysterical paranoia on the part of the Federal government about terrorism led to barring the club from the property their own taxes pad for. Many of the club's active members are retired veterans of Navy service, too. Good grief! Frankly, the terrorists won this one. Some may feel this is a harsh verdict unfairly thrust upon our self-described protectors, but I don't think so. Feel free to argue. It's a free country, and it's your inalienable right to be wrong. Beware: the Google-NSA cabal is listening.

## **DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFERENT FOLKS**

Atlanta started its long and hardy arc as a regional economic power as a railroad town, a happy accident of our topography. And be aware of this: if you think Atlanta's prominence in the interstate highway system is impressive, you should study the national railroad system map. Bless be the ties that bind, brother. It always reminds me of the old Southern joke: Two old gentlemen are sitting together and discussing the hereafter. One asks the other whether he's going to heaven or hell. The other replies, "I don't know, but I'm sure I'll change trains in Atlanta."

Atlanta is also a national center of all sorts of modeling, especially model railroading. The metro area has several such clubs and a very brisk trade show and swap meet schedule. One highlight of their year is the annual Tour of Layouts, whereby 80 or so model railroad nuts open up their garages and basements to

the interested public every October and November. There's probably one such hobbyist's layout and object of obsession near you.

You think Free Flight modelers are nuts? These guys push the envelope *in extremis*. And they're either very happily married or long since divorced. A schedule and other information can be found at: [piedmontpilgrimage.com](http://piedmontpilgrimage.com).

## MARKETPLACE NEWS

I ran across a blurb on the NFFS online forum about the refurbished *Aeromodeller* magazine. This august British publication had a great run of several decades, but it crashed onto the well-known shoals of our modern era's pulp magazine woes. However, they're taking another run at it, and we wish them luck. Quoting the blurb, "The magazine is also available on Pocket-Mags on the Aeromodeller subscription page as a digital subscription for \$23.99/year. If you want a hard copy of a page, you can probably print one, and it's a lot less than the 44 pound (\$69 U.S.) cost of a mailed subscription." It sounds like a deal.

## A CLOSING NAG

Both the number and percentage of TTOMA members who are also members of the National Flight Society is pretty impressive and likely large compared to what most clubs can offer. However, it can be improved upon. Frankly, any Free Flight modeler who doesn't see the profound rationale for a bigger and stronger NFFS has a screw loose. The position is simply indefensible, and this writer won't even bother with a tawdry charade of objectivity.

The October NFFS member roster was cross-referenced against the TTOMA's, and the NFFS members among us are listed below. They can be seen as committed supporters of our hobby and sport. Those not listed aren't NFFS members. Draw your own conclusions. The half-off membership deal for newbies and recalcitrants is still in effect, and the form follows. It's the best deal in town.

Jim Altenbern	Karl Hube	Linda Raschke
Hayden Ashworth	Jim Jennings	Whit Russell
Gary Baughman	Jimmy Jordan	Joe Ryan
James Conery	Dean McGinnis	Richard Schneider
Dohrman Crawford	David Mills	Graham Selick
Randy Ficklen	Gary Morton	Chris Stoddart
Bill Gowen	Al Pardue	Rolf Svensson
Geoffrey Grosgruth	Frank Perkins	Bob Thoren

## MAKING A LIST, CHECKING IT THRICE

Here's where we stand on the club's annual high point tourney. Yikes, a house divided! Note that the flying at the Turkey Shoot doesn't traditionally qualify for high points because of the format, so you've only the indoor action at St. Lukes to ratchet up your prospects. The hard math follows:

Hope Finn 40	Gary Morton 12	Graham Selick 5
Josh Finn 36	Jim Altenbern 10	Gary Baughman 4
Karl Hube 21	Nick Ray 9	David Barfield 3
David Mills 20	Bill Gowen 8	Richard Schneider 3
Frank Perkins 19	Dohrman Crawford 7	Joe Ryan 1

## NEXT ISSUE

Look for the next issue around mid-December. Among its bounty will be the flyer for the annual banquet at Petite Auberge on January 30. Mark your calendars now. We'll also relay the results of Gary Baughman's Turkey Shoot and all the remaining indoor action at St. Lukes. Once again, your editor beseeches the multitudes for contributions in the way of articles, plans, photos, rants and raves. Ciao, y'all!

## SEPTEMBER INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

“Bill Gowen flew an impressive F1M test flight of 16:21, but he didn’t have an official watch on it. He soon thereafter clocked an official flight lasting 15:49, which was enough for a new national record. (Bill’s record-setting F1M can be seen below, at the right.—DM) Despite being the first contest after the F1D team selection trials, no F1Ds were flown. Instead, the day was largely dominated by smaller, faster flying models.” Nick Ray, CD, reporting. (Once again, St. Lukes shows itself to be where indoor records go to die! It’s a Presbyterian church, so presumably it’s predestined.—DM)

Ministick

Nick Ray 8:41

F1M

Bill Gowen 15:49\*

F1R (35cm)

Hope Finn 10:14+11:40 = 21:54

Joshua Finn 6:43

No Cal Scale

Hope Finn 69+85+82 = 236

Joshua Finn 95

F1L

Hope Finn 8:59+9:23 = 18:22

Joshua Finn 9:30

Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 109+109+133 = 351

Joshua Finn 68+93+86 = 247

A-6

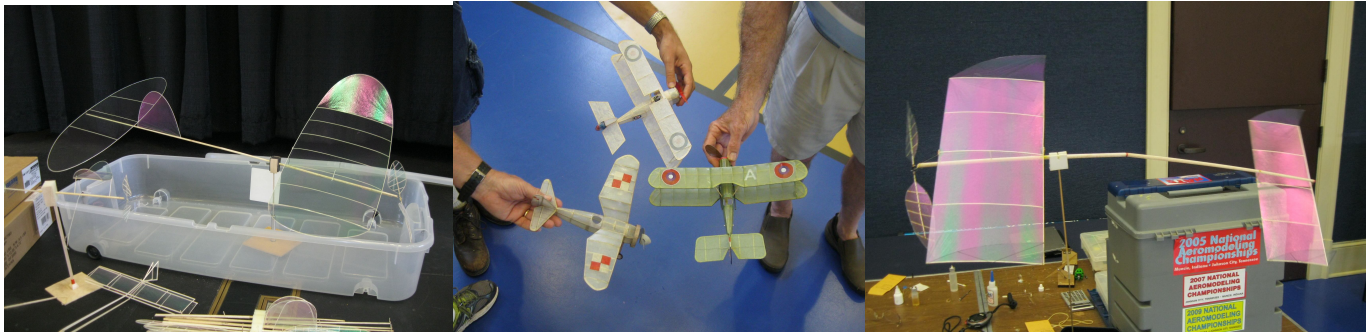
Hope Finn 3:35

Joshua Finn 2:57

A – ROG

Joshua Finn 11:43

\*new national record, pending



## NOVEMBER INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

“The October contest at St. Lukes proved remarkable, although lightly attended. Joshua Finn set a new F1R (35cm) national record of 21:53. Bill Gowen was away at his youngest daughter’s wedding. Nick Ray spent the day chasing after the 10 minute mark in Ministick and finally got a 10:01 for the new state record late in the afternoon.” Nick Ray, CD, reporting. (Ditto, St. Lukes, records, die, predestined, etc.—DM)

Embryo

Richard Schneider 64+53+63 = 180

Hope Finn 40+42+45 = 127

Joshua Finn 30+0+0 = 30

A-6

Hope Finn 3:47

Joshua Finn 2:35

F1R

Joshua Finn 21:53\*

Bostonian

Richard Schneider 64+63 = 127

Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 110+111+116 = 337  
 Joshua Finn 42+63+0 = 105

Ministick

Nick Ray 10:01<sup>+</sup>

\*new national record, pending  
 +new state record

**IMPORTANT RENEWAL INFORMATION**  
 To continue receiving NFFS Digest without interruption, your dues should reach the NFFS Membership Office at least two (2) months before your current expiration date. For example, if your Digest mailing label says your month of expiration is August, NFFS should receive your payment by June. Do not wait for a reminder from NFFS. You will be late and miss an issue.

**NFFS MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION**

Mail to: NFFS Membership Office  
 P.O. Box 74  
 Grosse Ile, MI 48138 USA  
 Dues include a mandatory \$0.50 per year for NFFS membership.

Make checks payable in U.S. dollars to: National Free Flight Society

**U.S. memberships (Age 19 & over)**  
 2 years \$58.00 (\$18.00 Youth)  
 1 year \$30.00 (\$10.00 Youth)

Youth: Age 18 & under as of July 1 of the current year  
 Check here if you desire Digest delivery via email. This saves valuable funds on printing/mailing, and you get your Digest about 3 weeks sooner. As a bonus, the electronic version contains exclusive content in each issue.

**All Non-US Residents**  
 2 years \$58.00  
 1 year \$30.00

NOTE: Current international members will continue to receive printed Digest until membership runs out. Effective with May-June 2012 issues, all new/renewal international memberships will receive Digest electronically.

**Life Membership**  
 U.S. Residents  \$500.00  
 Non-U.S. Residents  \$550.00

**First-Time or Lapsed (more than 1 year) Domestic Members**  
 2 Years for \$29  2 Years Youth for \$9  International \$37.50  
 Offer expires very soon...take advantage before it's gone.

★ **NFFS Foundation Donation** ★  
 Silver \$75  Gold \$125  Platinum \$250 or more \$\_\_\_\_\_

**To help reduce expenses maintaining NFFS records, PLEASE renew for at least two years. Thank you!**

Check appropriate boxes below:  
 New Member  Renewal  Address Change  Donation   
 Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Current expiration date: Mo.-Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ AMA#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send all renewals, address changes, applications, and membership questions to the Membership Office, email: <martinr362@aol.com>

Please go to [www.freeflight.org](http://www.freeflight.org) for credit card renewals.

**KING ORANGE INTERNATIONAL**  
 December 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> 2015  
 Palm Bay, Florida

8 - FAI Events  
 8 - NOS Events  
 \*Gollywock Mass Launch\*

20 - AMA Events  
 11 - Old Time Events  
 14 - FAC Events

**AMA CAT III National & America's Cup**

CD Joe Clawson 321-984-8718  
 FAI Jim Bradley 407-277-9132  
 FAC Steve Bacon 385-409-0406

For additional information call the above numbers

Entry Fee: Open \$35.00 unlimited, Senior \$20.00 Junior (U-16) \$5.00  
 Awards: One award to each winning contestant through 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
 Plates for each additional win  
 High Point Trophy

\*\*\*\*\*TOP GUN AWARD\*\*\*\*\*  
 For best time in:  
 AMA Gas 101-105  
 Classic Gas 101c-105c  
 Nostalgia Gas 1/4A, 1/2A, A/B & C  
 Electric A/B

Grilled Hot Eats  
 Water and cold drinks  
 On field

Sponsored by:  
 FMA  
 Florida Modelers Association

\*\*\*\*\*NO INDOOR\*\*\*\*\*