



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

[www.thermalthumbers.com](http://www.thermalthumbers.com)  
**David Mills Editor**  
 (404) 509-4209  
[davidmillsatl@gmail.com](mailto:davidmillsatl@gmail.com)






**May-June, 2015**

**HEADS UP**

Welcome to the third issue of the year. We're right in the middle of the outdoor season and the indoor guys are remaining busy as usual. As a result, we've a bevy of contest reports that follow. Also, a few in the indoor contingent have been flying far afield, and that news follows, too. Happily, no ones slipped the surly bonds, gotten sick or divorced, so there's little to transmit there. Ergo, this issue will be a tad thin, but not to worry. A number of us are going on our annual trek to the Nats very soon, and the next one might be overflowing with tales of victory and merriment from that source.

So, perhaps in a brisker fashion than usual, your editor will get out of the way. Ciao, y'all!

**CLOSING MEMBERSHIP NAG**

OK, you beat me into submission. This is the final membership renewal nag of the year. And per usual, we're instituting our last-half-of-the-year, fifty percent off deal. So, for all the crusty recalcitrants and the fresh, wayward pilgrims coming down our path, the amended form follows.

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

There's still a lot left on the calendar, so don't be shy! Glue some sticks together and show up with a model somewhere! The remaining contests of the year follow:

- July 27-July 31. Nats at Muncie, Indiana
- Aug. 9. Outdoor. N GA Turf Farm. Pop Purdy's Contest. Graham Selick CD
- Aug. 15. Indoor. St Lukes. Nick Ray CD
- Sept 5 (Sat.). Outdoor. N GA Turf Farm. David Barfield CD.
- Sept 19. Indoor. St Lukes. Bill Gowen CD
- Oct. 4. Outdoor. N GA Turf Farm. David Mills CD.
- Oct. 10. Indoor. St Lukes. Nick Ray. CD
- Oct. 17-18. Raeford Free Flight Contest. Raeford, NC.
- Nov. 8. Outdoor. N GA Turf Farm. Gary Baughman. Turkey Shoot
- Nov. 21. Indoor. St Lukes. Bill Gowen CD
- Dec. 12. Indoor. St Lukes. Nick Ray CD

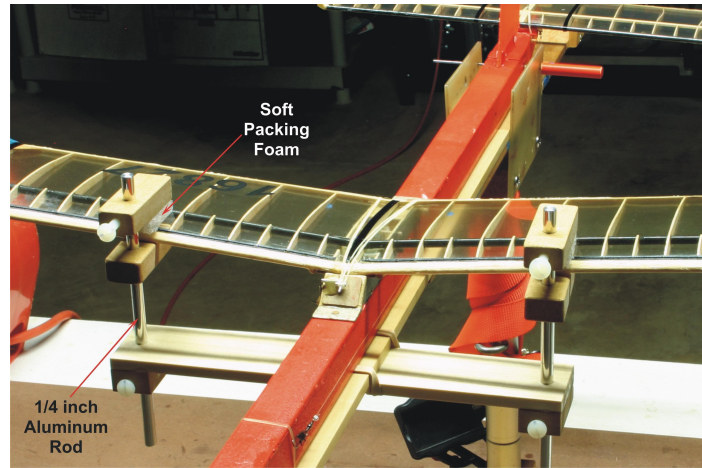
**THUMBS IN PRINT**

The March-April issue of the NFFS digest has a good letter-to-the-editor from Graham Selick on the recent goings-on of his grandson Hayden. Young Hayden and his sister spent Spring Break with their grandparents, and much time was spent by Hayden building models with his granddaddy. He has a new E-Pearl E-36 to show for it, plus he went through Graham's model closet and helped himself to quite a

bit of Old Flying Iron. Graham says he's fired up about the Nats this year and plans to fly six or seven events. See you there, Hayden!

### THUMBS AT THE BENCH

Frank Perkins was good enough to send a surplus of material, only a part of which was able to be included in the last newsletter. Well, this issue contains the remainder. The first photo shows his lovely Coupe torque meter. I told him it's pretty and many will assume some Ukrainian made it. Not faint praise at all. The second is his stooze gizmo to counter the travails of winding models in gusty conditions. Again, it's quite lovely and well-wrought. This man has dangerous hands.



### THUMBS ON THE MARCH

FAC HQ has just released the New Year's kanone tallies, and several Thumbs have made progress up the ranks. Air Marshall Easy Dave Niedzielski leads the pack with 74. Major General Josh Finn files into second place with 31, followed closely by Dean McKinnis with 30. Gary Morton enjoys his promotion to Brigadier General, clocking in with 25. Lt. Colonel John Barker holds station with 15. Your editor enjoys a promotion to Lt. Colonel with 15, only one score short of the Blue Max. Both Majors David Barfield and Dohrman Crawford advanced upward but remains one score shy of the former with 14. Captains Gary Baughman and Karl Hube follow up with 7 and 6. Several Lieutenants fill out the ranks: Brook Dixon Sr. (4), Jim Jennings (3), Ed Hardin (2), Jim Altenbern (1), Hope Finn (1) and Richard Schneider (1). All this is well and good in terms of the preceding, and we all look forward to another flying season's worth of Fame and Glory.

**Howsoever**, I've a bone to pick with FAC HQ. Several errors were made in the list last year. Namely, the late Vice Air Marshal Wayne Brock wasn't moved to the hallowed Blue Max Memorial List, nor was the late Colonel Oscar Smith. A minor irritant was Jim Altenbern's still being listed twice. Long story short, none of these changes made the current list, despite my sending a message a year ago to the Powers That Be with the requested corrections, and then soon receiving written promises to correct the errors. Frankly, I was irked a-plenty when I saw these omissions, but I calmed down enough to decide to once again work through proper channels to remedy it.

Ergo, I'll send another calm and clear message to FAC HQ with these requested changes. I'll let the rest of you know how it turns out. Hopefully, this will be the end of it, and my bile can recede. Otherwise, I'll have little choice but to get all South Georgia on their negligent backsides.

### THUMBS ON THE MARCH II

Bill Gowen had quite a time at the recent Kent State indoor contest, and against some serious competition. He flew in four events and won all, including Std. and Unl. Catapult Glider, A-6 and Limited Pennyplane. Well done, sir.

### **THUMBS ON THE MARCH III**

Courtesy of Nick Ray, Bill Gowen's recount of his trip to Colorado Springs for the Indoor Nats follows. As will become obvious, it was an eventful trip on several fronts.

"Here's a description of my week at USIC. I've posted part of this in other places. The rest of the story is my trip to the ER at 2:30am on the Saturday before leaving for USIC on the following Friday. The ER visit was due to a breathing emergency that was part of a problem with asthma and bronchitis that's been plaguing me for a year and a half. After 2 days in the hospital the doc cleared me to take the trip.

"The next problem was that a job that has been waiting in the wings for months suddenly came to life right after I got home from the hospital. I managed to work out a way to keep my employers happy, but preparation for the trip became impossible.

"So, on Friday, June 5, Sheryl and I headed out for Colorado Springs using a route that Gary had recommended. We made stops in Little Rock and Wichita. The trip was great except that Sheryl got some sort of bug in Wichita and spent the night being sick. In the morning she felt well enough to travel so we took off for Colorado Springs with me driving the whole third day.

"On arrival in Colorado Springs we were treated with a barbecue at Don DeLoach's house along with local MMM club members and a few out of town attendees. Soon thereafter, on Monday morning USIC was underway. I didn't spend much time kibitzing or taking pictures, so my report is basically on things that happened to me in my attempt at five National Championships.

"Day 1 and 2: WIF7 was awesome and will go back into retirement after winning both standard and unlimited catapult classes. Kurt Krempetz and Rob Romash were the major competition with Kurt bringing a box of new gliders. I posted two 43+ flights in each class on Monday which as it turned out would have been enough for the wins. Since Kurt and Rob were both getting flights in the 41 range I spent time on Tuesday getting some launch kinks fixed and posted a 46 and 47 in unlimited for a new site record.

"Day 3: I had my sights set on a 7 minute A-6 flight, but it didn't happen, and 6:00 was my best one. Still, this was almost 2 minutes better than the second place flight.

"Day 4: I managed to hang up my F1M on a light fixture on my first test flight. Then, when I was getting it off, I stuck my steering pole between the rubber and the motor stick where it got tangled and stuck to the model. A lot of damage was done - a huge hole over 2 rib bays, a broken TE spar and a broken prop spar. I spent the next 2 hours doing repairs. After that I did my first official flight which climbed about 15 feet and flew the entire flight at that altitude. The time was 12:54 and was my best flight of the day. After that many attempts to find the right settings on my VP were mostly unsuccessful. My last flight was near perfect but drifted out of the flying area over the seats. A proxy steerer tried to bring it back, but fouled the prop causing a dive to about 12 ft. altitude. The model recovered and continued flying but couldn't regain the lost altitude. Larry Coslick flew F1M but his troubles with either the model or the VP continued and I got the win with two 12+ flights.

"Day 5: I walked in to the site at about 12:30 to get ready to fly Limited Pennyplane at 1:00. Sometime during my practice flights I noticed that there were already 40 or 50 LPP official flights listed on the time sheet. What came next wasn't pretty but I'll leave it at that. After a few low wind test flights, I put up a "safe" full motor flight which spent a lot of time scrubbing the ceiling and landed at 8:27. This turned out to be my best LPP flight of the day. I rewound, backed off some additional turns and flew a fairly conservative first flight of 8:11. The plan at that point was to be a little less conservative on each subsequent flight. So, here's how well the plan worked:

Flight 1 - 8:11

Flight 2 - 6:17 with model flying really fast (should have stepped back here and looked more closely at the model) Flight 3 - 2:51 model bumped a light fixture and spun to the floor (another missed clue about a major problem).

Flight 4 - 7:00 another spin in but recovered about 6' from floor. I stopped the flight to save time. Decided the spins were due to a bad wing post and added a bunch of CA to stiffen them up. With one flight left I re-trimmed the model and broke in a new motor. Everything looked perfect for my last flight.

Flight 5 – At 2:33 the model started out the flight with a HUGE circle, flew about 5 laps and crashed into the auditorium seats. I don't know why this happened. Maybe at St. Lukes I can find the reason. The best official LPP flights were 8:33 by DeLoach, 8:18 by Romash (dq'd by Romash) and my 8:11. I have a rematch lined up with DeLoach at the next Pikes Peak Ceiling Climb!

“I thought this was a very enjoyable contest and a great city in which to spend a week. The scenery was incredible, with lots of stuff to do in the lulls in the competition, and the local MMM club members did their usual great job of making everyone comfortable. We spent the next two days visiting my son in Boulder and then made the long but uneventful trip home on I-70.”

### **THUMBS ON THE MARCH IV**

Nick Ray went to the latest Kibbie Dome contest and tested the mettle of many of the nation's indoor luminaries. His abuse of same includes firsts in Ministick and F1R/35 cm and a third in F1D. A full report on the contest can probably be found in the pertinent issue of *Indoor News and Views*, edited by hisownbaddself.

### **THUMBS IN THE MONEY**

Word is just out that young Robert Marier has been awarded scholarships by AMA and NFFS, totaling 6500 dollars, American. That'll buy a lot of Hot Pockets, maybe a few brewskis. He'll be spending said funds at Mercer University in Macon beginning this fall, not a bad place to spend four, formative years. Hopefully, he won't disappear, and we can keep tabs on him.

### **LEAVING FOR THE NATS**

Several Thumbs will be leaving for the Muncie USOC shortly after this issue lands on y'all's screens. Wish us luck. Some of us will be camping on the field; the rest will be ensconced in area motels. All of us will be flying up a storm. It's great, nothing but one week dedicated to flying model airplanes in the company of over two-hundred others. You can't beat that. More Thumbs should be going along. Expect the usual nagging next year.

### **NEXT ISSUE**

Expect something shortly after the September contests. A serious re-hash of the Nats and the Thumbs' part in it will be front-and-center. We'll brag as much as is justified. Ciao, y'all!

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## **Partial 2015 TTOMA Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AMA # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Family Members and AMA # \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**For remainder of year only:** \$10.00/yr. adults, plus \$1.00/yr. for all juniors and additional family members in same household. Send check, payable to TTOMA, to Karl Hube/104 Smith Forest Ln./Alpharetta, GA 30004/770-886-0104.

## MAY INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Here's my exciting report. Joshua was moving. Richard came by, but didn't write any times down. Bill was the only one to turn in any official times. He did a 15:25 in F1M, which increases his previous Cat.1 national record. CD Nick Ray, reporting.

## MAY OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Contest day, May 17, turned out to be a great day to fly models at the sod farm. Once we got past a couple of early wind shifts, the rest of the day was pretty much perfect. Light winds, and good thermals were the basic condition most of the day. When your Blue Ridge Special makes an 8-10 minute flight, and you only have to walk perhaps 400 yards, you're doing right well! No planes were harmed or slept with the fishes.

Seven official fliers signed up, and many flights were made. I can only hope we will have another day like this next time. (Personal sidebar: there's no real reason not to have more fliers in the Old Goat Smackdown; the Blue Ridge Specials fly better than all your other planes. I get it that you are totally in fear of competing with me, but man up, get over it, and take your whipping like a big boy. I need the points!) Here are the results, respectfully submitted by Dohrman Crawford, cub reporter:

### P-30

Karl Hube Scorpion 360 (by coin flip)  
Frank Perkins E Pirate 360  
Gary Baughman Bishop's Finger 334  
David Mills Hammerhead 120

### CLG

Frank Perkins Sidewinder 236  
David Mills Straight Up 159  
Karl Hube Capt. Billie's Whiz Bang 101

### E-36

Gary Baughman EPearl 321  
Graham Selick Accorte 310

### Old Goat Smackdown

Dohrman Crawford BRS 333  
Graham Selick BRS 205

### HLG

Dohrman Crawford Meerkat 208

### Phantom Flash

David Mills 80

### Two Bit +1

Gary Morton FA Moth 120

### SCat Jet

Gary Morton Vickers Valiant 50





## June Indoor Contest Report

Nick asked me to do the contest report for Saturday's events since he's off to the Kibbie Dome for fame and glory. Here goes....

"Our June indoor contest coincided with a significant heat wave. Outdoor temperatures peaked in the high 90's with the gym reaching at least the high 80's. Perfect conditions for maximum flight performance, but not very comfortable for the participants! Attendance was down due to the heat, schedule conflicts, and having the contest so soon after the Nats and right before the Kibbie Dome contest.

"Still, three participants (Josh and Hope Finn and Nick Ray) and one VIP spectator (Caleb Finn, now 2 months old) enjoyed a nice contest. Hope dominated in all her events, except for F1D where time drew short, and the heat began to cause fatigue. Nick resurrected an old F1R that had crashed some years ago and promptly put up a 16-plus minute flight without even the help of a variable pitch prop. It had enough climb to reach the moon! He then switched to tweaking a VP prop and spent the rest of the afternoon chasing changing conditions as a thunderstorm rolled through and chilled the roof, causing significant drift. Josh pulled out an F1D and after a few tests, put up a big flight just in time for the thunderstorm. Despite the changing conditions and a truncated climb, the model established a new record of 20:19, the first known 20-plus minute Cat I flight since the rules change. Things are looking up! Joshua Finn, scribe, reporting"

### Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 288

Josh Finn 283

### No-cal Scale

Hope Finn 239

Josh Finn 182

### F1R

Nick Ray 16:03

### A-6

Hope Finn 4:12

Josh Finn 3:39

### F1D

Josh Finn 20:19

Hope Finn 15:05

## Saturday June FAC Contest

For the second year in a row, the June FAC meet suffered from some poor weather. The weather man called for thundershowers in the afternoon, and he was correct for once. To top it off, the field was

squishy and muddy from rain the night before. Still, six intrepid souls braved the elements and did some FAC flying between the showers. Young Matthew Canady won another Kanone in Embryo, and David Mills showed that the stubby Grumman Wildcat is still a good WWII mass launch ship. We all had fun even with the wet weather!

Remember, there is no FAC meet in the fall, so you have a whole year to get those scale models ready. Who will be the first to show up with a B-24 for the WWII mass launch or a Chance Vought XF5U-1 "Flying Flapjack" for Rubber Scale? Run, don't walk to your building board and start gluing those sticks together! See you next year. Jim Altenbern, CD, reporting.

#### Embryo

Matthew Canady Prairie Bird 264  
Gary Morton Prairie Bird 262  
Jimmy Jordan Nit 202

#### Dime Scale

David Mills Cessna Airmaster 93

#### Two Bit Plus 1

Dohrman Crawford King Harry 62

#### Peanut Scale

David Mills Lacey M-10 114

#### WW II Mass Launch

David Mills Wildcat  
David Barfield Zero

#### SCat Jet

Gary Morton Vickers Valiant 54

### **Sunday June Outdoor Contest**

The previous day's mud and channels of running water had disappeared by the time the sun came up. Flyable wind prevailed throughout the day. Even though the wind was flyable, strange turbulence and wicked down air presented a challenge. The boys from North Carolina showed us how to fly Two Bit and Phantom Flash. The light Phantom Flash planes bounced around and had trouble getting any altitude. Many of those flown ended up with some damage. Jim's Wanderer flew well and on one flight showed how it got its name by wandering almost off the field. Gary flew an Embryo that had a true vertical climb because the normal motor was left at home and a slightly stronger motor was used. Overall it turned out to be an enjoyable day.

#### Embryo

Dohrman Crawford 219

#### FAC Old Time Stick

James Altenbern Wanderer 294

#### CLG

Frank Perkins Sidewinder 177  
James Altenbern Straight Up 118

#### Small Nostalgia Rubber

David Mills Last Resort 218

#### E-20

Gary Morton Copy Cat 149

#### Phantom Flash

Matthew Canady 198  
Jimmy Jordan 151  
Karl Hube 133  
Gary Morton 65

#### Two Bit + One

Jimmy Jordan FA Moth 249  
Gary Morton FA Moth 168  
Dohrman Crawford King Harry 33

#### Blue Ridge Special

Karl Hube 162

## Peach State Contest Report

This contest was one for the record books, at least as far as the heat index goes. Yes, it was hot! Still, we powered through as native Southerners and acclimatized transplants will when suitably prepared. Shade canopies, lots of fluids, wide brims, healthy snacks and widespread nagging, all were put to widespread use. Heat aside, it was a very good flying day with winds out of the least desirable north, but the light winds didn't make this an issue. That said, we were glad when it was over.

### Blue Ridge Special

Wendy Reynoso 204

Dandy Reynoso 151

### P-30

David Mills Hammerhead 240

David Barfield Echo 120

### CLG

Frank Perkins Sidewinder 180

David Mills Straight Up 153

Jim Altenbern Straight Up 120

Karl Hube Moon Shot 119

Dohrman Crawford Wee Vee 102

Wendy Reynoso Vee 15 64

Dandy Reynoso Straight Up 32

### HLG

Dohrman Crawford Who Dat 176

Jim Altenbern Meer 29 128

### Embryo

Gary Morton Prairie Dog 207

### Jimmy Allen

David Mills Skokie 58

### Dime Scale

David Mills Airmaster 31

### Earl Stahl

David Barfield Skyfarer 44





## **May Meeting Minutes**

The May, 2015 TTOMA meeting was called to order by Secretary Karl Hube at 12:00 Noon at the North Georgia Turf Farm with seven members present.

### Treasurer's Report

Karl Hube reported that the current club balance was \$X,XXX.XX. This balance also reflects the payment of \$360.00 for all required AMA sanctions for the year. The report was accepted without discussion.

### Secretary's Report

The minutes from the last TTOMA meeting (April, 2015) were read. No discussion followed and the minutes were accepted as presented.

### Old Business

David Mills reviewed the dates for the Indoor Nationals in Colorado Springs and the Outdoor Nationals at the AMA site in Indiana.

### New Business

Graham Selick asked a meaningful question about how the club administers on-field/in-gym entry fee charges at club competitions. The question is: "why should someone who comes to fly for fun or to trim models be charged an entry fee when they will not post any competition scores?" Comments supported that view, but Gary Morton pointed out that he had never flown at a competition site without paying a fee, even if he posted no scores. This point will have to be resolved as it has merit.

Karl Hube announced that the July, 2015 club competition, which is named as the State Outdoor Championships, will have a true State Championship event for catapult gliders (CLG) and hand-launched gliders (HLG). Karl is sponsoring this event and providing awards for the winner of each CLG and HLG.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm. Respectfully submitted by Karl Hube, secretary, reporting.

## **June Meeting Minutes**

The June 2015 TTOMA meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Altenbern at 12:45 pm at the North Georgia Turf Farm with seven members present.

### Treasurer's Report

Karl Hube reported that the current club balance was \$X,XXX.XX. No debts are outstanding, but entry fees for the last two indoor contests have not been received. David Mills made a motion to accept the minutes, and Frank Perkins gave a second. The report was accepted without additions or corrections.

### Secretary's Report

The minutes from the last TTOMA meeting (May, 2015) were read. Gary Morton made a motion to accept the report, and Frank Perkins made gave a second. No discussion followed, and the minutes were accepted as presented.

## Old Business

No old business was put forth.

## New Business

David Mills contributed comments on the Outdoor Nationals which will be flown in Muncie, Indiana in late July and early August. Provisional events for E-20 electric power and Hi-Start glider will be available this year.

Jimmy Jordan presented details of the Kudzu Flying Corps Contest on October 17-18, 2015 in Raeford, North Carolina. Jimmy has supplied the entire event schedule and details of the sod farm flying site. This contest has a big FAC event schedule as well as a good selection of popular AMA and NFFS events. There is even a twin pusher event listed, too.

Jim Altenbern outlined a suggested financial program for the current year. Jim's recommendations are based on club dues and event entry fees remaining the same. The suggested contributions to the community and the aeromodeling world are as follows:

1. \$500.00 contribution to St Luke's Presbyterian Church in appreciation for the year round use of the gymnasium for indoor flying.
2. North Georgia Turf Farm ~ Christmas baskets (owner & staff), as well as the purchase of a new wind sock for the owner's aircraft hangar.
3. \$300.00 contribution to the NFFS scholarship fund.

All members voted to accept the suggested contributions.

Jim introduced the idea of eliminating the Event of the Year (EOY) and keeping the emphasis on the Model of the Year (MOY). The reasoning is that the club doesn't place any significant focus on the EOY event, but the MOY has a following. It was suggested that the MOY selections move to simple models that many would build or choose designs and which can be used in other events to get a better return on the building/trimming effort. Jim's motion was seconded by David Mills, and the motion passed. However, after the vote some additional discussion followed that demonstrated doubt about the move. Consequently, the matter was tabled and will be revisited soon.

Gary Morton and Jim Altenbern have been looking into ways to present and develop a couple of two-day contests that could be used to boost FAC activity. They suggest a mix of FAC/AMA/NFFS events to gain more interest. Further, the schedule may be late spring/early summer after Mother's day and up to the second week in June. A fall schedule might be mid-October. Jimmy Jordan recommended that FAC events be spread over both days to hold participant's interest for both days. Jim believes we need to make some provision for rest room facilities either of the portable type or in the sod farm building complex.

Karl Hube reported the coming 2016 increase in AMA dues from \$58.00 for Open members to \$75.00. The latest issue of *Model Aviation* discusses the matter and reported that a big influence was the large legal fees involved in dealing with the FAA to minimize the government's limitations on drones that could suppress all outdoor model aviation. For comparison the following fees for other countries were presented:

1. England           \$50.00
2. Canada           \$73.00
3. Australia       \$80.00

So, the \$75 fee would not be out of line with other active countries. Jimmy Jordan commented that England's BMFA dues of \$50.00 reflected fewer services than supplied by our own AMA.

At 1:35 pm, there being no further business, David Mills made a motion to adjourn, and Jim Altenbern made a second. Respectfully submitted by Karl Hube, Secretary.

CAFFA

Central Area Flying Field Association

OCTOBER  
HURRICANE

KUDZU  
FLYING CORPS

RAEFORD, N.C.

RAEFORD, N. C. OCTOBER 17 – 18, 2015

FREE FLIGHT CONTEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

FAC WW I Mass Launch  
FAC WW II Mass Launch  
FAC Embryo (ROG)  
FAC No Cal  
FAC Jet Catapult  
FAC Simplified Scale  
NFFS Classic Towline  
AMA Catapult Glider  
AMA P-30

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

FAC Golden Age Monoplanes Mass Launch  
FAC Combined Racers Mass Launch  
FAC Two-Bits + 1 (ROG)  
FAC Dime Scale  
FAC Phantom Flash (ROG) (#1)  
FAC GHQ Peanut  
AMA E-36  
NFFS E-20  
SAM Twin Pusher Mass Launch

**Saturday and Sunday**

Fixed Time Target (any model) (#2)

(#1) Best three (3) of six (6) flights. Back-up models allowed.

(#2) Target will be between 40 and 60 seconds. Score time target missed (to 1/100 sec). Six attempts.

**No motorized chase vehicles ≈ On field comfort facility**

**Contacts:** Contest Director: John Diebolt [jdiebolt@mindspring.com](mailto:jdiebolt@mindspring.com) 919 467-1025

CAFFA Secretary: Jimmy Jordan [jjordan18@ec.rr.com](mailto:jjordan18@ec.rr.com)

**Entry Fee: \$10.00 (Juniors Free)**

Field location for MapQuest/GoogleMaps/GPS: 144 Ratley St. Raeford, NC 28376 (34.972354, 79.201538)