



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

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## July-August, 2019

### HEADS UP

Welcome to the fourth issue of 2019. It's another pithy one. We've been busy since the last issue, and the details follow. The biggest item is the report of TTOMA's two-day FAC contest last month, and you'll find full reportage, courtesy of CDs Jim Altenbern and Gary Morton, and photo collages by David Barfield, as well as a few other indoor and outdoor reports. Two other, major items are featured, namely the National Free Flight Society (NFFS) and the upcoming USOC Muncie Nats along with attendant arm-twisting. It's time for both to get some attention.

Time for me to get out of the way. Later, y'all.

### A NAG OF ANOTHER SORT

It's time for your editor to put the TTOMA membership nags on the back burner and harangue our members and readers hither and yon to join or renew your commitment to NFFS. Yes, one might ask, "Why join NFFS?" Well, unless you've suffered a recent brain injury, the answer is painfully obvious, but nonetheless, I'll take the liberty to elaborate in some detail. For starters, NFFS is the sole Special Interest Group (SIG) that puts Free Flight issues near and dear in front of the AMA and FAI for their elucidation, whether they like it or not. Every single goodie NFFS gets from the AMA likely has NFFS arm-twisting behind it. Every goodie we don't, well, that's the AMA's fault, naturally.

NFFS is the primary publishing muscle of Free Flight in the national media, and its bi-monthly publication, *Free Flight*, is simply the best such publication in the world, ably edited by our OFB Don DeLoach. Further, most of what you see in print and digital media in the USA has NFFS fingerprints all over it. And our tentacles extend to the global media, too, although we share that stage with other fine organizations. However, NFFS's *Annual Symposium Report* is preeminent among this planet's premier Free Flight offerings.

The same can be said of any of our national or global Free Flight competitions. NFFS runs the AMA Free Flight Nats, period, along with the needed AMA co-enabling of course. And whenever you see the USA competing in Free Flight on the global stage, you can be sure NFFS members were in the mix.

If any of the foregoing, compelling logic fails to seduce, here's one more purely selfish reason to join NFFS, particularly if you're apt to vent your pie hole about this or that in regard to Free Flight. If you're not a member, you can shut said pie hole because you don't get to complain, at least not when I'm around. As that cranky, old sage of American capitalism Ted Turner once said, "Lead, follow or get out of the way!"

The latest membership form follows. You know who you are. Eyes on you!

### ANOTHER NAG OF ANOTHER SORT

This blurb is intended to encourage all with the means and ends to attend the USOC Muncie Nats. You won't regret it. If you haven't been, you should go, and you needn't spend a lot of money. The entry fees are reasonable, and cheap restaurants and grocery stores are nearby. Every hotel and restaurant chain you

can name is only a short drive away. Many of the Thumbs spend even less by camping on the field, only five dollars, American, a night. We set up at the extreme south end of the field at Camp David (as coined by the late and great George Perryman). Fret not, very civilized facilities abound for cleaning up your baddself, real showers and bathrooms. Add in your gas money, and that's about it. You can fly on 1100 acres of lawn as much as you like, dawn to dusk. So far, Dohrman Crawford, Robert Marier, Graham Selick, Jim Conery, Gary Morton, Jim Jennings, Ed Hardin, Scott Lapraik and your trusty editor plan to attend, so add your name to the list. You won't regret it.

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

TTOMA's remaining schedule follows. As you can see, you won't lack for opportunities for things to do on the weekends. Ergo, nobody gets to complain about being bored or lonely. So, go glue some sticks together and show up somewhere with a model airplane! The game's afoot.

Aug. 5-9: AMA Outdoor Nats, Muncie, IN

Aug. 18: outdoor contest, NGA Turf Farm, Fizzle while you Sizzle

Aug. 17: indoor contest, St. Lukes, **note revised date**

Sept. 28: indoor contest, St. Lukes,

Sept. 22: outdoor contest, NGA Turf Farm, Summer Swan Song

Oct. 26: indoor contest, St. Lukes,

Oct. 6: outdoor contest, NGA Turf Farm, Last Fling til Spring

Nov. 3: outdoor contest, NGA Turf Farm, Turkey Shoot

Nov. 16: indoor contest, St. Lukes,

Dec. 7: indoor contest, St. Lukes

Jan. 18, 2020: indoor contest, St. Lukes

Jan. 25, 2020: TTOMA annual banquet

### **THUMBS ON THE MARCH—USIC**

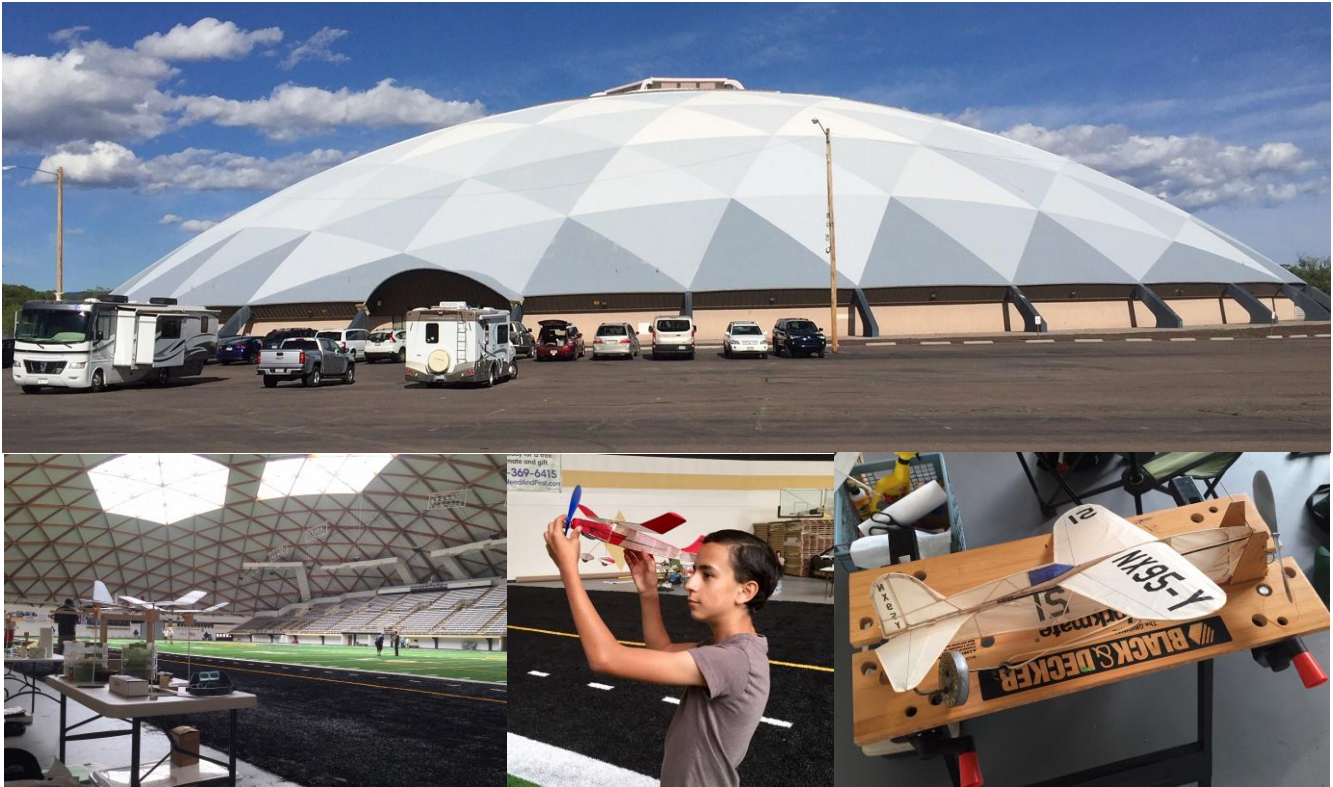
This just in from Dohrman Crawford on his trip out west to Eagar, Arizona for the USIC Indoor Nats at the Round Valley Dome:

“Finally back after my 3300-plus mile road trip to the USIC. Yes, it was a long haul, but I rationalize well. It's one day longer than driving to Geneseo, NY. So, three days on the road each way. Forgot to mention my plan was a 9 hr day for two days (Fort Smith, AK, then Santa Rosa, NM), then a 5 hour day on back roads to Eagar, NM. Two Muncie days, then a shorter one, but I had major problems getting out of Ft. Smith, Arkansas due to the flooding and closed roads and bridges. I had to take the back door into rural Oklahoma and then on the way. Cost me a couple of hours, though, which made for a long day. I spent the night in Santa Rosa, NM, then off the interstate and into Eagar. Seldom have I ever been in a nicer, little town. Extremely friendly people, great flying and good to outstanding food made for a pleasant stay.

“The Dome is at approximately 7000 ft. above salt water, which you will discover once you begin carrying your equipment into the flying area. I got over it fast. Although I was basically just a camp body, I had a great time flying FAC events. This Nats was much more fun than the one I attended in Johnson City in 2009. This was probably due to the influx of FAC fliers who kept the levity level up. Bill Slilan, who is from Russia, and now lives in Canada, and I joined forces to loudly sing a Russian song in Russian while David Aronstein flew his Soviet Coconut transport to victory in one event. One of the local kids showed up on his bike to see what was going on, and ended up building a P-24, winning a contest with it, and learning to fly Embryos. FAC members Henry Toews and Rich Adams each gave him an Embryo. He flew them until dark. His whole family showed up, and his Mom made us cookies! A great young man.

“On the whole a great trip. Lessons learned were to get off the interstate and hit the local restaurants. Also, take local roads whenever possible. I stopped to see the Abo Pueblo, the Very Large Array of radio telescopes, and many other scenic stops in NM. I would be up for going on another such adventure.”





photos by Dohrman Crawford

### THUMBS ON THE MARCH—KIBBIE DOME

This just in from Lee Russell: “This was my first trip to the Kibbie Dome, and I was overwhelmed with the size and height of this dome. I spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to get to the ceiling. TTOMA was well represented there, and a good time was had by all.

“Unfortunately, in the USA F1D Team selection Nick Ray came in fifth place, but those that did are very solid. Our team will be Evan Guyette, Kang Lee and Jake Palmer, with John Kagan as alternate. For the rest of the contest here are the results for the TTOMA gang:

“Bill Gowen: A-6 - 1st place; Limited Pennyplane - 1st place; Unlimited Catapult Glider - 1st place; and F1L - 2nd place.

“Nick Ray: F1R -1st place; and Ministick - 1st place.

“Lee Russell: A-6 - 4th place; and F1M - 2nd place.”



photos by Lee Russell

### THUMBS IN PRINT

Readers of Dohrman Crawford’s preceding screed on the 2019 USIC in Eagar, AZ can find it reprinted in the latest issue of the NFFS digest. The issue has several other contributions from those that attended,

and it was a very effective way of presenting the action. No discouraging words are to be heard throughout. Well sirs, sirs.

### SECRETS REVEALED

This just in from our intrepid cub reporter, Rueben Sammitch: “We have heard many reasons for the success of Don DeLoach in FAC flying. Rumors abound about associations with Beelzebub or a dupe of Old Scratch who is really good at building and flying, blah, blah, blah. Your intrepid Reporter has found the truth, using the principle of Occam’s Razor. (I am well-educated, but some of you will have to look up that particularly apt Razor reference, ha, ha.)

“As you can see, Mr. DeLoach is eating Super Sport Rubber to gain his edge in competitions. It is obvious, is it not? This elixir chemically bonds with his muscles to give him that edge needed to triumph so easily. The bemused look on his face results from him focused completely on a large burrito that was somehow smuggled into the Dome. He had to be physically restrained from tearing it out of the jaws of one of the small dogs who regularly serenaded us. Evidently, eating rubber strip also provides the energy needed to do such a great job at managing the recent Indoor Nats at Eagar, Arizona.”

(Under separate cover, our colleague Rueben hastens to add another obvious trick-of-the-trade employed by Mr. DeLoach, namely, the blinding glare coming off his forehead, it being employed to further disorient his opponents in competition. Many thanks for this additional information, as the full scope of his *armes de guerre* now comes sharply into focus. Those Thumbs similarly enhanced by Nature’s blessing are hereby advised

of this latter technique. Forewarned is forearmed.)



photo by Rueben Sammitch

### A FURTHER RECKONING

Here’s where we stand at mid-season. Enough said. So, glue some sticks together and show up somewhere with a model airplane. The game’s afoot.

Hope Finn	42	David Mills	22	Lee Russell	11
Dohrman Crawford	42	Nick Ray	21	Jim Altenbern	11
Josh Finn	40	Joe Ryan	18	Savannah Canady	9
Richard Schneider	33	Bill Gowen	17	Ed Hardin	8
Jim Conery	31	Matthew Canady	17	Karl Hube	4
Doug Demasie	31	David Barfield	14	Scott Lapraik	3
Frank Perkins	31	Gary Morton	13	Dan Crews	2
James Martin	23	Jimmy Jordan	11		

### NEXT ISSUE

Look for something late in August. We should have full coverage of the Thumbs’ experience at the Muncie Nats and anything thing else that comes over the transom. As always, I beseech the multitudes to forward anything is the way of articles, photos, plans, rants and raves. Don’t make me work too hard. Later, y’all!

## June Indoor Contest Report

The June indoor contest was well attended with six participants despite several of our regulars being away on vacation. The highlight of the day was Nick and Joshua exceeding the Cat. I Ministick record when Nick's Ministick collided with Joshua's Hand Launch Stick as it left the upper slot. It took the models over three minutes to hit the floor. Nick Ray, CD, reporting.

### Order of the Unicorn

Joshua Finn

Nick Ray

Hope Finn

Richard Schneider

### No-Cal Scale

Richard Schneider Piper J-3 4:28

Hope Finn Lacey M-10 3:34

Doug DeMasie Primary Glider 2:10

Joshua Finn Cassutt Racer 1:42

### Ministick

Nick Ray 8:22, 11:47\*

Joshua Finn 5:43

Hope Finn 4:20

### Chattahoochee Challenge

Richard Schneider 1:56

### A-6

Hope Finn 4:18

### Limited Pennyplane

Joshua Finn 10:14

### Hand Launch Stick

Joshua Finn 36:47

### Unlimited Catapult Glider (best 2)

Joshua Finn 56.9

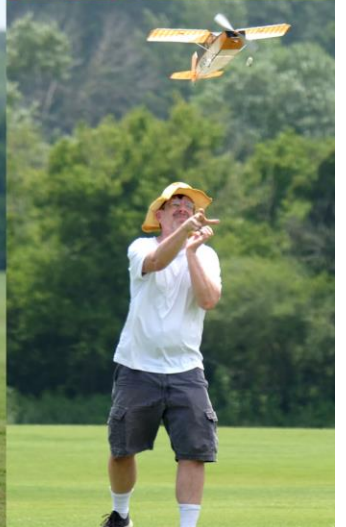
## June Chattahoochee Challenge Report

The third annual Chattahoochee Challenge was held on June 22 and 23, and we had 16 contestants show up and fly lots of FAC events. Out of towners included Wally and Julie Farrell, Jimmy Jordan with his grandkids Matthew and Savannah, Frank Perkins and you trusty CD's Gary Morton and Jim Altenbern. The weather was hot both days with wind and strong thermals on Saturday and a few sprinkles on Sunday. It was a costly meet for our fliers as a record 13 models were lost to the mighty Hooch on Saturday and 6 or 7 crashed models on Sunday during the mass launches. Everyone had a good time though, and the awards and prizes were given out about 3:30 on Sunday. If you didn't make it to this year's contest, come out next year and fly with us. Remember not all FAC models are scale, so if you show up with a couple of Blue Ridge Specials, an Embryo and a 2 Bit Plus 1, you will fit right in. Here are the scores. Jim Altenbern and Gary Morton, CDs, reporting.

<u>SCat Jet</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>	<u>Scale Score</u>	<u>Total Score</u>
David Mills	58	11	69
Wally Farrell	47	14	61
Jim Conery	46	11	57
Gary Morton	28	14	42
Doug DeMasie	30	11	41
Ed Hardin	25	11	36

<u>Rubber Scale</u>	<u>Av. Inv. Fact. Flight Score</u>	<u>Bonus Points</u>	<u>Scale Points</u>	<u>Total Score</u>
David Mills	62	0	55	117
Wally Farrell	46	10	57	113
Ed Hardin	2	0	48	50





collage by David Barfield, photos by Dohrman Crawford, Frank Perkins and David Barfield





collage by David Barfield, photos by Dohrman Crawford, Frank Perkins and David Barfield

<u>Simplified Scale</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>	<u>Bonus Points</u>	<u>Total Score</u>
Wally Farrell	315*	1	316
Dohrman Crawford	220	1	221
David Mills	204*	10	214
Matthew Canady	70	1	71

<u>GHQ Peanut Scale</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>	<u>Scale Score</u>	<u>SS x Event Mult.</u>	<u>Total Score</u>
David Mills	189	11	209	398
Wally Farrell	196	9	171	367
James Martin	70	10	190	260
Gary Morton	34	10	190	224

<u>Dime Scale</u>	<u>Flight Time</u>	<u>Bonus Points</u>	<u>Total Score</u>
Wally Farrell	216	11	231
James Martin	146	1	147
David Mills	76	1	77
Gary Morton	41	11	52
Jim Conery	26	1	27

<u>Embryo</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>	<u>Bonus Points</u>	<u>Total Score</u>
Matthew Canady	175	9	184
Joe Ryan	165	9	174
Jimmy Jordan	150	9	159
Savannah Canady	136	9	145
Wally Farrell	120 *	9	129
Doug DeMasie	24	9	33

<u>NBM Embryo</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>	<u>Bonus Points</u>	<u>Total Score</u>
Matthew Canady	245	9	254
James Martin	149	9	158
Savannah Canady	82	9	91

<u>Catapult Glider</u>	<u>Total Flight Score</u>	<u>HLG</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>
Frank Perkins	184	James Martin	39
Joe Ryan	103		
Doug DeMasie	98	<u>2 Bit + 1</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>
James Martin	53	Gary Morton	222
Wally Farrell	37	Wally Farrell	209
		Ed Hardin	194

<u>P-30</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>	<u>No-Cal Scale</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>
Frank Perkins	346*	Dohrman Crawford	236*
Scott Lapraik	164	James Martin	120*
Matthew Canady	154*	Wally Farrell	61
Ed Hardin	104		

<u>Jimmie Allen</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>	<u>Blue Ridge Special</u>	<u>Total Flight Score</u>
Wally Farrell	277	Joe Ryan	209
David Mills	140	Doug Demasie	186
Ed Hardin	60	Ed Hardin	127



<u>NBM BRS</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>
Joe Ryan	283
Matthew Canady	249*
Dohrman Crawford	209*
Savannah Canady	188*
Jimmy Jordan	180
Doug DeMasie	158

<u>Phantom Flash</u>	<u>Total Flight Time</u>
Jimmy Jordan	310
Savannah Canady	215
Matthew Canady	199

WW II Mass Launch  
Wally Farrell  
Jim Conery  
David Barfield  
James Martin  
Ed Hardin  
Dohrman Crawford

WW I Mass Launch  
Wally Farrell  
Jim Conery  
David Barfield

Golden Age Mass Launch  
Jim Conery  
Wally Farrell  
Gary Morton

Combined Racers Mass Launch  
Gary Morton  
Wally Farrell  
Jim Conery

\*Denotes planes lost into or over the Hooch.

## **JULY INDOOR CONTEST REPORT**

The July contest was shifted to a 2 pm to 9 pm schedule due to the church being double booked in the morning. Summer travel coupled with the awkward schedule contributed to low attendance. Nick Ray, CD, reporting

Order of the Rainbow Unicorn  
Bill Gowen  
Nick Ray  
Lee Russell

Standard Catapult Glider  
Bill Gowen 41.5 + 39.7 = 81.2

F1L  
Bill Gowen 8:09

Mini Stick  
Nick Ray 7:28

Limited Pennyplane  
Bill Gowen 8:54

Unlimited Catapult Glider  
Bill Gowen 40.1 + 42.5 = 82.6

F1D  
Lee Russell 9:24 + 7:57 = 17:21

## **JULY OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT**

We had a good turnout of eight fliers and several spectators. The weather forecast might've scared a few off, but it wasn't quite as hot as promised. Actually, it didn't seem to get above 90 degrees and the humidity wasn't much. Ergo, we had a pretty active day. The winds cooperated mostly, coming out of the southwest. However, there were a few hours in the early afternoon when it was too blustery, and the catapult gliders got a workout. But, this soon passed, and it was OK again. We only lost one across the river, courtesy of Jim Altenbern. We flew a ton, but this isn't obvious in the results because many were busy trimming for the Nats and not making official flights. Altogether, it was a very fine day. Mr. McWhorter came over in a golf cart with his granddaughter and paid us a very pleasant visit. She's a real

cutie! Dohrman Crawford lost a battle with a rubber band and had to visit Newnan Urgent Care again. He returned soon suitably cared for by his old friends there.

Let's face it: we owe our NG Turf benefactors a lot. Having such a great outdoor flying site is such a blessing to us. The family must be doing well because I'm hearing their ads on the radio now. Good for them. David Mills, CD, reporting.

Catapult Glider

Frank Perkins Sidewinder DIY 248  
 David Barfield 186  
 David Mills Straight Up 168  
 Jim Altenbern Straight Up 109

Blue Ridge Special

Jim Altenbern 327 (oos)

Small Mulvihill

David Mills wwt.smulvi.thx 240

P-30

James Martin Speckled Bird 236  
 David Mills wwt.P-30.thx 180

Dime Scale

James Martin Staggerwing 10

E-20

Frank Perkins Kaw-Liga 252  
 James Martin Heat Stroke 46

HLG

James Martin Thermic 20 40

No Cal Scale

James Martin Beautiful Wind 128



**IMPORTANT RENEWAL INFORMATION**

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

**NFFS MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION**

Mail to: NFFS Membership Office  
 6196 Hinterlong Ct.  
 Lisle, Illinois, 60532  
 Dues include a mandatory \$0.50 per year for NFFS membership.

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

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

All Non-US Residents  2 years \$58.00  
 1 year \$30.00  
 NOTE: Current international members will continue to receive printed Digest until membership runs out. Effective with May/June 2012 issues, all new/renewal international memberships will receive Digest electronically.

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

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

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

Check appropriate boxes below:  
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