



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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Jan.-Feb., 2017

HEADS UP

Welcome to the first issue of the year. As such, you'll find many of the expected contents. The annual banquet was a big success with great attendance, food, and fellowship, and a full report follows, as does that of the first indoor contest. The full indoor and outdoor contest schedules are set, and those follow, so mark your calendars accordingly. We pimp the upcoming Southeast Model Show, hosted by GAMA, and the Atlanta chapter of the International Plastic Model Society's annual contest and trade show, and make plans to attend both. Several more nuggets follow, so read on.

It's time for me to get out of the way. Ciao, y'all!

RENEWAL NAG

This, the first membership nag of the year, will remain a courteous one. No reason to be uncivil at this juncture. Ergo, all those not renewed yet can find the required form later in this issue. So, send Karl "Karats" Hube a check signed on the line that is dotted. The blistering will commence in the next issue. Eyes on you!

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO BE, AND PEOPLE TO SEE

The club's flying schedule for 2017 is set and the sanctions applications are in the mail. Not to worry, as is our wont we're providing no shortage of things to do in 2017. Ergo, there're no excuses for idle hands and Old Scratch should find no safe harbor within TTOMA's far-flung reach. Let it not find safe harbor within your grasp. A pleasantly arty schedule for 2017, thanks to Karl, follows elsewhere in this rag.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

Scott Lapraik journeyed down to Palm Bay and made a bit of noise at the KOI over the holidays. A brief look at the results indicated he took down home some mahogany. Well done, sir.

Gary Morton and Easy Dave Niedzieski journeyed up to Wawayanda, NY for the annual Barron Field Air Races. Our intrepid duo placed in Embryo, Scat Jet, and 2-Bit + 1. Gary also won their Wallbanger Award for his many heroic escapades downwind. Well done, sirs.

THUMBS IN OUR THOUGHTS

An update on Jim Walston's situation: he remains in the Alzheimer's facility near his home. Wanda reports he remains one of the lucky ones, if there's such a thing with Alzheimer's. His is the rare and fortunate case of regressing to the jolly sort, and not the dire end of which most of us are familiar. We can all be thankful for that, especially Wanda.

She and I've spent quite a bit of time clearing out their two outbuildings of the accumulated debris therein—quite an effort actually. Then, there's the separation of the wheat from the chaff, and the nature of the collectible hoard is now fully evident. Namely, nuggets abound, amounting to dozens and hundreds of items, and they'll be sold off at the "Mother Of All Yard Sales" this spring, to be scheduled later. Stay tuned.

Here's what to expect. Much of what you'll see relates to gas power and the majority of that, Old Timers and NosGas. The number of ignition and glow engines coming out of the outbuildings is staggering, literally several

hundreds. Ditto, tanks, mounts and timers. There're several dozen models in various states of repair with engines attached. There're several dozen kits of various kinds to be had. Various tools and gadgets are there, too.

There's little in the way of building materials, as Jim stopped building pretty much in the late 1980s. All of the fuels, dopes, paints and glues aged out long ago and were tossed, as was any analog gadget in disrepair. There's nothing digital in nature. Most of his plan collection has been given away to club members; the remainder will be there for grabs.

Surprisingly little of the retrieval business remains there because Jim ran a surprisingly tight ship until the end, and all that's left is a couple of receivers and a few dozen bugs, mostly broken. Anything new-ish will be shipped back to Wildlife Materials for resale, mainly antennae and badged cloth carriers. (FYI, Wildlife can sell or fix anything Jim sold to Free Flight customers. Ask for John C.)

ANNUAL BANQUET

We had a grand function this year from the fresh amalgam of the Petite Auberge and Les Violettes restaurants, now named "Petite Violettes". We weren't disappointed with the new digs on Clairmont Road or the food. Also, we had the best turnout in years, somewhere in the mid-thirties. We enjoyed visitors from out of town, the Mayo's and Courtney's from North Carolina, as well as the regulars from TN, AL and SC. (Ross Mayo, FAC C-in-C, was there to get acquainted with the club and bestow the *Pour le Merite* on David Barfield and your editor.)

The rest of the awards ceremony went well and long, with the exception of the emcee forgetting two of the awards. Karl Hube narrowly won the George Perryman Perpetual Award by a scant, few points, and the big moose will reside in the North Fulton horse country for a year. This left Josh Finn and Hope Finn in second and third place, respectively, and Dohrman and I tied for fourth. Hope continued her good fortune and won the Model of the Year Award, going away, with her year-long, good use of the Phantom Flash, as well as the Bob Baker Old Timer Award for the same reasons. It was crowded at the top stop for the Spirit of Comet Award with equal sparring between Hope, Josh, and Karl. Another tie was forthcoming with the Scale High Point Award with Karl and your editor crowding the podium's apex. Surprising no one, Frank Perkins did the three-peat with the Scramble Trophy, newly and resplendently refurbished by Karl. Closing out the Fame and Glory part of the evening was the presentation of the Norm Purdy Service Award to Nick Ray, and well deserved it was for his managerial efforts for the USA at the World FID Champs and elsewhere, editorship of *Indoor New and Views*, and his single-handed correction of the AMA's awful handling of the national indoor records.

Phyllis and Jim Altenbern started something new and exciting. (It had to be her idea.) They offered door prizes for everyone. And they weren't just trinkets and bobbles, either. Good kits and supplies abounded, with more appropriate items for the better halves. My score of a fresh Golden Age Repro kit of the Kawasaki KI-61 is much appreciated; it's a looker and a flier. Looking ahead, Jim Conery offered plenty of kits from his stash for next year. (His wife put forth no objections!) Hopefully, the door prize giveaway will become a tradition.

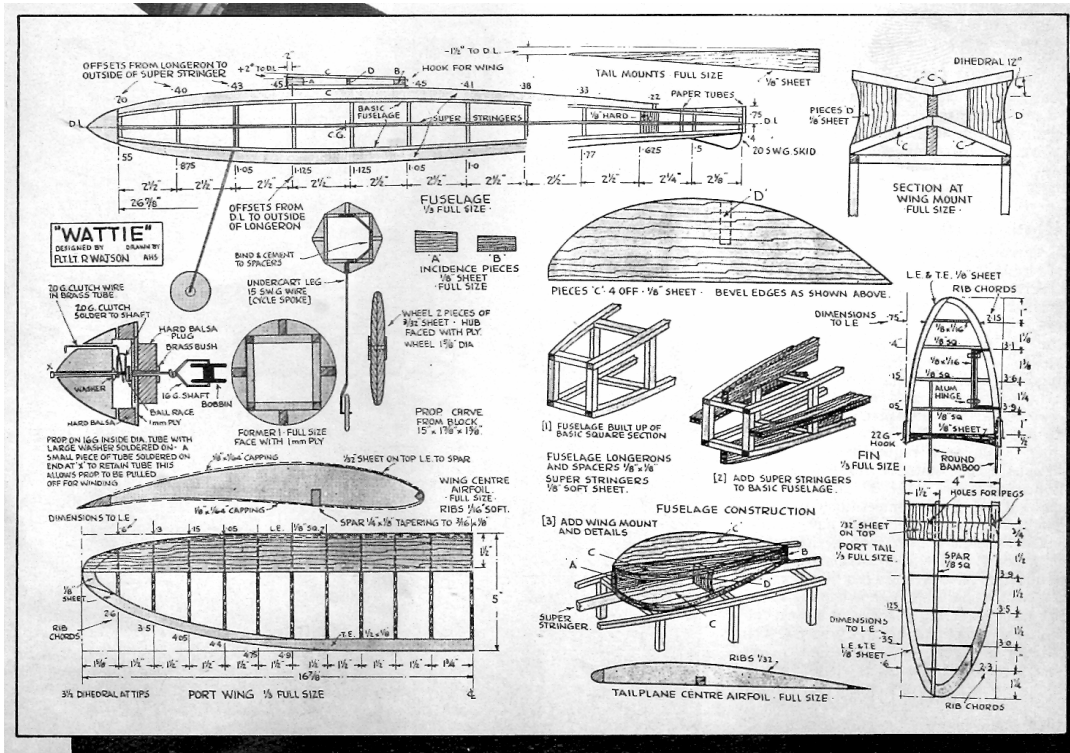
There was plenty of eye candy present in the form of recent models on display including: my new Moffett, several new scale models by Gary Baughman, Richard Schneider, Dohrman, Ross, and Josh; Karl's new towline glider; Jim Conery's new engines (including a giant, three-pot radial steam engine of his own creation); Graham Selick's new, big Satellite gas job; and Frank's new E-20. It was an altogether a grand turnout in Flying Iron, as we've come to expect. No doubt Petite Violettes will be given the opportunity of hosting us next year. Well done, sirs, and many thanks to Dohrman for arranging everything! (The colorful collage by David Barfield follows.)

Sending your host a thank you note is a sign of good manners, and that's exactly what Ross Mayo did from him and Wendy in appreciation for their evening of the banquet. It's presented later in this issue. A very classy thing to do.

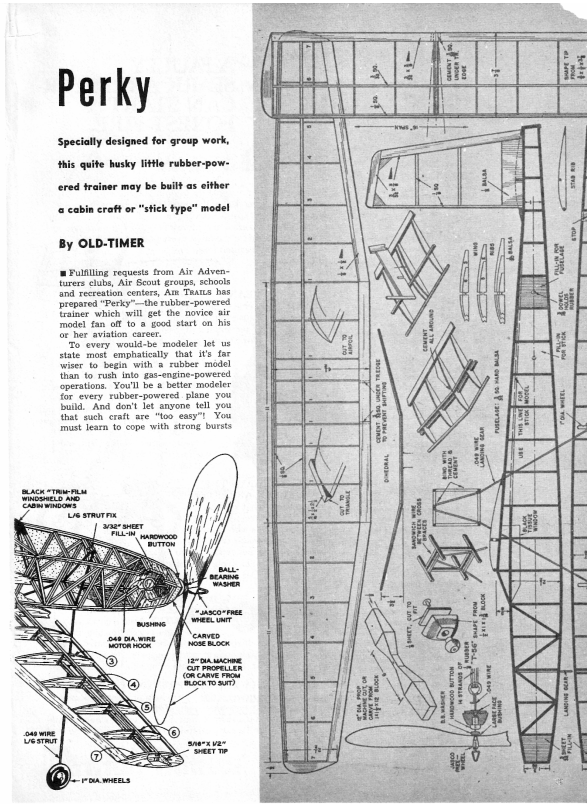
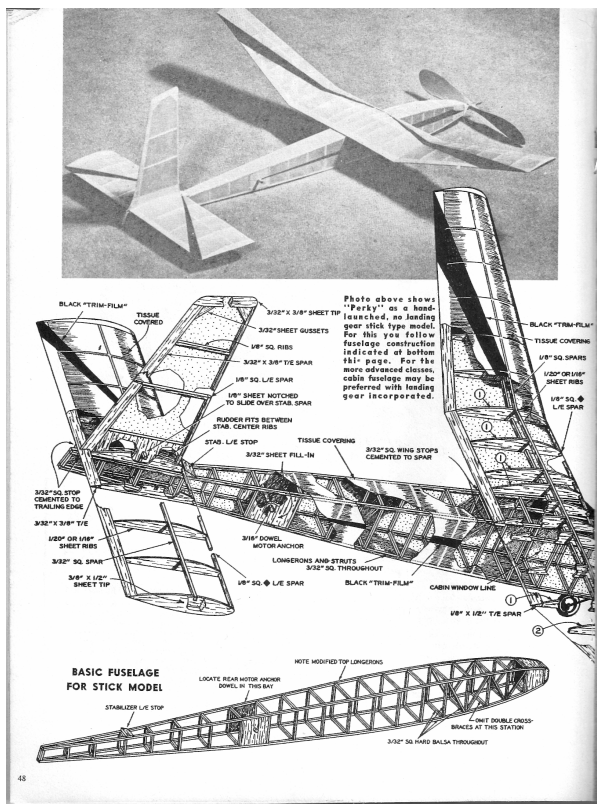
TREASURE TROVE

For this issue's dip into the obscure and opportunistic we offer two seldom seen but promising flyers. The first is the "Wattie" by RAF Flt. Lt. R. Watson from the December, 1942 *Aeromodeller*. Thusly enshrined temporally, it's suitable for the SAM Small Rubber Cabin category, and having a freewheeling prop, SAM Commercial Rubber, too. The FAC Old Time Rubber Cabin category would also apply. Happily and sharply reprinted in the July, 1988 issue as a look-back construction article, my colleague Andrew Longhurst goes on at length about its many fine qualities and popularity during WW II and since. It's certainly a looker, and areas, moments, and airfoils rightly oblige. However, just as certainly, it's not a particularly easy or quick build. But, rest assured, great looks and flight performance will likely follow. (Archivists will note both 14.0 and 15.0 inch props are mentioned in the

1942 article. The 1988 article is recommended for Andrew's many valuable comments and suggestions for contemporary use.) This one does, in fact, tempt this writer.



The other showcased plan is of the "Perky" and from within these noble shores. Published in the October, 1952 *Air Trails*, the Perky slots invitingly into the NFFS Small NosRub category and offers both Cabin and Stick options. Although a tad small at approximately 130 wing squinches, it features lightweight and simplicity, particularly in the Stick version. The flat-bottomed wing airfoil and freewheeling prop might deter some enthusiasm, but this is about the cutest model airplane this writer's ever seen. It might be a quick and capable spare to my veteran Last Resort. We shall see



SAME CHURCH, DIFFERENT PEW

The winter months in our area don't only offer us a lot of shop time for building Free Flight models. The local brethren of kindred spirits in the far-flung modeling fraternity are offered many opportunities for amusement, too. First and foremost among these is the Southeast Model Show held annually down in Perry, Georgia by GAMA in early March, this year on the 3rd and 4th. Bluntly put, this two-day soiree is the world's largest gathering of model aviation enthusiasts, and don't be persuaded by claims to the contrary, like those from Hershey (PA), Toledo (OH), Ontario (CA), or elsewhere. The one-thousand (yep, 1000) table count of private vendors and industry representatives far outstrips all put before it, so kiss our grits! Eagle-eyed readers will find the flyer following later in this issue.

It's quite true that the vast majority is RC-oriented and of only oblique interest to us. However, Free Flight nuggets abound in the nooks and crannies. This writer, for one, always finds something that he didn't know he couldn't live without. And if you ever wanted or needed to harangue the AMA hierarchy for any reason, targets of opportunity abound therein. Also, I usually run into someone I haven't seen in years. Doors open around noon on Friday for civilians, and there's all day Saturday. Frankly, more goodies are available on Fridays, but prices are better on Saturday, so pick your poison.

The other opportunity for rubbing elbows with a large gaggle of modeling nuts is the Atlanta-IPMS's big, annual contest and trade show the March 11. Yes, this is what our local, plastic modeling friends are up to in their free time. As in year's past, it's being held at the Lockheed Union Hall on 1032 South Marietta Parkway, just a little west of the north entrance to Southern Polytech, and it'll only cost you ten dollars, American, to attend. Kids under 12 get in free.

It's quite a hoot with plenty of eye candy. If you've a file of the March, 2016 *Thumb Print* handy, you can view the collage of the event. And if you've any hankering to add to your plastic model kit collection, this is the place because the selection is vast, and prices are nuts, and greatly discounted from retail. Tools and supplies are for sale, too. Deals abound, in other words, and like down Perry way, the occasional Free Flight nugget can be found. I generally chat it up with many of these guys, and a surprisingly large number of them have more than a passing knowledge of "stick-and-tissue" modeling, their label for what we do. I encourage all with some free time to attend; you won't regret it. I never do. Regardless, even if you don't attend, quick googles of IPMS-Atlanta and the national IPMS organization are worth the effort.

(And while you do, bear in mind the numbers of people in the world that do plastic modeling far outstrips all denominations in model aviation, literally tens of millions across the globe. Having said all that, the notion of spending six months or more on a project and then being happy with doing nothing but staring at it is way beyond my understanding. However, it's a big planet, room for everybody.)

RELEGATING THE YOKE

Your trusty editor is no longer the Veep of NFFS's South Region. I figured two terms were enough, and I had the responsibilities of 2017 Symposium to address. By final vote count, Bob Sowder (VA) is the winner. For those unfamiliar with Bob, he's a life-long Free Flight modeler and busy gas power flier. He's well integrated within NFFS community, enjoying many friendships, particularly up and down the East Coast and in the Heartland. He's very media savvy, having made a living as a TV journalist and related fields. (Not too hard on the eyes and has a good head of hair, as you might suspect.)

I'll take some space here to brag on NFFS. In this election NFFS fared much better than the country did. Two very qualified and able candidates ran, widely respected by all, and either of them would've done a great job. (Ross Jahnke from Louisiana was the other candidate, as some of you should recall as NFFS members. If this is news to you, well, you're not.) I can't imagine any nose-holding as either box was checked and the ballot mailed. No one should've felt NFFS let them down in the way of choices. Not so, the USA, IMHO. Thank you, NFFS!

WASTED DAYS AND WASTED NIGHTS

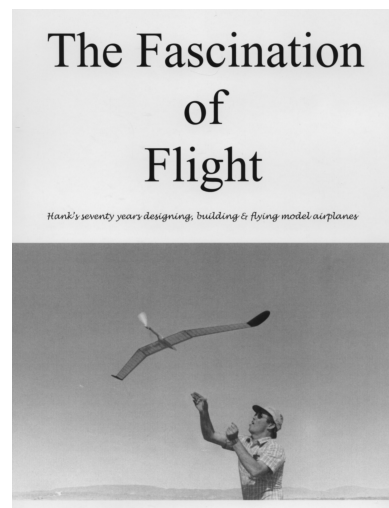
Look out, my fellow travelers. There's another desirous vixen out there, luring your eye and mind away from its appointed duties. We're all aware of the allure of <outerzone.co.uk>, and we sing its praises often. Well, those good people have established what appears to be the beginning of a massive effort to scan and set up files for download of as many modeling magazines and books as they can get their hands on. They're well on their way, too.

The cache is an adjunct to their existing portfolio of plans and can be accessed from their website. Just surf onto <rclibrary.co.uk> and step back. As excessive and compulsive as they've been in the quest for plans, I suspect in due time this literary cache will be similarly massive. Not that I'm complaining, nor will many. So, after all your chores are done

SOMETHING NEW TO DO WITH YOUR MONEY

The National Free Flight Society has just released the first in, hopefully, a series of memoirs from some of the august legends of our past and present, many of whom are thankfully still with us. Specifically, Henry (Hank) Cole wrote a lengthy and very enlightening memoir of his lifelong devotion to our hobby and sport of Free Flight and offered it to be published by NFFS. It's simply delightful and a must-read for anyone interested in whom we are and where we've been. I couldn't put it down.

Copies can be bought from NFFS for twenty-nine dollars, American, at the address provided on the website (<freeflight.org>). BTW, there're plenty of other cool and groovy things to be viewed and bought. For example, the new 50th anniversary T-shirts are a must-have. (And if you happen to be one of the slack-jawed, knuckle-dragging yokels who aren't members yet, you can take the opportunity to join our esteemed ranks. You know who you are!)



THE FINAL TALLY

The final High Point tally for 2016 follows. The top spot was under assault until the last two months of the year, with Karl holding on against a late surge by Josh. The other important point to be mentioned is the large percentage of our club that participated with multiple contests and categories, both indoors and out. Frankly, many clubs cannot boast this fact, being comprised of squadrons of lawn chair *piloten, nicht experten*. Well done, my fellow Thumbs!

Karl Hube	62	Bill Gowen	9
Josh Finn	60	Gary Baughman	6
Hope Finn	48	Lee Russell	6
Dohrman Crawford	24	Jim Conery	5
David Mills	24	Frank Perkins	4
David Barfield	20	Dana Russell	3
Richard Schneider	16	Joe Ryan	1
Nick Ray	16	Scott Lapriak	1
Jim Altenbern	11	Graham Selick	1
Gary Morton	10		

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in March. We should have reports of the Southeast Model Show and the Atlanta IPMS contest, as well as the indoor contest reports in the interim. We'll take the opportunity to thoroughly pimp the outdoor flying season, too. All else of worth that comes across the transom will be slotted within its waiting pages.

As in all issues past, I beseech the multitudes for contributions in the way of articles, plans, photos, rants and raves. Ciao, y'all!

TTOMA Indoor Contest

St. Lukes

Jan. 14, 2017

Nine fliers registered for the Jan. 14 contest and recorded 37 official flights! Here are the complete flight times. Bill Gowen, CD, reporting.

F1D

Joshua Finn 16:44, 19:33, (37:17, best 2)

Nick Ray 16:58, 16:31 (33:29, best 2)

Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 4:30, best 3

Hangar Rat

Hope Finn 171, best 2

Dohrman Crawford 91, best 2

No-Cal Scale

Richard Schneider 3:36, total of 3

Joe Ryan 0:42, total of 3

Limited Pennyplane

Bill Gowen 8:48, best single

Dan Crews 6:56, best single

Joshua Finn 5:12, best single

A-6

Bill Gowen 6:40, best single

Hope Finn 5:34, best single

January 29, 2017

Dear Dohrm, Dave and all the TTOMA Guys and Gals,

Thank you once again for all the hospitality you showered upon Wendy and me. We enjoyed the banquet, the company and the food.

I especially enjoyed the opportunity to ham it up once more. Dave, I hope your knees are okay.

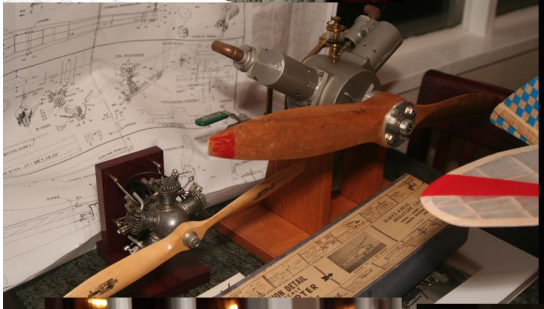
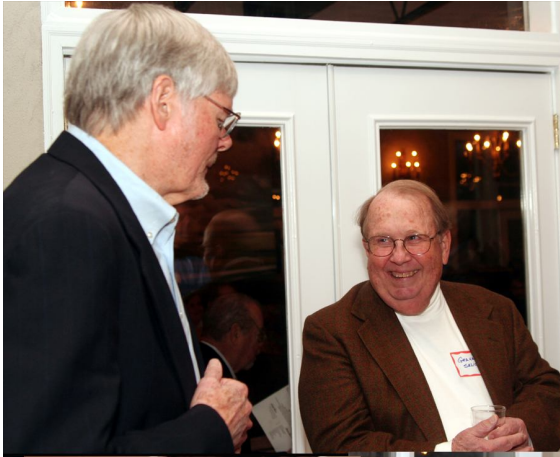
My pick for the door prize was the Rocky Top FAC Moth kit. I have never had one of Buzz's kits and I am blown away by its quality. I have already written him to that effect.

We will plan on attending next year. And I hope to make a contest sooner than later.

And of course, everyone is welcomed to join us here in the mountains.

Thanks so much once more.







2017 TTOMA Outdoor Flying Schedule

North Georgia Turf Farm/ Whitesburg, Georgia
Flying is scheduled from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM ET

Date	Contest	Contest Director
April 23, 2017	April Fools Specials: CLG and Dime Scale	Karl Hube
May 7, 2017	May Daze Specials: P-30 and GHQ Peanut	Dohrman Crawford
June 10 -11, 2017	Chattahoochee Challenge Georgia State Championships	Jim Altenbern/Gary Morton
July 2, 2017	Turf Wars Specials: No Cal and E20	David Mills
August 13, 2017	Fizzle While You Sizzle Specials: E36 and Scat Jet	Graham Selick
September 24, 2017	Summer's Swan Song Specials: 2Bit+1 and BRS	Dohrman Crawford
October 29, 2017	Last Fling Til Spring Specials: Jimmy Allen Scale and Embryo	David Barfield
November 5, 2017	Gary Baughman	Turkey Shoot

Note: The term “Specials” shown under each contest name is a new feature for 2017. The Specials are highlighted events with a prize for the winner. If two or more flyers score official flights, the winner will receive a return of the entrance fee. A flyer can win only one Special refund for the day. As always, any other event can be flown for fun or to score points for the big collection of club awards available.

2017 TTOMA Indoor Flying Schedule

St Luke's Presbyterian Church Gymnasium/ Dunwoody, Georgia
Flying is scheduled from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM ET

Date	Contest	Contest Director
February 18, 2017	Monthly Contest	Nick Ray
March 25, 2017	Monthly Contest	Dohrman Crawford
April 22, 2017	Monthly Contest	Joshua Finn
May 27, 2017	Monthly Contest	Bill Gowen
June 24, 2017	Monthly Contest	TBD
July 8, 2017	Monthly Contest	Nick Ray
August 19, 2017	Monthly Contest	Joshua Finn
September 16, 2017	Peach State Indoor Champs	David Mills
October 7, 2017	Monthly Contest	Bill Gowen
November 18, 2017	Monthly Contest	Nick Ray
December 16, 2017	Monthly Contest	Joshua Finn
January 20, 2018	Monthly Contest	Bill Gowen



2017
Two Days of Fun



SOUTHERN MODEL SHOW
SMS
GEORGIA AIRCRAFT MODELERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Southeastern Model Show

Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4



THE WORLD'S LARGEST RC SWAP MEET
Open to all Model Aircraft Enthusiasts

Doors are open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday
Over 1000 Tables of Merchandise located in three different buildings.

Raffles, Indoor Electric Fly-In and demonstrations both Friday and Saturday.
Easy Enter and Exit from Parking Area, Plenty of parking available, including RV parking

Admission: Adults \$10, Kids \$5, purchase good for both days

Advanced Table Reservations and Payment are required.
For Table Reservation: www.gamarc.com/sms2017.html
For information: gamarc@gamarc.com
Tables \$18 each, Electrical outlet \$40 each

Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry, Georgia
I- 75 at exit 135

2017 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ AMA # _____

Address _____

State and Zip Code _____ Other Family Members and AMA # _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

\$20.00/yr. adults, plus \$1.00/yr. for all juniors and for additional family members in same household. Send check, payable to TTOMA, to Karl "Karats" Hube/104 Smith Forest Lane/ Alpharetta, GA 30004/770-886-0104.