

Jan.-Feb., 2024

HEADS UP

Here we are again, welcoming in a new year, 2024 in case you missed it. Your trusty editor, for one, won't miss 2023 much. The first eleven months were pretty good, but the final month was a big stinker, the basic facts of which are well known to the locals. So, we won't get into that here and now. We've more important things on our plates, and that content follows.

The annual banquet was another winner, and fun was had by all at the Lost Corners Preserve. A full report follows. Dohrman Crawford has been busy and offers herein a full schedule of monthly outdoor contests at NG Turf in Whitesburg, beginning in March, as is our wont. The dates follow, and mark your calendars thusly. Note the freshly drafted flyer for our FAC Chattahoochee Challenge follows, so mark thusly. Our indoor dates are more impromptu, so stay tuned for Doug DeMasie's *Bulletin* and later issues of the *ETP* for the current status of our indoor contests.

Time for me to get out of the way

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ENTICEMENT

In years past, the reader might not have seen the word "enticement" in this context. Kinder and gentler, that's what it is, with a little flirtation in the mix. You see, it's membership renewal time, and your dues are past due, unless you've already renewed. And why not? There's simply no reason not to. Yes, it'll be all rainbows, unicorns and open taps at this juncture. The membership form follows, so stroke that check, signed on the line that is dotted, made to the amount so indicated and mail it to the address so directed to Treasurer James "Diamond Jim" Martin.

Eyes on you! You know who you are. Be advised: a list is being kept.

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO BE, PEOPLE TO SEE

Yes, we've a lot to do in 2024! Our outdoor schedule is pretty much set and indoor dates will be added as opportunities arise. The latter might strike some as inconvenient, but I don't know how many clubs can boast of three indoor flying sites, so no whining allowed. So, glue some sticks together and show up somewhere with a model airplane and fly with us. George Perryman always said the time you spend flying model airplanes is added onto your time on this earth at the back end. Always made sense to me. The game's afoot.

March 1-2: GAMA Southeast Model Show. Georgia State Fairgrounds, Perry, GA

March 16: IPMS AtlantaCon. Contest/swap meet. Lockheed Union Hall, Marietta, GA

March 17: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA.

March 23-26: FAI World Indoor Champs. Romania

April 28: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

May 18-19: Outdoor contest. Kudzu Classic. Raeford, NC

May 19: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Dohrman Crawford

June 29-30: FAC Chattahoochee Challenge. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CDs-Gary Morton, Jim Altenbern.

July 1-5: AMA Indoor Nats. Moscow, ID

July 14: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-David Mills

July 22-26: AMA Outdoor Nats. Muncie, IN

Aug. 18: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Jim Conery

Sept. 15: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Doug DeMasie

Oct. 13: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-David Barfield

Nov. 3: Turkey Shoot. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Gary Morton

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

The eagle-eyed of you might've noticed a change in the newsletter file name. I'd noticed for years how the club's newsletters stacked up in any digital file, as in never in chronological order. It never bothered me enough to do anything about it, but with my new computer equipment kindly provided by Doug DeMasie providing a fresh start, I decided to change it. I should've done it sooner, and henceforth, the year will come first, followed by individual issues in the order of the calendar. A minor pet peeve, thereby gone.

SAME CHURCH, DIFFERENT PEW

Don't forget the annual IPMS Model Show on March 16 at the Lockheed Union Hall on S. Marietta Parkway, and that flyer follows. Several Thumbs usually attend, and it's always a hoot. It's the best time and place to pick up plastic kits and needed supplies on the cheap, and books and tools abound. The craftsmanship on display is amazing, offering eye candy aplenty. Opportunities for good chat abounds because most of these guys are our age and have an interest in "stick and tissue" modeling. (That's what they call us.) So, build a few bridges and engage in some pleasant conversation with our affiliated brethren. It can't hurt.

Before my recent unpleasantness, I thought of us renting a table at the model show to display some FAC models and sell a few scale kits as an outreach program and make a few bucks, assuming they would allow it. It's worth a try in my view, maybe next year. Heresy no, marketing yes.

Also, don't forget GAMA's big Southeast Model Show at the Georgia State Fairgrounds down in Perry, GA, March 1 and 2. It's the world's largest model aviation swap meet with over 1000 tables. No fooling. Forewarning: Friday is the best day. Yes, the wares are 99% RC, but Free Flight nuggets abound if you do a little digging. Likewise, books, tools and supplies are abundant in the nooks and crannies and for sale cheap. The Finns will be there in force and J&H Aerospace will be doing a brisk business. It's also a good place to set up an HQ for the day and enjoy a little chair-time. Usually a dozen or so Thumbs attend. Be there or be square. Bring cash!

ANNUAL EATS

We owe Dohrman Crawford another big thank you for his efforts at staging our recent annual banquet at Lost Corners Preserve, a reprise of last year's soiree. It was a very pleasant evening of good food and fellowship among old friends. We matched our turnout from last year and would of broken it if not for a late and unavoidable Clarke County cancellation. On the other hand, most of us took home extra large amounts of the scrupulous leftovers courtesy of the City BBQ caterers. (The pulled chicken, green beans, baked beans and mac and cheese nuked very nicely. The homemade pickles were delightful and the chocolate cake, dreamy.) The Show and Tell was a good one, and we had an ample kit giveaway. The weather cooperated, and we had a cool, clear evening with no black ice, snow flurries, or interstate shutdowns with national media coverage.

The awards ceremony went well, considering that our mahogany row of trophies was unable to attend because of unplanned, rapid oxidation. However, the totals were done, and the winners were announced, undeterred by cruel fate. James Martin won the Perpetual High Point Award by the



Photos and collage courtesy of David Barfield

slimmest of margins over your trusty editor. The annual totals follow below, and you'll notice young Caleb Finn did pretty well, scoring a fifth—good for him! Your editor won the Wayne Brock Scale Award by only a few points. Ed Hardin won the Bob Baker Old Timer Award, and Doug DeMasie won the SCat Jet Award.

Let's do it again next year. Thanks again to Dohrman for arranging everything.

James Martin	62.5		Gary Morton	13	3
David Mills	61.5		Josh Finn	12	
Doug DeMasie	47		Joe Ryan	7	
Jim Conery	44.5		Richard Schne	eider	7
Caleb Finn	35.5		Jimmy Jordan		6
Dohrman Crawfo	ord	33.5	Hope Finn	5	
Paul Finn 2	24		Nick Ray	5	
Ed Hardin	19		Bill Gowen	4	
David Barfield	19		Shawn Lee	1	
Jim Altenbern	19		Lee Russell	1	
Frank Perkins	17.5				

THUMBS ON THE PROWL

We've a plan for replacing our trophies destroyed by the infernal flames. Most trophy shops have a back room stocked with unclaimed trophies that we might get for free or cheap. Whatever doodads these relics might have atop them, such as leaping marlins, basketballs, tennis players, ballerinas, or whatever, they can be repurposed with doo-dads with an aviation theme. David Barfield has volunteered to prowl the interwebs for said ornamentation. For example, he's already found a Wile E. Coyote atop an Acme rocket, a superb choice for the SCat Jet Trophy! We salute you, sir. This all seems very doable.

What of the past winners of decades past, you ask? Well, fortunately my complete collection of all the TTOMA newsletters was found safe and sound in my distressed can-do-minimum, tucked away in a fortuitous spot away from most of the fiery excitement. There's only a little char here and there around the edges and not so damp that a little airing couldn't fix. All of the names and years from our history can thus be resurrected for the new replacement trophies. Crises over! Next crises!

We'll be giving updates of our efforts in this regard as developments warrant. Fingers crossed.

THUMBS IN PRINT

Two Thumbs had plans published in the latest issue of *Free Flight*, the National Free Flight Society rag. Therein, Frank Perkins's "Sidewinder CLG" plan is featured in all its glory. We're all very familiar with the design in all its iterations over the years, having been beaten by it with regularity. Nick Ray's F1R plan, the category III national record holder, is also in the issue. We've seen it in action, and it's both a flier and a looker. Well done, y'all.

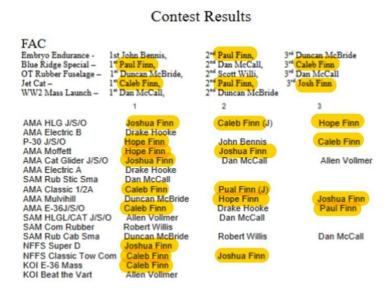
THUMBS IN THANKS

Doug DeMasie was kind enough to offer his mother's Lenovo ThinkPad to replace the charred remains of my departed Dell Insperion laptop (circa mid-zeros). I'll miss that old relic of past technology and the cozy, accustomed charms of Windows XP. Turns out his mother had gotten into gaming, and the old ThinkPad lacked sufficient memory to do whatever avid gamers do. (Search me, I've no clue. It seems to be noisy and requires a lot of energy drinks, but no pants. There'll be no such temptations here.)

Anywho, this will be a learning experience for yours truly, but I'm up to it. Fortunately for me and the rest of humanity, software is designed for idiots. I've offers of help from several club mates and friends, so let's plod into the future with Windows 10! I understand there're more subsequent versions . . . I guess they have to put new versions with more bells and whistles every few years to justify their existence and get a little more money coming in.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

The Finns made the trek down to Palm Bay for the King Orange International and did pretty good. That may be an understatement. The contest results below tell the tale. Now, the uninitiated and unaffiliated might scan the results and think it was a grand act of cruelty perpetrated by the Finns, father, mother and their two tow-headed younguns. We know better. Our good friends simply went on a nice family jaunt down Florida way, flew a few models and brought back a respectable haul of Fame, Glory and a trunkload of mahogany. They may not invite them back, however. They say time heals all wounds. I guess we'll find out. Not that I'm expecting a roadblock on I-75 at the GA/FL border or anything



THUMBS LATELY DEPARTED

Word reached us that Steve Perryman died last September from Covid complications. This was a shock because Steve was like his daddy George, chockfull of vim, vigor and a boisterous head of steam. Many in the club have had a run-in with this disease, some very serious and some more than once. It's still around, so if you haven't been vaccinated for the latest variant, do it. Listen to your doctors and not the idiots on the internet. Take care of yourself.

Our old flying buddy Mickey Walker recently passed away after a long and enviable life. Most of us got to know him with the founding of TTOMA and SAM 47 back in 1979 and 1980. His modeling accomplishments are long and varied. Among many other awards, Mickey was admitted into the AMA Hall of Fame in 2002, and those wanting to know his many activities and vast achievements in model aviation can read his HOF blurb on the AMA website. It's a very rewarding story. He was probably the best builder and flier of Old Timer gas jobs any of us had ever seen. A modest man with a quiet streak, he was widely recognized as an electronics whiz and mechanical genius. (He machined his own ignition engines!?) His models were immaculate and always well trimmed. Unfortunately, he retired from active modeling years ago because of failing eyesight and the other common inevitabilities and gave away most of his modeling stuff to club members. A number of us have a memento or two from him, and we'll use them to never forget of old flying buddy. Rest in peace, Mickey. I hope there was a heavenly machine shop waiting for you!

GUILLOW SCALE: WHY NOT?

A few months ago your editor came up with a vague idea of sponsoring a special scale event in 2024 around the many possibilities of the Guillow rubber scale kit line. Likely all of us have some experience with their kits going back to our earliest ventures into our hobby and sport of Free Flight (always capitalized). Nearly all have said at some point, "Yep, that was my first kit and I actually finished it. It looked kind of like the real airplane, but it didn't fly worth a crap. It was great!"

A general consensus among the active fliers in the last few months has formed around the following. All models should be built according to the plan's structure, airfoils, areas and moments, but wood could be substituted at will. The common nods and winks allowed by FAC would be carried over here: like blast tube and DT provisions allowed; freewheeling wood or plastic props allowed; building of a proper nose block and thrust bearing allowed; putting the motor peg where is belongs allowed, and so forth. The event will be flown under Simplified Scale rules, so consult the rulebook.

Please, this is supposed to be a fun event, so let's keep the legislative side of this to a minimum. As Sponsor and Czar of Guillow Scale, my reasonable and benevolent word will be final on any rules questions or ongoing dust-ups. Anyone acting too serious about any of this will be forced to take his shirt off in public. However, we've gotten approval from FAC HQ for it to be a kanone-worthy event, so additional Fame and Glory awaits the so enthused. The game's afoot.

Dohrman and I've been chatting in depth about our projects, his the Fairchild and mine the Aeronca Champ, and a few things seem obvious and highly recommended. One, yes, keep the model aft of the wing's trailing edge as light as possible, so use the light wood you've been hoarding. Two, don't the kit parts make great templates! Three, aside from the lumber "strength" surplus and awful noses, these kits are reasonably well designed for the beginner, and given the chance, will fly just fine. Four, the decals look bulletproof, and the vacu-formed parts are pretty good. Five, measure the kit's sheetwood thickness carefully. They might be more like one-twentieth in thickness than the plan spec of one-sixteenth, so go with the letter of the law, rather than its spirit, and save a few grams. Six, what, laser-cutting! Who knew?

A few of us at the banquet said they had models on the board, or "were fixing to go get ready to do" something. At the very least, many of us are assuredly "looking at plans" a lot, and we all know how productive that is

(A late constructor's note. Having looked at my Aeronca plan enough, I began actual work. First thing I noticed was the sheet wood didn't look that bad. Curious, I measured and weighed the five sheets, and the weight of the stack turned out to be only 8.1 lbs/cu ft?! Not awful! Based on this, I realized I could use just the kit wood and be OK. However, remembering the bulk of my vast balsa hoard survived the infernal flames with only minimal damage, and thereby, my karmic path was set forth before the Great Scorer comes to get me. Ergo, everything aft of the Champ's wing TE will be swapped out with the good stuff. Henceforth, I will hoard nothing, and the best gets used first. Suggesting others do the same because the Champ will fly. The game's afoot.)

THE FIRST RECKONING

Here's where we stand so far in TTOMA's high point tourney after two indoor contests at the Cochran Rec Center and Christ Chapel in Macon. It's a fine start, and there's more on the way. Take a look at the contest schedule printed earlier in this issue. Our work, or play, is cut out for us. The year 2024 will be a hoot.

Doug DeMasie	asie 10 David Fletcher			2	
Caleb Finn	9		Josh Finn	1	
Paul Finn	6		Nick Ray	1	
Jim Conery	5		-		

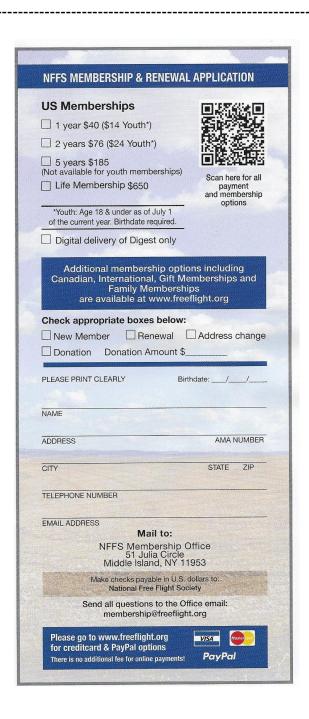
NEXT ISSUE

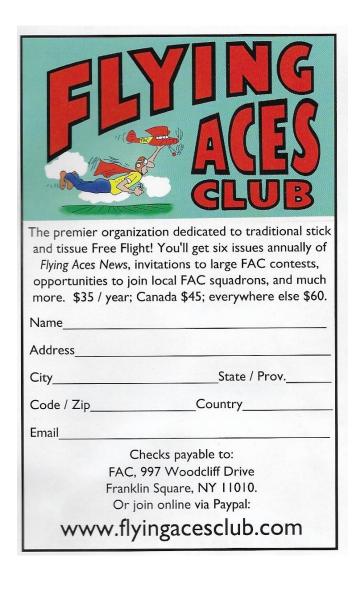
Look for something in May. We'll have several contest reports and the flyer for the Chattahoochee Challenge in June. The forthcoming membership renewal nag might raise a blister, but that depends on you and whether or not you do the right thing and renew. You know who you are. Eyes on you!

As is always the case, I beseech the multitudes to submit anything worthy in the way of articles, plans, photos, op-eds, rants or raves to these humble offices. Don't make me work too hard!?

2024 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name	AMA #
Address	City, State, Zip
Other Family Members and AMA #	
TelephoneE	mail
	harge for all 18 years or under. Send check payable to y Trail/Marietta, GA 30062/jhnmartin1963@gmail.com





February Indoor Contest Report Cochran Rec Center, Cochran, GA

P-18	Josh Finn 130			
Paul Finn 45	Hope Finn 91	<u>HLG</u>		
Caleb Finn 22		Caleb Finn 30		
	<u>Limited Pennyplane</u>			
Blue Ridge Special	Paul Finn 669	<u>Wasp</u>		
Caleb Finn 121		D DeMasie 98		
Paul Finn 108	Manhattan Cabin	David Fletcher 22		
D DeMasie 93	Caleb Finn 356*			
Josh Finn 24	*Indoor Junior Record Embryo Prairie Bird			
		D DeMasie 149		
Phantom Flash	Catapult Glider			
Caleb Finn 251	Caleb Finn 28			



Photos by Doug DeMasie

MARCH INDOOOR CONTEST REPORT

Christ Chapel, Macon, GA

Hanger Rat		No Cal Scale	<u> </u>	
Jim Conery	312	D DeMasie	Folkerts	108
Doug DeMasie	295			
David Fletcher	191	<u>Ministick</u>		
		Nick Ray	4:38	
Blue Ridge Spe	<u>cial</u>			
D DeMasie	147	Easy B		
		Jim Conery	485	
<u>Wasp</u>				
D DeMasie	56	<u>Pennyplane</u>		
		Jim Conery	468	

Guillow's Finest, per your Czar













December to the "West" that fulling



2024

CHATTAHOOCHEE CHALLENGE

June 29-30

Saturday 8:00 - 5:00

Low Point Bonus FAC Scale*#

Guillows Scale

Jimmy Allen/2 Bit Plus 1 combined1

P - 30 No-Cal

Embryo*1

Blue Ridge Special NBM WW II Mass Launch (11:00)

Golden Age Mass Launch (1:00)

Fiction Flyer Mass Launch (3:00)

Sunday 8:00 - 3:00

Low Bonus Point Peanut Scale*#

Jet Catapult Scale

Dime Scale*
Simplified Scale

CLG

Embryo NBM*1 Phantom Flash1

WW I Mass Launch (11:00) Combined Racers (1:00)

- * Judging will be done on Sat. morning from 9:00-12:00.
- # Planes can only have 15 bonus points or less.
- ¹ All planes must ROG unless told otherwise by the CD.

RULES: All events will be flown either AMA or FAC rules depending on which organization supports the event. The sod farm is a category 3 field with a max of 120 sec. The CD will determine if modified rules for maxes will be needed due to the weather. Any modification will be communicated at the beginning of each day.

- A. CLG has a 90 sec. max.
- B. Low Bonus Point FAC scale and Low Bonus Point Peanut Scale is the best flight out of three.
- C. Monoplanes will be allowed to compete in the WW I mass launch as long as they conform to the rules no parasol or high wing cabin types.
- D. Guillows Scale Planes can be modified so that plastic parts are not used. Any modification needs to maintain the scale outline.
- E. All fly offs will be a one round mass launch.

AWARDS: The award ceremony will be as soon after 3:00 as the results can be tabulated. Certificates will be given for the first three places in each event.

ENTRANCE FEE: \$20:00 or \$10:00 if you only fly one day.

LOCATION: North Georgia Turf Farm, 1487 Black Dirt Road, Whitesburg, GA 30185

CONTEST DIRECTORS: Jim Altenbern (jaltenbern0705@charter.net)

Gary Morton (gmorton1@comcast.net)





Kudzu Squadron 13

Kudzu Classic May 18 - 19, 2024 Raeford, N. C.

Saturday, May 18

FAC Mass Launch

WWI Navy Scale Pat Daily Memorial @ Mod Civil / Mod Mil Comb

FAC Judged / Timed

Embryo
Jet Catapult
Dime Scale
FAC Peanut Scale

Other

AMA Catapult Glider AMA P-30 Timed Target

@ Any Naval Aircraft (including Marine and USCG); any era; any nationality; must be in Navy colors and markings

Motorized chase vehicles allowed on roadways only

Water and soft drinks provided

On field comfort facility

Field MapQuest/Google Maps/GPS: 204 Ratley St, Raeford, NC 28376

Sunday, May 19

FAC Mass Launch

WWII
Air Racers Comb.
GA Multi-wing / GA Monoplane Comb.

FAC Judged / Timed

2 Bit + 1 FAC Scale Glider Blue Ridge Special No-Cal Profile

Other

NFFS E-20 SAM Twin Pusher Flying Hoard Mass Launch ##

Any rubber powered non-scale - max 26" wing span

FAC Events CD:

Dave Mitchell davedge@me.com

Other Events CD:

John Diebolt jdiebolt@mindspring.com

CAFFA Contact:

Jimmy Jordan jjordan18@ec.rr.com

Entry Fee: \$10.00 Covers both days Juniors Free

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40+ competition categories kits, tools, and aftermarket Marketplace with vintage tems.







- unlimited model entries, \$5 General Admission - \$5 Contest Entry - \$10 for discount for IPMS/USA for ages 13-17. \$2.00 members
- Admission and Free Contest Entry Youth 12 & Under – Free

AtlantaCon 2024

Plastic Model Show & Contest IPMS Region 3 Regional

IPMS Marietta Scale Modelers IPMS Atlanta, Inc. Hosted by:

Saturday, March 16, 2024

IAM Local 709 Union Hall 1032 S. Marietta Pkwy Marietta, GA 30060





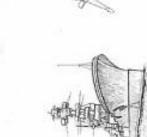


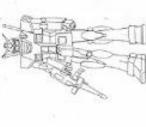
For more information visit our website at: www.ipms-atlanta.org

Open to the Public: Show Schedule

- 9:00 to 4:30
- Registration 9:00 to 12:30 Competition:
 - Judging 1:00 to 4:00
 - Awards 4:30







kdmcelmore@gmail.com General Inquiries:

dlock3155@gmail.com Vendor Inquiries: