



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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






March-April, 2016

HEADS UP

Welcome to the second issue of the year. You'll find much of interest herein. First, a report of the Peach State Indoor Champs follows, and Graham Selick provides a history of the Blue Ridge Special and the Old Goat Smackdown. Also, Frank Perkins provides some photos of his new brace of E-20s. (If idle hands are the Devil's Workshop, Frank must be sleeping easy these days.) We, also, use some ink in not-so-faintly praising a number of Thumbs for the service to others and a few more for representing Old Glory on the international stage. Reports on what our area's larger modeling community is doing are also provided, so read on. And by all means, glue some sticks together and show up somewhere and fly a model airplane! Trust me, at the end of it all, nobody wishes they'd spent more time at the office. A quick glance at our club's bountiful schedule testifies to the opportunities provided therein.

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

SHAME, SHAME, SHAME

OK, brethren, it's time to get personal. Even at this late date, there's still a few of you who haven't renewed yet. (I know—it's hard to believe!). What are we to do? All this writer can do is plead to your better angels and implore you to re-up. So, stroke Karl "Karats" Hube that check. A membership form follows for your use. You know who you are. Eyes on you!

PLACES TO BE, PEOPLE TO SEE AND THINGS TO DO

The year is unfolding nicely. People are showing up and flying model airplanes. Much remains on the schedule which follows, and the outdoor seasons start is just around the corner. Our indoorists are running at full speed Behind Closed Doors, and the Cathedral Under the Big Blue Sky beckons. The game's afoot.

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 ON THE MARCH

All eyes are on Thumbs Nick Ray and Josh Finn when they make their way next month to Romania for the F1D World Championship. Yes, that right! It's off to the salt mines for Josh and Nick, where rookie Josh will fly and vet Nick will manage. Representing Old Glory on the global stage is no mean feat, and hats are off to our comrades-in-arms. Club friend and frequent visitor, Kang Lee, will return as reigning world champ, and he'll be joined by other team members Brett Sanborn and John Kagan. It's a star-spangled bag of talent. Good hunting to all!

THUMBS AT THE BENCH

Frank Perkins sent along a slew of photos of his latest batch of E-20s. His approach to this new and increasing popular category is both creative and unorthodox. A number of *nouveau* aspects catch the eye. First, the fuselages follow his recent habit of using Depron construction and they're light, cheap and darn near indestructible as a result. Second, his wings use Jedelsky airfoils and all-wood construction. And lastly, the model showcases a lot of tasty electronics, much of it made by his own baddself. I bet they fly like crazy. Well done, sir.



THUMBS IN SERVICE

Every so often, your editor will choose to brag on TTOMA in terms of the large number of our members that serve the larger model aviation community. It's a long list, and this writer is proud to proclaim it occasionally. Nick Ray jumped to the fore after watching the AMA mess up the indoor record-keeping and is presently an AMA District V AVP, overseeing that and other responsibilities. He also serves as the editor of *Indoor News and Views*, the reigning rag of the global indoor scene. Bill Gowen is District V's rep on the Indoor Contest Board, providing sage guidance and fighting off the crazies. Gary Baughman is our District's counterpart on the Outdoor Contest Board, performing the same duties. Richard Schneider serves on the Scale Control Line Contest Board for our District. Your editor is in his final year as a Veep for the South Region of NFFS, closing out an interesting eight years in the barrel.

I don't know how much bragging anyone might be inclined to do when we talk about the Thumbs, but I don't think we lack for ammo. Just a thought.

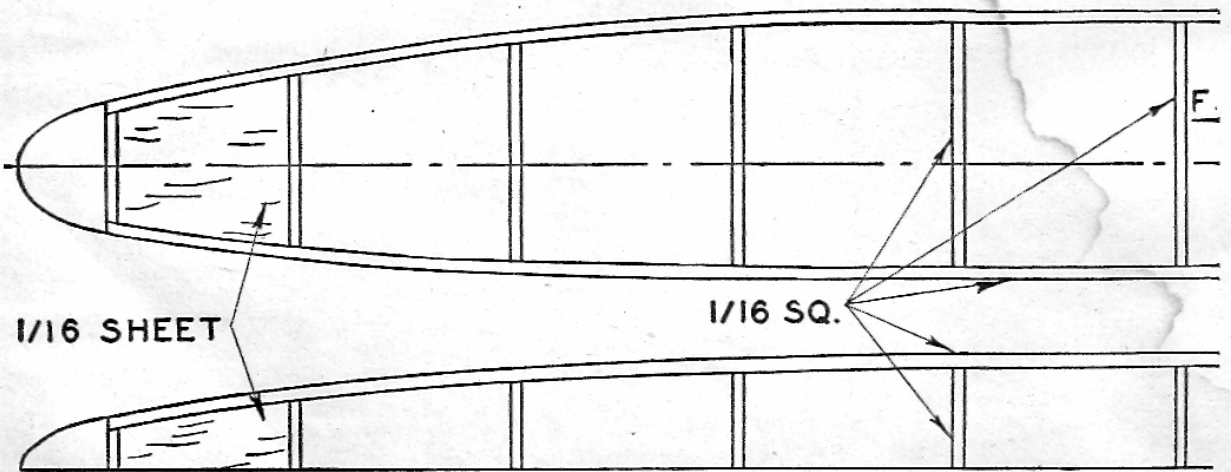
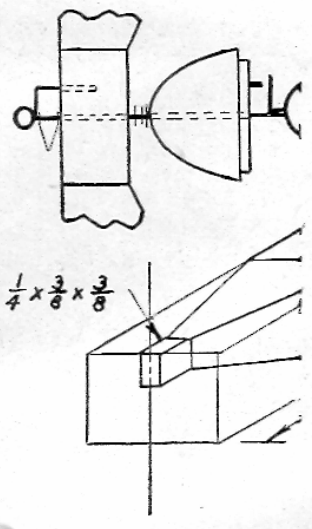
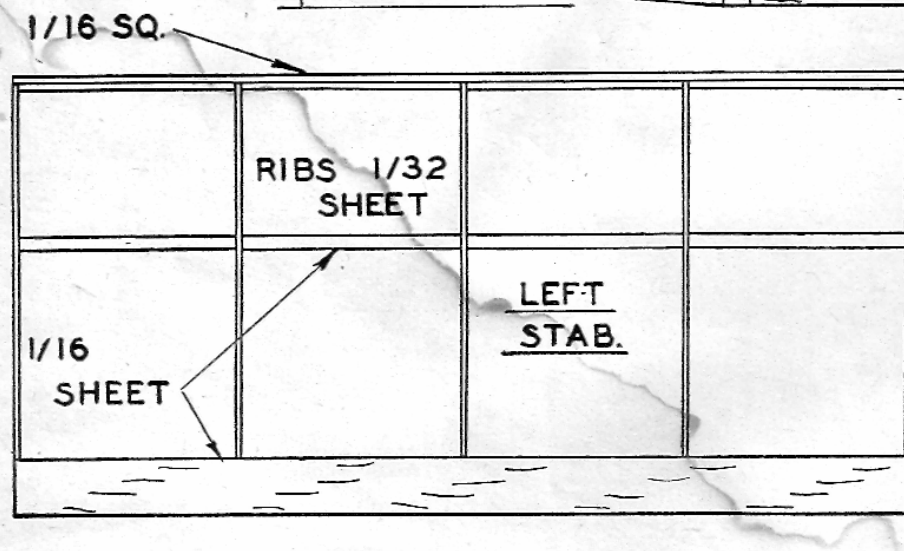
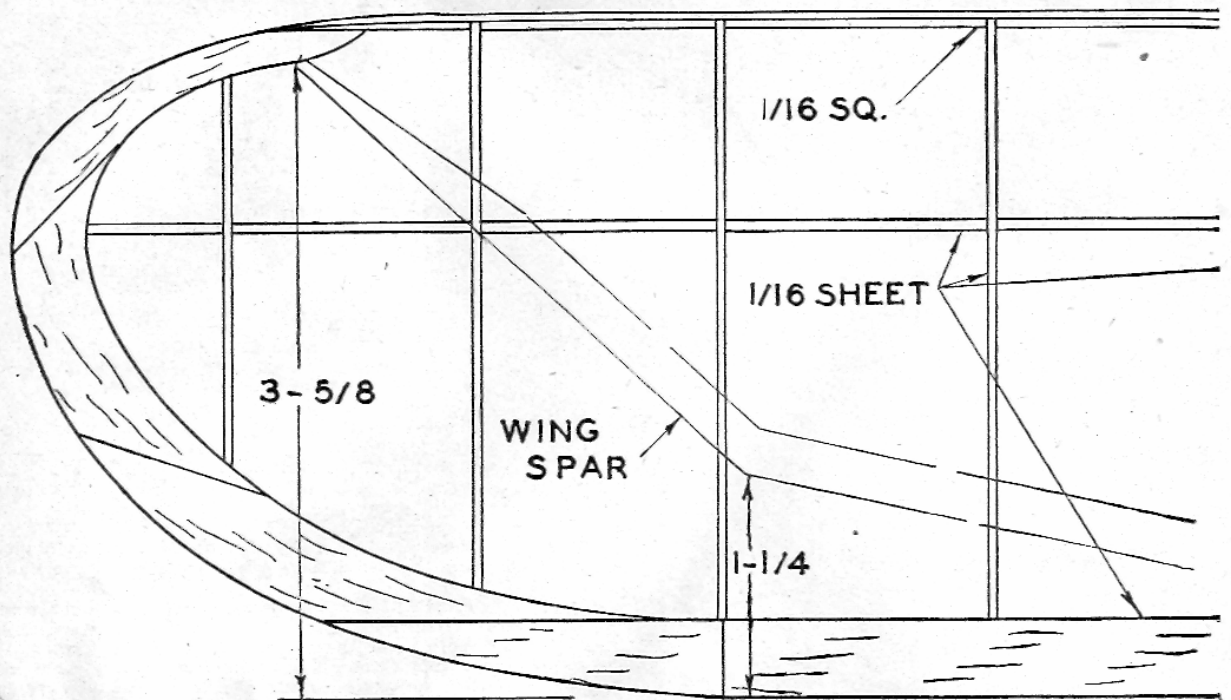
SAME CHURCH, DIFFERENT PEW

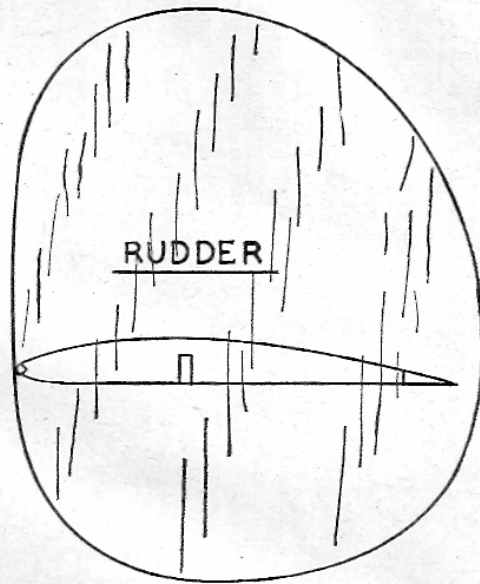
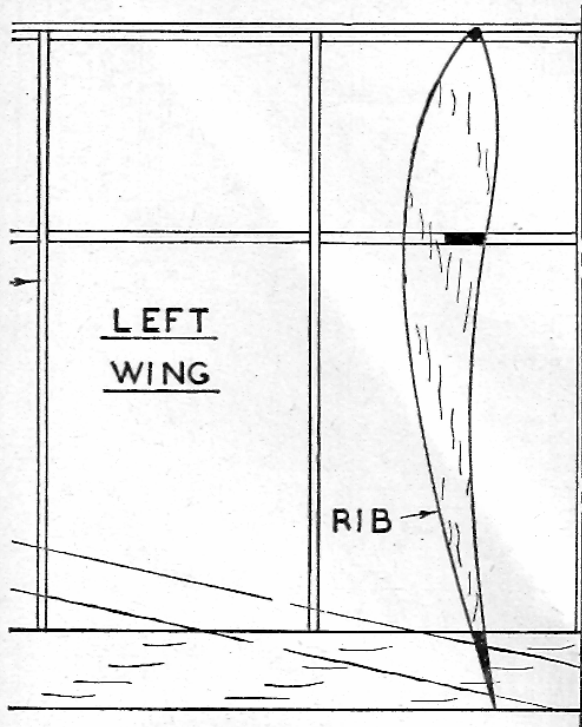
A number of us went down to Perry for the Southeast Model Show, and we weren't disappointed. Once again, all three of the main arenas were full of vendors and browsers, and the indoor flying site was kept busy. The guys at the front desk said the turnout was up a bit from last year. However, Free Flight pickings were unusually meager, and this was the first time this writer didn't buy anything. A piece of advice: sell your gas engines now because prices have nosedived. Also, last year's electric stuff continues to jump off the tables, much at giveaway prices. And the outside trailer's grilled braut with all the fixings was again the preferred *cuisine du jour*.

The AMA was well-represented and pressing the flesh. They have their hands full with the membership's widespread aversion about the intrusion of the *Los Federales* into our hobby and sport. I chatted with a few "off the record", and the feeling is the explosion of all the drone buying and flying is a very mixed blessing. It's generally regarded as a good thing that many new people are being drawn into model aviation. However, most of these are drone fliers have no background in model aviation and could care less about the AMA. Furthermore, the same can be said of many of the drone manufacturers. Bottom line: the AMA and its membership are being saddled with serious liability and personal liberty issues caused largely by people who could care less. Frankly, IHMO, all this won't change until a bunch of drone manufacturers and fliers get sued hard and deep by people damaged by some of the droners' shenanigans. And trust me, a lot of the droners are idiots. I know a few, and I rail at them constantly for flying around people and buildings, but they remain blindly stupid to the consequences. You reap what you sow in this world. Delving into the South Georgia colloquial, some folks is just slap, ett-up wit' tha dumb ass.

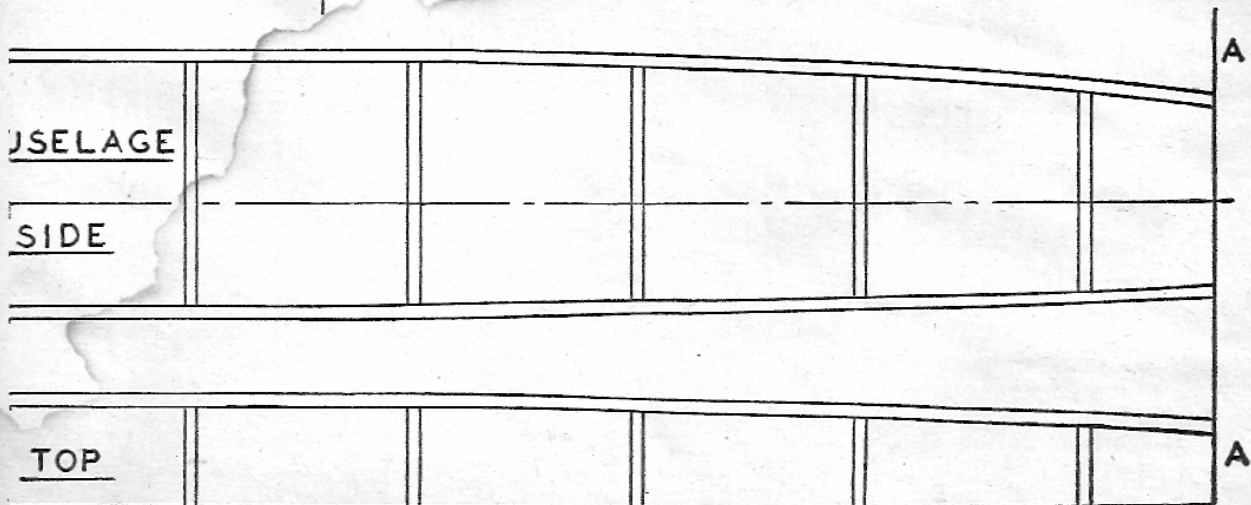
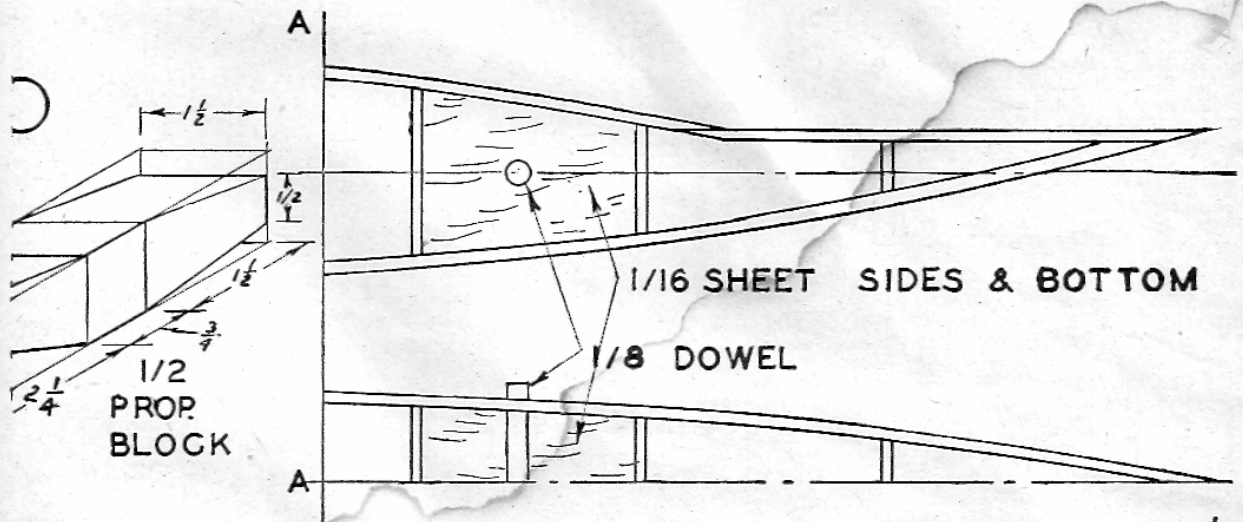
TREASURE TROVE

This issue's offering is the High Performance Sportster by C. R. Johnson, a real cutie from the August, 1948 *Model Airplane News*. Hereinafter referred to as the Sportster, it's an actual three-fer. It offers simple, attractive lines and a modest twenty-inch wingspan and slots nicely into the regs of SAM OT Stick, Small NosRub and Small Mulvihill. Everything about it tells me it'll fly well and be a quick build. An accompanying article photo shows a one-blade folder and the plan, a two-blader. Ergo, do whichever makes your putter flutter. The construction is extremely light, and in spots, rather precarious to these eyes. Both leading edges need stouter lumber, as do the longerons, so I'd beef up these to 3/32 squinch sections. Thusly buttressed, you should have a dependable flier that won't take up much room in your flight box. This little stick of dynamite should really scoot with its ample dihedral, big prop, twin fins and twenty or so grams of well-braided Tan SS. I'm a bit of a bibliophile in these matters, and I've never seen or heard even a whiff of the Sportster in all my travels. Ergo, I'll call it a rarity, and instant celebrity awaits the pioneering builder! A scan of the two-page plan follows.





1/32 SHEET



BIRDS OF A FEATHER

As advertised in the last newsletter, the local plastic modeling fraternity had their big, annual soiree, and your trusty editor attended. I wasn't disappointed. This event remains popular and well-attended. The huge draw isn't hard to explain, either. There's eye candy galore, and the swap meet offers a ridiculous amount of kits and equipment at prices a small fraction of retail. The contest offerings were a marvel of handicraft and research. Just consult the following collage if you doubt my conclusions. Two efforts amazed me and the judges, too. Check out the Grumman Avenger and Rommel diorama. Good grief! Cheap fun for five dollars, American.



PEACH STATE INDOOR CHAMPS

We had a good time at the annual PSIC for the twenty-fourth time. Attendance was down a notch with the absence of the Smyrna group, but ten grownup types showed up and flew a ton. And for the umpteenth time, a category I national indoor record was set, this time by Nick Ray with his F1R, upping the record by over twenty seconds. Our little Presbyterian gym remains “where indoor records go to die”. Lee Russell gets the Ironman Award because this writer has never seen an indoor model get more beat up and repaired over and over again and still keep flying. The results follow. Let’s do it again next year for the silver anniversary!

Limited Pennyplane

Josh Finn 7:28
Lee Russell 6:42
Karl Hube 5:44

F1R/35 cm

Nick Ray 24:21*
Josh Finn 8:09
Hope Finn 7:43

Ministick

Nick Ray 4:16

Hangar Rat

Hope Finn 216
Dohrman Crawford 211
Josh Finn 208
David Mills 198
Karl Hube 198

No Cal Scale

Josh Finn Cassutt Racer 414
Karl Hube Chambermaid 357
Richard Schneider 298

Phantom Flash

Hope Finn 122
Josh Finn 109

Peanut Scale

Josh Finn TNCA Microplane 98

Bostonian

Josh Finn 128
Hope Finn 87

Catapult Glider Combo

Josh Finn 46.0

Hangar Rat Mass Launch

Karl Hube
David Mills
Josh Finn
Hope Finn
Dohrman Crawford

*new national cat. I record, pending





NEXT ISSUE

Look for something around Memorial Day, and it should be chock full of choice nuggets. Hopefully, we'll carry a joyous report on Josh's and Nick's trip to Romania for the F1D World Champs. Several indoor and outdoor contest reports will boast of our collective endeavors. Expect a full pimping of July's indoor Nats (Rantoul, IL) and outdoor Nats (Muncie, IN).

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

The Origin and History of the Old Goat Smackdown

Graham Selick



Here is my answer to your question about the genesis of the Old Goat Smackdown based on what I can recall of the event from four years ago: As Dohrman and I were hot-footing across Kansas...don't remember if we were coming or going, which my wife says happens a lot. At any rate, we were discussing how to get something going at the club level that would be simple, easy and fun for anybody. I was waxing nostalgic about when my father and I would go out in the dirt street in front of our house and see who could keep "nickel" gliders up the longest, and how that morphed into the BRS version of the same model a few years after Dad's making friends with Phil Hartman up in North Carolina. He and Phil were both educators, and I suppose sort of hit it off when Hartman was making those terrific kits in his garage like the Square Eagle P-30, Coup de Ville in both a Coupe and Unlimited version, the ubiquitous Blue Ridge Special, plus some HLGs and CLGs. All of this was after I had moved to live with my grandmother for high school, Jr. College and flying full scale aircraft.

But, I digress. When Dad would come to visit he would bring a box of multiple BRSs built and kits. We would take them out to the large school yard facility or to the airport where I was working as a flunky, and fly to see who could lose the first one or the most OOS. Sometimes it took about a half hour and sometimes all afternoon. Often it included the weekend airport peanut gallery. This was an activity that made him the "Pied Piper" of models in his home town near Jacksonville, FL where he was teaching elementary school math and science as a favor to the Superintendent, who was a fishing buddy. He and I had been flying all sorts of models together since I was about ten years old, so this was a way to continue the "quality time" we enjoyed with a really simple airplane. I had given up models temporarily for lack of space, money and too much other stuff going on.

Dohrm actually hit on the name of Blue Ridge Special Smackdown. The simple rules soon followed, namely it had to be built EXACTLY to the plan with NO mods whatsoever, and rubber, as you dare. After getting home, he and I talked about it some more, and I happened to mention that Dad's "nom de guerre" both flying and fishing had been "The Old Goat", which had been hung on him by some friends years before he died, and which he absolutely reveled in being called. Dohrm called it and said, "Look no further, and the Old Goat Smackdown it is!"

So, you have the story as I recall it. I think of it as a tribute to my dearest OFB. Note: Blue Ridge Special kits are available: <http://blueridgemodels.net/kits.html>. Other Blue Ridge plans abound, too. Always build two BRSs, as they fly away readily.

(Editor's note: Not that the Blue Ridge Special needs any further boasting in its support, but it's the best flying outdoor stick model ever wrought by man, IMHO. I've built a dozen or more of the other stick models over the decades, and none hold a candle to this little stick of dynamite. Don't change a damn thing; it's perfect.—DM.)