



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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






Jan.-Feb., 2016

HEADS UP

Welcome to the first issue of the New Year, and a pithy one at that. You'll find much in the way of announcements, including almost a full year of indoor and outdoor contests and quite a few other local events worth your attention. Please note the additional pimping of the Peach State Indoor Champs. The following PSIC flyer reveals all, so mark your calendars thusly. Also, these pages provide a full report on the club's annual banquet and the first two indoor contest reports of the year. Your editor will let this broadside speak for itself, and I'll get out of your way. Ciao, y'all!

RENEWAL TIME

My fellow Thumbs, the calendar is showing February, and ergo, the big membership nag is on. Quite a few of us handed Karl "Karats" Hube a check at the banquet, and some more before and since. I'll keep the ragging at a minimum at this juncture, as a righteous soul can still come up with a plausible excuse for not rejoining our merry band at this no longer early date. However, this rationale won't find just purchase in the future. Be advised: by the time the next issue sees the light of day, you'll be teetering on a two-legged stool and prone to whatever slings and arrows come your way. You know who you are. Stroke Karl that check! The membership form follows for your convenience. Eyes on you!

THINGS TO DO, PEOPLE TO SEE AND PLACES TO GO

You'll find the year's contest schedule cascading below. Opportunities abound for either the mild enthusiast or committed crazy within the membership and beyond. The 2016 indoor season is already under way Behind Closed Doors, and the outdoor season under the Cathedral of the Big Blue Sky, not too far off. Build a model airplane and show up somewhere, ferchristsakes! It's the most fun you can have with your clothes on.

- March 4-5: Southeast Model Show. Perry GA.
- March 12: Indoor. St Lukes. Peach State Indoor Champs. CD-David Mills
- March 19-20: West Baden Indoor Contest
- April 9: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Bill Gowen
- April 24: Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. April Fools Annual. CD-Karl Hube
- May 22: Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. CD-Dohrman Crawford
- May 28: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Nick Ray
- June 18: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Josh Finn
- June 25: Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. FAC/June Bug Jamboree. CD-Jim Altenbern
- June 26: Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. FAC/June Bug Jamboree. CD-David Barfield
- July 9: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Bill Gowen
- July 17: Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. Peach State Champs. CD-Whit Russell

July 19-23: USIC @ Ratoul, IL. (Note site change. No longer @ Bowling Green, KY.)

July 25-29: USOC @ Muncie, IN

Aug. 13: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Nick Ray

Aug. 21: Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. Pop Purdy's Contest. CD-Graham Selick

Sept. 10: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Josh Finn

Sept. 25: Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. Summer's Swan Song. CD-Gary Morton

Sept. 26-30: SAM Champs @ Muncie, IN

Oct. 2: Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. Last Fling til Spring. CD-David Mills.

Oct. 15. Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Bill Gowen

Nov. 6: Outdoor. N GA Sod Farm. Turkey Shoot. CD-Gary Baughman

Nov. 19: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Nick Ray

Dec. 10: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Josh Finn

Jan. 14: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Bill Gowen

THUMBS IN PRINT

Frank Perkins published a fine article in the October issue of *Free Flight Quarterly*. He's been developing Depron foam structures for some time, and this article covers the use of same in Coupe, E-20 and P-30 fuselages. He did a great job with a good, informative text and tasty photos. Good job, Frank.

Chris Stoddart furnished part three of his ongoing series, "Properly Speaking" in the same issue. You'd better get out your No. 3 Ticonderoga because he discusses Reynold's numbers, rotation speeds, advance ratios, plus lift/drag coefficients. It gave me a headache, so it must be good.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

Some Thumbs took the trip down to Palm Bay and made their presence felt at the recent King Orange International (KOI). This report comes from Frank Perkins:

"The Florida Modeler's Association (FMA) did a great job of running the 61st King Orange International Free Flight contest, including hot-off-the-grill hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch every day. The FMA field is very large, well-mowed, and crisscrossed with paved roads for easy retrievals. You could fly almost any AMA, FAI, FAC or NFFS event you wanted at the contest. It was a bit windy on Tuesday, and we had a couple of brief showers on Wednesday. But, every day of the contest was very flyable with great conditions on Wednesday and Thursday morning.

"The growing popularity of electric models was very apparent at the contest. It will be interesting to see how the tally of F1Q, A Electric, B Electric and E-36 flights compare with the tally of gas-powered flights. I think it will be pretty close. The E-36 mass launch demonstrated how fast the performance in this event is improving, with most of the models drilling a hole in the sky! Also notable was the large number of well-trimmed scale models flown at the contest, making for spectacular mass launches. I managed to slip into 1st place in hand launched glider and the "beat the Vartanian" mass launch, and 2nd place in Catapult Glider, P-30 and F1G.

"The KOI is a great opportunity to get out of the house and do some mid-winter flying. I'm already looking forward to KOI 2016."

Jim Conery attended, too, and he adds this: "I can agree whole-heartedly with all of Frank's comments on the KOI contest. It was by far the biggest event that I have ever attended and flown in. Any feelings of cold feet were dispelled by the staff running the event, and all my questions were answered in a very friendly manor. As a matter of fact, they even checked on me a few times to make sure I was having a swell time. The food on the field was great, inexpensive, and served up well. Speaking of the flying field, words cannot describe how I felt seeing that field after flying in New England!

"I did manage to fold up two No-Cals and one Phantom Flash in the wind, as they were being launched, so those events were scratched. In other FAC events, I managed third place finishes in the Thompson/Greaves Trophy Race and WW I Mass Launches and a second place finish in the WW II

Mass Launch. That really isn't too spectacular, as the entries in these events were quite low, but were still greater than last year.

“Hopefully the FAC members will be in greater attendance next year and bring more competition to the field. Also, I flew Simplified Scale with a brand new, untested and untrimmed Spartan Cabin model which was not flying very well at all. Wally Farrell, one of FAC's most noted flyers, lent considerable assistance, and his advice enabled me to double my previous flight times. It wasn't good enough to get into the money, but still very rewarding. Thanks again, Wally!

“I also managed to pick up a kit for Carl Goldberg's 1/2A Viking to build and get into power flying a bit more. Payment went to field maintenance, so it was for a good cause. I didn't fly P-30 on day three because I had had surgery to remove varicose veins in both my legs early in December. So, after two days flying I was really beat. Next year will be different! It was great to see Frank, Scott, and Graham on the field, as well as a couple folks that I knew from flying in New England. I met a lot of new friends there and can hardly wait for next year.

“One final note: My wife Lynda attended with me on day one, and she was impressed enough to be ready to accompany me again next year! Hope your wife is doing better Karl! See you at the banquet!”

ANNUAL EATS

We circled the wagons again at Petit Auberge for our annual banquet. As we've come to expect, a fine time was had by all. However, attendance was down from last year due to three couples having doctor's excuses. As always, raves abounded for the food. My sea bass was delightful, and the bread pudding, otherworldly. Others raved about their chicken and beef.

The awards ceremony offered a diversity not seen in quite a few years. Frank Perkins won the Scramble Award for two years in a row. (Karl Hube wasn't in attendance, so we had to go without the challenging elaboration as to what it all meant.). Karl won the Wayne Brock Scale Trophy in abstentia, largely due to his participation in the PSIC mass launches, and a word to the wise for those so inclined. (Your editor made an executive decision and renamed the trophy, and the Lord's mercy on whomever might choose to argue!) Your editor won the Comet Trophy, edging out Hope Finn by half a point. Hope earned the Bob Baker Old Timer Trophy by wide margins, largely due to campaigning of her Phantom Flash. Your editor won the Model of the Year Trophy, closing out the reign of the Jimmie Allen models and barely edging out David Barfield. The George Perryman High Point Trophy was won by Hope Finn, her first trip to the podium's top spot for this accolade, narrowly defeated her husband Josh, last year's winner. I'll add to that, in addition to amassing the most High Points last year, she assembled a complete human being. Not a bad run! Trailing behind her in order, we find Josh Finn, Karl Hube, your editor and Frank Perkins.

Dohrman informed us we were bumping into the restaurant's minimum plate count for use of their facilities, so we need to bump up our attendance next year. We'd hate to lose this venue, so let's all toe the line next year.

A CALL TO ARMS

The club's Model-of-the-Year (MOY) is finally settled, after much *sturm und drung* amongst the Higher Ups. They kept it simple, and we're not having a separate Model-of-the-Year and Event-of-the-Year (EOY). The very reasonable choice of the old Comet Phantom Flash for MOY is the focus of our collective efforts in 2016. Joe Konefes's masterpiece is well known, so no great amount of exposition is required. It'll be flown under Flying Aces Club (FAC) rules. As for me, I've built and flown several over the years, and every single one flew great and was a quick built. Copies of the plans are over the digital ether and easily obtainable.

As the long career of the late George Perryman demonstrated, the Phantom Flash is a real High Point hog, should you choose to employ it as such. It can be flown indoors and outdoors for FAC kanones as well. It slots into several categories, including but not limited to: Mulvihill, Small Mulvihill, Coupe, SAM OT Small Rubber Stick, FAC Old Time Rubber Stick and who knows what else. Unfortunately,

Banquet Scenes From David Barfield



it can't be flown in Dawn Unlimited because the motor isn't enclosed. There're probably a number of indoor categories it slots into, too. George Perryman sure knew of a few. (I'll investigate!)

The 2016 FAC Rulebook is out, and the new, amended rules for the Phantom Flash are as follows:

VIII-2.0 PHANTOM FLASH: Competition fun with a classic 1930s "sport rubber model."

A. Build as per kit or plan; color and decorate as you wish!

B. Landing gear as per kit or plan. Wheels must turn freely.

C. Wingspan: 16 inches as per plan.

D. Prop:

1. Diameter as per kit or plan.

2. Prop **MUST** be one-piece molded plastic.

3. Prop may be scraped, shaved or painted.

E. Launch technique:

1. **INDOOR:** ROG unassisted from floor.

2. **OUTDOOR:** ROG unassisted from official Embryo table.

F. Official flight: As per FAC Primary Rules, Min. 20 second minimum, Max 120 sec.

G. Scoring:

1. Total of best three of six flights.

2. Back-up models are permitted if needed to obtain six flights.

3. May be flown as a mass launch if advertised in advance.

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

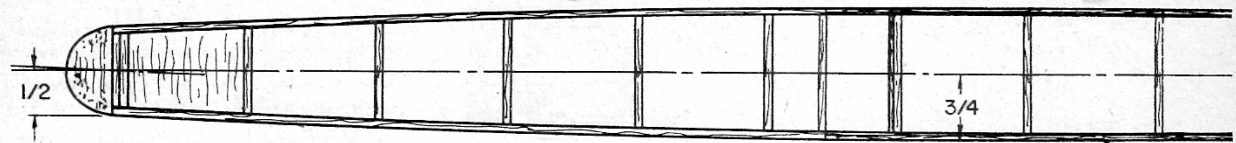
Free Flighters throughout our great nation are presented with an opportunity not seen in many decades. What, you ask? Well, the USIC and USOC are being held during back-to-back weeks and only a three-hour drive apart. Specifically, the indoor Nats will be held in Rantoul, IL from July 19 through 23, and the outdoor Nats in Muncie, IN from July 25 through 29. This is a golden opportunity for us to enjoy very conveniently the best our hobby and sport has to offer. Many Thumbs make the pilgrimage to Muncie as an annual rite, and several are looking seriously into taking in all or part of the indoor Nats. There's some corresponding interest from the local indoorists, too. I suspect the same is true for our brethren all across the country. This could be the beginning of something very beneficial to both groups. We'll be reporting any pertinent developments along these lines in the interim. Anywho, start making your plans now!

TREASURE TROVE

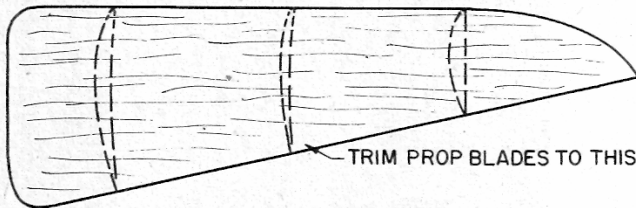
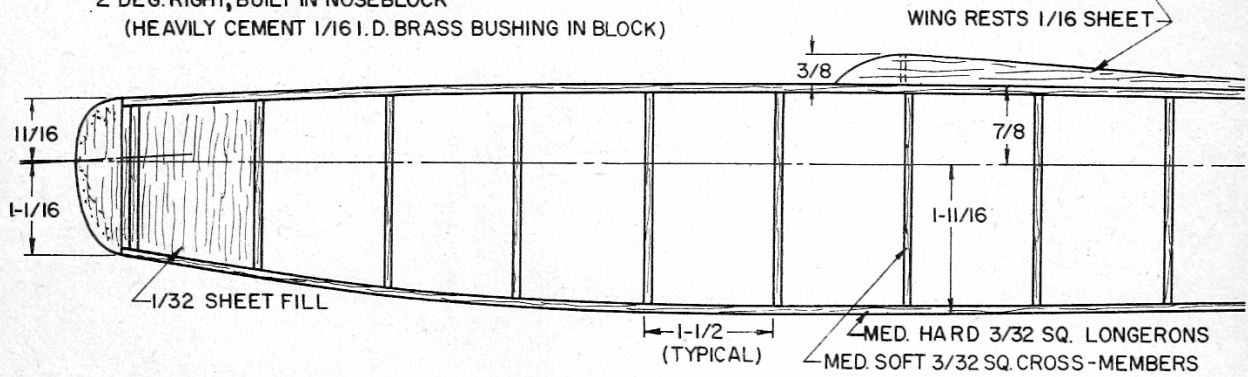
With this inaugural installment, we begin a regular feature of the ETP. In every issue we'll (hopefully) showcase an obscure but intriguing design from the massive archives of these offices. (Thank you, Frank Hodson and others.) To insure its usefulness, we'll only publish outstanding and unheralded designs in the events Thumbs actually fly. In this first case, it's the AMAzer for the Small NosRub category from the May, 1953 issue of MAN.

The AMAzer is a very interesting design, penned by the late W. S. "Woody" Blanchard, Jr., one of the best Free Flight designers and fliers of the 1950s and 1960s. His is a long list of capable designs in glider, rubber and gas power, and he owned the Grand National Championship during the 1950s. At his busy peak, he competed at the highest levels, across many categories, and he was on the USA's F1C team in 1960.

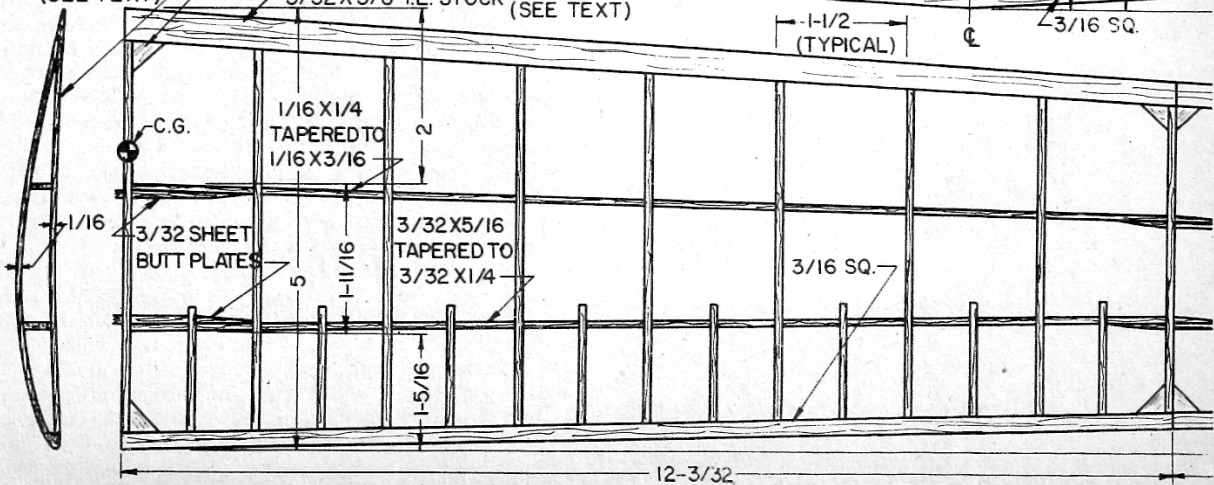
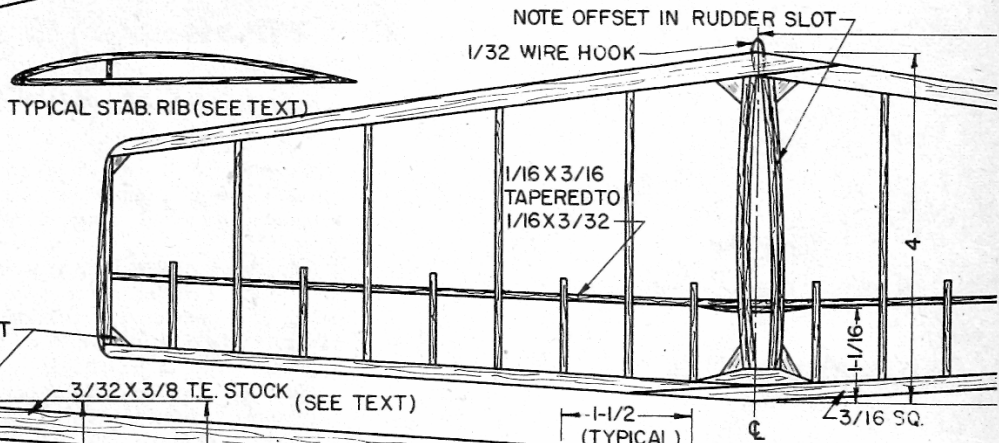
Why so short a span and not later, you ask? I suspect his professional duties took precedence. Long story, short, he joined the Army Air Corps during WW II at the earliest opportunity and piloted B-24s in the Italian theater. War won, he returned to the USA and finished college. Engineering diploma in hand, he joined NACA in Langley, VA and enjoyed a long, fruitful career there and at the later NASA. He worked at NASA until his retirement with an extensive long list of inventions and patents to his name. His many achievements are much too long to list here, but among many other accolades, he's credited as a co-inventor of the Mercury space capsule!

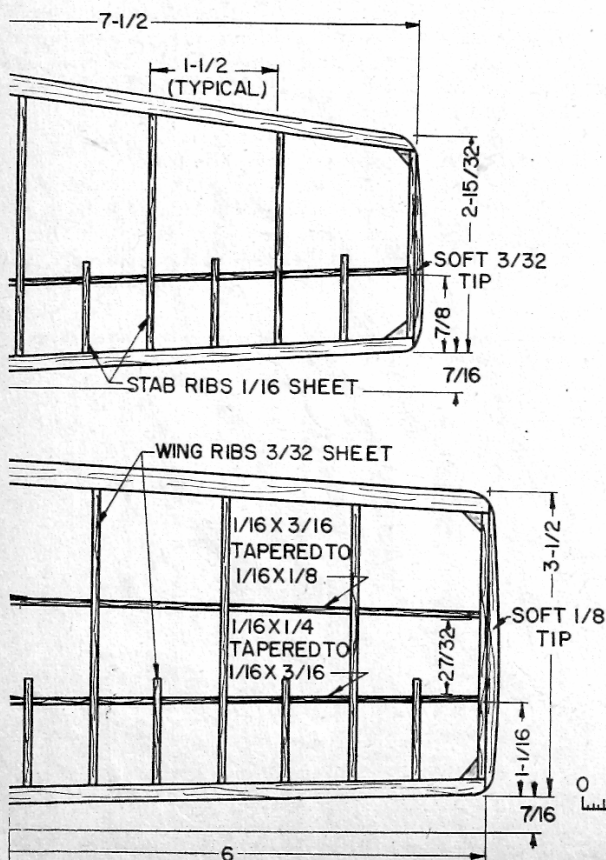
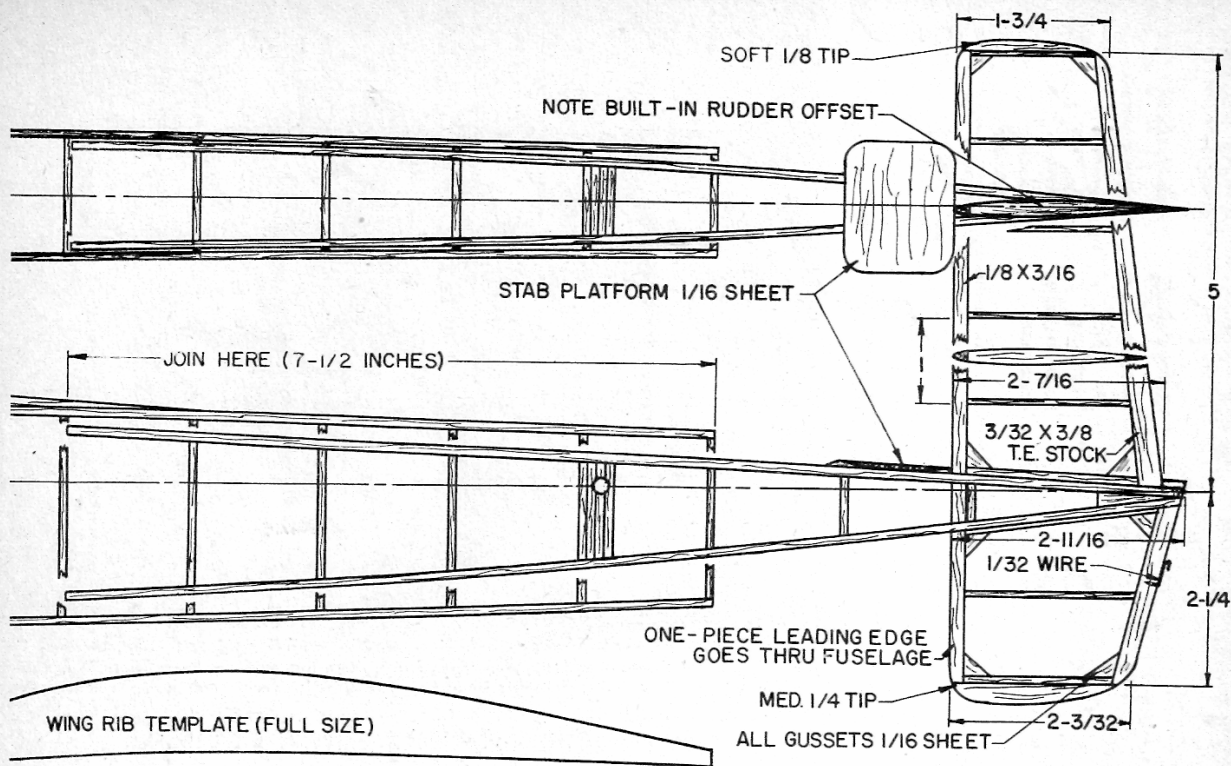


3 DEG. DOWNTHRUST,
2 DEG. RIGHT, BUILT IN NOSEBLOCK
(HEAVILY CEMENT 1/16 I. D. BRASS BUSHING IN BLOCK)

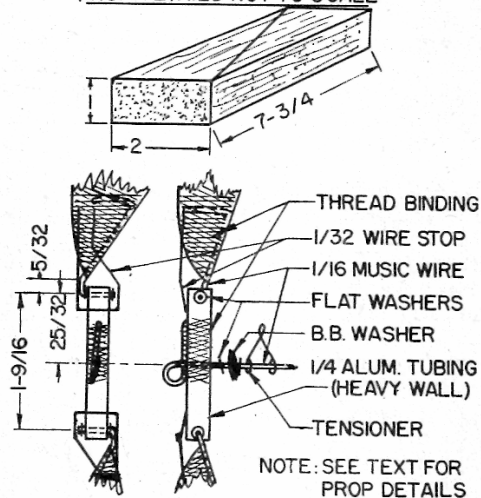


TRIM PROP BLADES TO THIS TEMPLATE AFTER ROUGHING OUT PITCH





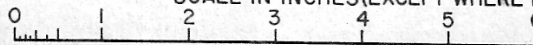
PROP DETAILS NOT TO SCALE



NOTE: SEE TEXT FOR PROP DETAILS

AMAZer

SCALE IN INCHES (EXCEPT WHERE NOTED)



He also served with the AMA under many capacities and is an AMA and NFFS Hall-of-Famer. Among many other accomplishments, he was one of the leading lights of early electric power, where his engineering skills and design talents proved useful. His official AMA HOF biography makes for some awe-inspiring reading, so indulge the good man's memory.

The AMAzer looks like a real flier in Small NosRub to this grizzled veteran. Nothing vexes in terms of its potential in climb or glide. The obvious positives include extremely light construction, righteous wing airfoil, very ample motor length, harmonious blend of areas and moments and a capable if oddly shaped, two-bladed folder. (Unconventional prop planforms don't bother me anymore. Years of flying the Last Resort with its shovel blade up front have eased my esthetic sensibilities.) However, the eye is justly pulled toward the multitude of "unique" features, and frankly, simplicity sure isn't one of the AMAzer's virtues. The first concern is the fully tapered wing planform and its spliced ribs. However, the wing shouldn't test your patience in rib-cutting too much. (The plan only provides the root chord airfoil, but a contemporary article and plan by him of a model with the same construction directs the reader to use the single, root-chord template and just cut off the spliced ribs at their trailing edges to fit. No worries.) Readers should note, too, the strong negative incidences in both the wing and stab, although the actual decalage appears ordinary enough. The stab DT set-up is something this writer's never seen, with its fin-pass-through arrangement. Note, too, the strong right-fin offset.

The AMA has the plan in its inventory and will be happy to sell you a copy. Ask for Greg at the Plans Service; he'll take care of you. Good guy.

DIFFERENT STROKES

The writer has sung the praises of the Atlanta IPMS chapter's big, annual, plastic model contest and swap meet many times. I always provide plenty of advance notice, so my fellow Thumbs can take part. This year is no different, so mark your calendars for March 19. It's held at the Lockheed Union Hall at 1032 South Marietta Parkway, up the hill just west of the north entrance to Southern Polytechnic. The entrance fees is five dollars, American, and cheap for the thrills offered. Kids under 12 yrs. old get in free, so bring them.

Yes, this is all a bit *outré* to the hobby and sport of Free Flight. However, I never fail to have a great time. Also, you'll find the occasional Free Flight nugget amongst the dross of plastic modeling bric-a-brac for sale, as well as plenty of books, magazines and tools. And naturally, there're mountains of plastic modeling stuff for sale and at very good prices, too, easily one-third to one-half of retail. Check it out. You won't regret it. Their website is a visual hoot: ipms-atlanta.org. Bring your cash!

SAME CHURCH, DIFFERENT PEW

The annual Southeast Model Show is another must-see model aviation event. That weekend, there's no better place on the face of the earth for a model airplane nut to be than Perry, GA.. Period. Ergo, mark you calendars on March 4 and 5. GAMA puts it on and does a superb job, having created and sustained the largest model aviation swap meet in the world! (Kiss my grits, Toledo, Hershey and Ontario!) This massive swap meet offers over 1000 tables and pretty much absorbs four, big indoor arenas at the Georgia State Fairgrounds for two days. The crowds are massive, and commerce is brisk. Many of the major manufacturers and cottage industry types are well-represented. Yes, it's 98% RC, but Free Flights nuggets abound in the nooks and crannies, and there're plenty of books, magazines, engines, tools and other all-purpose hobbyist goodies. Hard trolling is usually rewarded. Another treat is the wealth of electric goodies, which have taken over this event, just as they have everywhere else. There's no stopping this electric avalanche, and you can pick up last year's cool stuff at ridiculously low, discounted prices. Bring your cash!

There're always plenty of special interest groups around with booths, encapsulating PR types flacking away. The AMA is usually well-entrenched and pressing the flesh. Maybe the braver of the FAA contingent and allied *Federales* will be on site, trying to legitimize their absurd position on the so-called dangers of RC drones and other model aircraft. Many Thumbs will be in attendance, and Josh

Finn will be set up in the indoor flying arena, running flight demonstrations in betwixt the RC eddy makers, and generally waving the FF flag. It's a good indoor flying site, so bring 'em if you got 'em.

Please make plans to attend. Opinions vary as to which is the better day. I prefer Friday and show up around noon. Others say Saturday is better because the prices are a tad better, but show up early. Many vendors start to pack up around mid-afternoon.

MADE A LIST AND CHECKED IT TWICE

Here's the final tally on the club's 2015 High Point tourney. The results demonstrate productive use one can get from the venerable Comet Phantom Flash, and not to mention the joys of beating your husband on a regular basis, Behind Closed Doors.

The other podium finishes and the rest are listed below. Let's do it again next year!

Hope Finn	44	Jim Altenbern	10
Josh Finn	41	Dohrman Crawford	7
Karl Hube	21	Richard Schneider	7
David Mills	20	Graham Selick	5
Frank Perkins	19	Gary Baughman	4
Nick Ray	14	David Barfield	3
Bill Gowen	12	Joe Ryan	1
Gary Morton	12		

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something around the Ides of March, and beware portends of evil. Just kidding. It should be all sunshine and lollipops with fresh reports on the Southeast Model Show and Peach State Indoor Champs, plus the March indoor contest report. Look for some bluster on the upcoming outdoor contest season, which starts in April. Don't be shocked by a hard, pointed membership renewal nag.

Once again, let me beseech the multitudes for anything in the way of articles, plans, photos, rants and raves. Don't make me work that hard! Ciao, y'all!

2016 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 additional family members in same household. Send check, payable to TTOMA, to Karl Hube/104 Smith Forest Lane/ Alpharetta, GA 30004/770-886-0104

January Indoor Contest Report

Three fliers enjoyed another exceptional (but chilly day) at St. Lukes. Josh Finn set another national record in F1R, just another day at St. Lukes, where indoor records go to die. Nick Ray tried hard to catch up but fell a little short. Hope Finn did some excellent flying in F1L and Phantom Flash.

F1R

Joshua Finn 23:51*
Nick Ray 21:34, 22:13

Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 3:36

F1L

Hope Finn 7:09, 8:50, 9:40

*Cat. I national record, pdng



February Indoor Contest Report

The February contest proved to be a good day to be indoors. The outside temperature never made it above 40 degrees. We had a good turnout with 8 fliers, but the conditions proved to be incompatible with record times. Limited Pennyplane was the mostly hotly contested event with only 12 seconds separating first and third place.

Hanger Rat

Joshua Finn 73
Hope Finn 72
Karl Hube 67

No-Cal Scale

Richard Schneider 210

A-6

Bill Gowen 6:44

Limited Pennyplane

Joshua Finn 6:14
Karl Hube 6:03
Lee Russell 6:02

Helicopter

Karl Kube 2:14
Joshua Finn 1:20

Bostonian

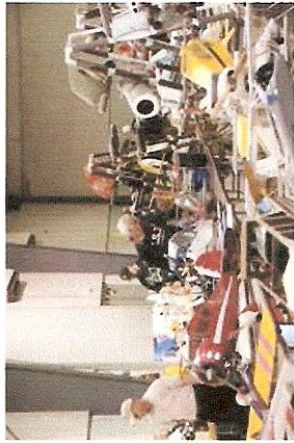
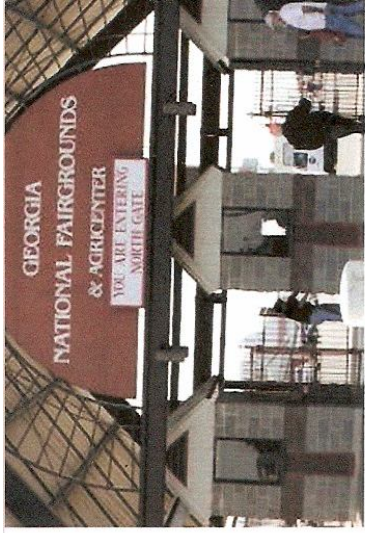
Richard Schneider 118
Jim Conery 100

F1L

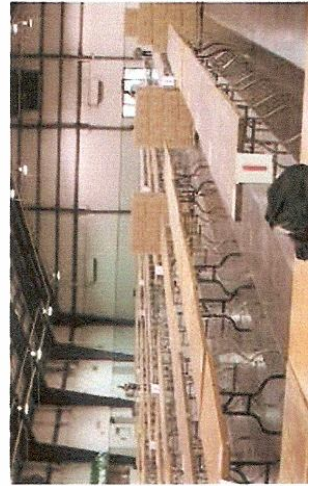
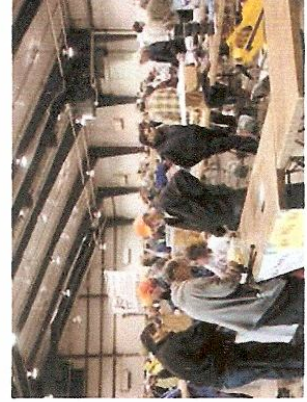
Lee Russell 3:58

Ministick

Nick Ray 2:00



Exit 195 from Interstate 7



PEACH STATE INDOOR CHAMPS

“America’s Flyingest Indoor Contest”
March 12, 2016
Great Hall, St. Lukes Presbyterian Church
Dunwoody, GA

The Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta are hosting our twenty-fourth 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 special 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 9:00 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 rules 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: F1R

Ltd. Pennyplane (J, SO)
Ministick
IHLG (J,SO)
Catapult Glider (Unltd. + Std.)
F1M
Bostonian (J,SO)
F1L
F1D-regional qualifier
A-6

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

FAC: Simplified Scale
Embryo
Phantom Flash
No-Cal Scale

TTOMA: Chattahoochee Challenge
Hangar Rat
Jimmie Allen Scale

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 at 1032 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 @ thermalthumbers.com. There’re many hotels/motels, restaurants and other attractions in the area with a wide range of costs. Useful search words might be: “Perimeter Mall”, “Dunwoody”, or “Sandy Springs”. St. Lukes is in Dunwoody, an affluent, close-in, northside suburb of Atlanta, and places to eat and drink abound. Out-of-towners making it a full weekend will find it a convenient base to enjoy the Atlanta metro area.

FLYING SCHEDULE

Note the following schedule shows a start time of 9:00 am. We'll try to get in there earlier for set-up and registration, but it'll be an official 9:00 am start. We'll try to stick to the published schedule as much as possible, but the CD reserves the right to make reasonable changes based on circumstances in order to keep everybody happy. No whining allowed. All the CD's decisions are final.

9:00 am registration
9:00-11:00 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 pm 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 at any time, but all the CD's decisions are final.



The Great Hall at St Lukes Presbyterian Church, Dunwoody, GA
“Where Indoor Records Go to Die”