




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

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## May-June, 2016

### HEADS UP

Welcome to another *Thumb Print*. Herein, you'll find much of interest, as we've been busy with more indoor action and a good, honest start on the outdoor season. Plenty of contest reports and photos follow. Also, please find the flyer for the June Bug Flying Aces Club (FAC) contest and make plans to attend. Several newsworthy items have come over the transom and are offered for you erudition. Time for me to get out of the way. Ciao, y'all!

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

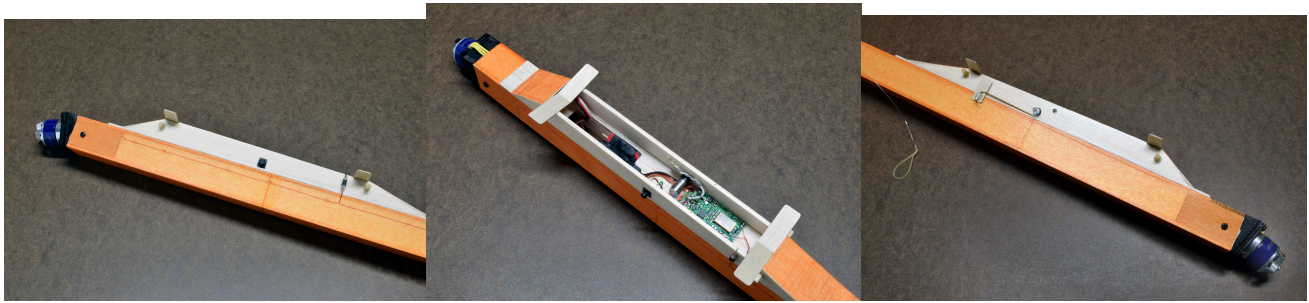
The year is almost halfway gone, and there's still plenty to do. TTOMA never allows any excuses for idle hands and pointless weekends, and we've all more good wood and materials left than we've good years. A few of those honey-dos can wait. Do yourselves a big favor and build a model airplane and show up somewhere, sometime. The game's afoot.

June 18: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Josh Finn  
 June 25: Outdoor. N GA Turf Farm. FAC/June Bug Jamboree. CD-Jim Altenbern  
 June 26: Outdoor. N GA Turf Farm. FAC/June Bug Jamboree. CD-David Barfield  
 July 9: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Bill Gowen  
 July 17: Outdoor. N GA Turf 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 Turf Farm. Pop Purdy's Contest. CD-Graham Selick  
 Sept. 10: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Josh Finn  
 Sept. 25: Outdoor. N GA Turf Farm. Summer's Swan Song. CD-Gary Morton  
 Sept. 26-30: SAM Champs @ Muncie, IN  
 Oct. 2: Outdoor. N GA Turf Farm. Last Fling til Spring. CD-David Mills.  
 Oct. 15: Indoor. St Lukes. CD-Bill Gowen  
 Nov. 6: Outdoor. N GA Turf 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 AT THE BENCH

Frank Perkins sent along the following shots of his latest E-36 project. As we've com to expect, it offers a few surprises. This E-36 follows on the heels of his E-20 and shares many elements, principally in the nature of materials and overall layout. The wing and stab should appear familiar, as

they're a straight lift from the DeLoach *E-Pearl 202* short kit. The fuselage is entirely new and different. It's deeply influenced by the logic of the Ray/Buddenbohm *Apache-36*. Note the extensive use of Depron, very low pylon, and gracious plenty of downthrust. I bet it flies like crazy.



### THUMBS ON THE MARCH

The Thumbs were well represented in the recent 2016 F1D World Championships in the salt mines of Romania. Josh Finn flew in his inaugural slot on the team, and Nick Ray served as team manager. Long story short, our indomitable Kang Lee won his second-in-a-row World Champs, and the USA team won silver. This team silver was won in part due to John Kagan's third placing and rookie Josh's high placing amongst several dozen salt mine veterans. Well done, sirs!

Every few months we get to brag on our indoor flying site, the Great Hall at St. Lukes Presbyterian Church in Dunwoody. We toss around the bumper sticker "where indoor records go to die" with some irreverent relish. Such was again the case at the recent May indoor contest when Josh Finn set new category I national records in both Intermediate Stick and F1R. The latter record was demolished by over two minutes! The indoorist *cognoscenti* on hand said it was about as perfect an indoor flight as any of them had ever seen. It looked that way to me. Well done, Josh!



### THUMBS ON THE MOVE

Scott Lapraik has pulled up his Tennessee stakes and moved to Spartanburg, SC. We assume it's work-related, or he might just be looking for a great deal on carpet. Whatever the rationale, he's a bit closer now and neighbors to fellow Thumbs Graham Webster and Jim Altenbern. Hopefully, we'll be seeing more of him at the sod farm and Behind Closed Doors.

## **THUMBS IN SERVICE**

Two more Thumbs stepped up and entered the administrative fray of Free Flight. Scott Lapraik is the new member of NFFS's Electric Subcommittee, filling my vacated seat when I resigned earlier this year. (The status of the new E-36 rules was well secured by then, and whatever problems lay head for it and other electric events would likely be based on technical issues and not political ones. The latter was well within my bailiwick, not so much the former.) Also, Dohrman Crawford volunteered to fill George White's vacated seat on the FAC Council. George resigned his seat to pursue something called "retirement".

I've sung Nick Ray's praises a time or two about his continuing editorship of *Indoor News and Views*, the preeminent international indoorist rag. (Yes, that's what they're calling themselves these days. Why not? "Indoorist" has a nice ring to it.) Whatever, he recently pointed out to me that he's served as an AMA District V Veep for a few years. Reason is, the AMA had made a mess of the national Free Flight indoor record-keeping, and being the squeaky wheel in the matter, he soon found himself seated on said officious perch with a mandate to seek remedies thereto. Well done, sir.

Like a giant spider, sprawled from sea-to-shining-sea, TTOMA is spinning its web of influence across this great nation. Let's all try to use our power for good, not evil. Regardless, Thumbs rule!

## **THUMBS IN PRINT**

A few months ago, Stew Meyers, the editor of the *Flying Aces News*, asked for permission to reprint my recent article in the *Free Flight Quarterly* on the fabled Jimmy Allen scale models. Long story, short, permission was granted, and the article was re-printed. The story of the earliest series of Jimmie Allen models, nine in total, needed a larger exposure, and the FAC rag was the ideal vehicle. Anybody, anywhere who wants to read the full and final story on the Jimmie Allen models can find it in the four part series in *Free Flight Quarterly*, the first written by Sergio Montes and remainder by me. The reader will find the saga lovingly and exhaustively beaten to death. A fine read, all questions will be answered. (And please, let that be all there is!)

## **THUMBS BACK FOR A VISIT**

Our old flying buddy John Barker showed up at St. Lukes for the May contest for a visit with his son David as chauffeur. He's not that different from a few years back when we last saw him. At a ripe age of 90 years young, he's doing quite well. He's still lean and chipper, but a little slower and needs a walker, which he wields with authority. Don't be a stranger, John. Good times.

## **THE RULES, THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'**

Some final and some preliminary votes are in regarding changes in several AMA and NFFS rule book categories. Here's a brief summary of the AMA changes: let's hope we can keep putting our AMA number on the right wing panel—it looks good there. The proposal to change E-36 flight rules into a 5-round program failed. The proposal to merge electric and gas power categories died a wretched and justified death. My proposal to change the Moffett flight rules, such that they'll be the same as Mulvihill's, is on its way to the law of the land.

On the NFFS front, the NFFS Indoor Towline event proposal passed and will go through the process. One of the two 1/2A Gas proposals (Golden Age) passed, and the other (Old Favorites) didn't. Small Mulvihill will be renamed Andrade Rubber, making it simpatico with the Moffett Rubber and Mulvihill Rubber monikers. (We'll note that Paul Andrade gets in with just a humble "Mr.," not so Admiral Moffet and Lord Mulvihill. Good job, Paul!)

## **NEW FLYING ACES CLUB UP THE ROAD**

Flying Aces Club Commander-in-Chief Ross Mayo has retired and moved to the Asheville, NC area. Apparently, he may've been tired of the Erie, Pa winters and looking for warmer climes and more verdant scenery. (Good choice, Ross!) He soon began looking for a flying field and found one in Mills



River, NC, not too far south of the Asheville Regional Airport. It's a large sod farm called "Super-Sod" and clocks in at about 500 acres. Well, if you have a flying field, you need a club, so the Blue Ridge Free Flight Society was started by Ross, Harry Grogan and others. I suspect they'll be having contests soon. Geographically, it's a good spot, more or less central to knots of fliers in TN, VA, NC, SC, GA and AL. Mills River!?! (You know I'm making an appearance!)

### WHODATHUNKIT?

Something happened to me recently that needs a re-telling to other modelers. It's a first time for me and probably not many others, an unlikely combination of fate and fortune.

I was in the middle of building my new Moffett for the Nats and was about ready to put in the wing spars. So, I began searching for some good, A-grain balsa in the 8-pound range in the handy, nearby scrap heap. None was to be found. I soon got into my shamefully massive balsa supply, and again, none was to be found. I had plenty in the 4-to-6 pound range, a true embarrassment of riches, and plenty in the teens. In an act of *faux* desperation, I tore into my ample and neglected kit stash and some found what I was looking for in an old Golden Age kit of the Stahl *Stinson Voyager*.

Hard decisions were made. "Sorry, Earl, I'm on a mission." That sheet of A-grain, 8-pound, wing rib print wood could be replaced. The wing spars were soon installed and the wing finished and at the right weight and needed strength. My strange bottom line: turns out I've very little mediocre balsa. Either it's deluxe and comely lightweight stock, or ridiculously heavy and pointless. Now, I guess I'll have to go out and shop for some "average" wood. Not that I'm complaining . . . .

### TREASURE TROVE

Rules are made to be broken, and that's what we'll do here. Departing from our short history of unknown designs for the Trove, we present the *Hangar Rat*. The *Rat* should be familiar with anybody who's been spent much time Behind Closed Doors. However, the distribution of its actual plan lags far behind its reputation for some reason. (Go figure.) The Thumbs will have no complaints with the specific rendition published herein. We chose this particular plan because most plans suffer in this or that aspect, easily explained by its (reputed) Aussie origins, then being distributed via sources in Great Britain, and finally scattershot over here from sea-to-shining-sea. This plan is close to the original, presumably, which is necessary because our club holds to a strict adherence to the plan, including the eyesore of a propeller. You'll note the plan offers a couple of options for the prop shaft bearing, so some slippage is allowed there. Also, equivalent slippage is offered in the number of wing braces. Experience indicates the forward set is necessary, and the rears, up to individual discretion.

Much can be said for the *Rat's* performance and ease of construction. This writer has never seen one, at least passably assembled, that didn't fly well. Much is owed to its large size, just-right proportions, well-wrought wing, and ample tail feathers. Don't forget the pilot, and it doesn't have to be a rat. For grins and tickles, be creative. Your editor was . . . .



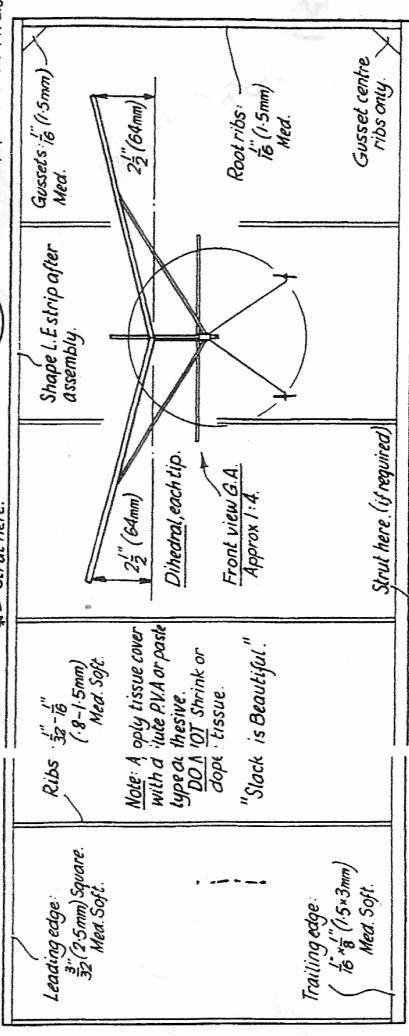
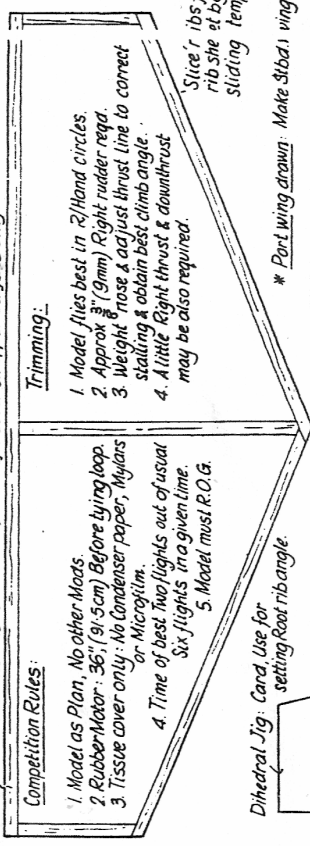
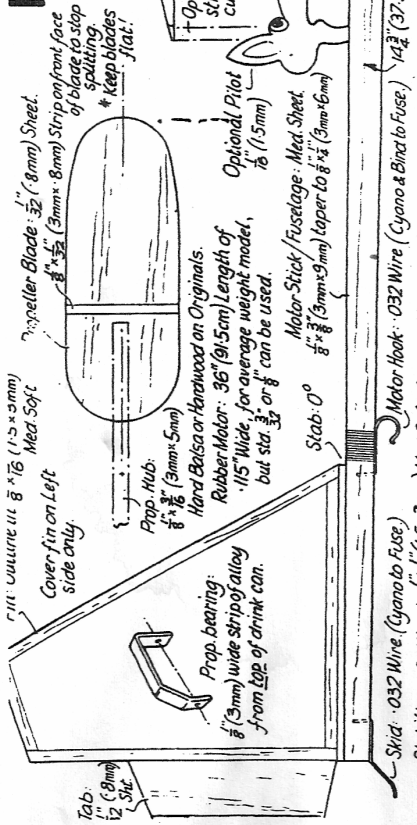


# HANGAR RAT

Designed by: H. BARR, with modifications by M. STARICK.

Propeller Hub detail: Use Hard Balsa or Hardwood. Blank  $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{1}{8}$  (3mm x 5mm).

A 19" Span Indoor Model: Aug. 1979



From January issue of The Hangar Pilot, the newsletter of the Miami Indoor Aircraft Model Association (MIAMI), Doc Martin, editor. The plan originally appeared in Aeromodeller.

## NEXT ISSUE

Look or something by mid-July. It should have a full and generously illustrated re-telling of the June Bug FAC contest and all the indoor action up to then. Expect a full pimping of the Rantoul USIC and Muncie USOC. As always, anything in the way of articles, plans, photos, rants and raves would be appreciated. Don't make me work too hard. Ciao, y'all!

## APRIL FOOLS ANNUAL CONTEST

"The opening club contest for the 2016 outdoor season was a big success when measured by attendance, weather, and fun! The air was filled with screaming power models, humming electric machines, and the silent gliders and rubber-powered models. Eleven members signed in to fly officials, plus a couple of folks only flew for early season trimming objectives which gave us thirteen actual fliers on the field.

"This was an innovative day, as illustrated by Dohrman Crawford's new canard E-20, *Cattywampous*, showing real promise with a great climb, tight and stable glide circle, and good flight times. Dohrm is already mumbling about an E-36 version! Frank Perkins also expanded the club's E-20 design effort with his new model. His new machine featured his Depron foam-panel fuselage construction, as well as his miniature, homebrew electronics package. Something also fresh was Frank's application of the Jedelsky solid-balsa wing construction. The proof of concept came in the form of three, straight 90-second maxes!

"There were casualties during the day. One power model hit the Georgia clay with a "thump" and sorted its parts on the grass. I'm not sure if it was Graham Selick's or Scott Lapraik's. Dohrman had a freshly repaired *Blue Ridge Special* enjoy its first test flight so much it just didn't want to come down, and later in the day he had another of his now-routine fly-a-ways with that, his umpteenth rendition of same. My new *Phantom Flash* disappeared in 190 seconds. The best "near miss" of the day was an Embryo flight (sans DT) by Lee Russell that lasted 4:33 before landing on the field. (Be advised, Lee: your modeling luck has been used up.)

"Thanks to all who made the effort to attend. Scott Lapraik, Graham Webster and Jim Altenbern drove down from Spartanburg/Greer, SC; Gary Morton came down from Apison, TN; and Frank Perkins made the trek from Tuscaloosa, AL. All the rest of us "local" guys drove one-to-two hours to be there, and it paid off for all. Report respectively submitted by Karl Hube, CD."

### P-30

Joe Ryan Sparrow Hawk 287

### Phantom Flash

David Mills 156

Karl Hube 120 (OOS!)

### F1G Coupe

David Mills Coupe de Bris 157

### Blue Ridge Special

Karl Hube 163

### Classic Towline

Karl Hube Moon Shadow 196

### Catapult Glider

Frank Perkins Sidewinder 174

Jim Altenbern Straight Up 159

D. Crawford Pathfinder 112

### Embryo

Lee Russell Sport 120

### SIG AMA Racer

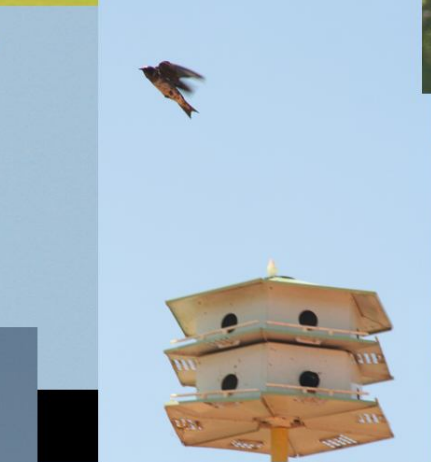
Lee Russell 37

### E-20

Frank Perkins Kaw-Liga 304

D. Crawford Cattywampous 161

# APRIL SCENES AT THE SOD FARM—David Barfield





## MAY OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

“Sunday, May 22 was a perfect day in every sense but one. The wind howled all day. Six brave stalwarts braved the dire forecast, and we managed to get a few flights in during the infrequent lulls. The winds made for some long retrievals. I walked six miles getting my planes—basically, a glider day! For example, Lee Russell flew his Embryo and suffered wing damage just walking back to his launch area.

“Here are the scores, respectfully submitted, Dohrman Crawford, Cub Reporter:”

### Catapult Glider

Karl Hube 91  
Frank Perkins 37

Embryo  
Lee Russell 110

### HLG

Dohrman Crawford 130

### Blue Ridge Special

Karl Hube 91

### SCat Jet

Karl Hube Hawker Hunter 59

## April Meeting Minutes

The April meeting of TTOMA was held on April 24 during the opening day of 2016’s outdoor flying season at the North Georgia Turf Farm. Thirteen members were in attendance, and the meeting convened at 12:30 pm.

### Treasurer’s Report

Karl Hube presented the Treasurer’s report indicating that the current balance in the club account is \$X,XXX.XX. All major expense obligations have been paid including:

- 2016 Club AMA Charter renewal \$200
- St Luke’s Appreciation Donation \$500
- NFFS Scholarship Fund Donation \$300

The only open matter is a plan to make a contribution toward a new wind sock for the sod farm hanger. Karl will ask the owner what he would like to do with the sock replacement. David Mills made a motion to accept the report as presented, and Gary Morton gave a second. The motion was carried unanimously.

### Meeting Minutes

The last two outdoor flying sessions (September and October) were canceled because of a field conflict and rain. Consequently, the August, 2015 minutes were presented. No changes or additions were offered, and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

### Old Business

No old business issues were offered.

### New Business

Karl Hube reported that we currently have 33 paid-up members and offered the further observation that the vast majority are active fliers, both indoor and outdoors. Not too many lawn chair jockeys!

David Mills reported on the 2016 F1D World Indoor Championships. TTOMA had two members involved with the USA team effort, Josh Finn as a flyer and Nick Ray as team manager. Club friend Kang Lee won his second-in-a-row World Champs, and John Kagan scored third place for the bronze,

and clubmate Josh Finn scored nineteenth on his first trip to the salt mines. As a result, the USA team scored second place for team silver. An added note of interest is that West Baden, Indiana's Baden Springs Hotel Atrium is being considered for the next F1D Championship in 2018.

David also reported that the National Free Flight Society website is now running after a complete overhaul.

It was announced that Dohrman Crawford was named to the FAC Council and that Scott Lapraik was selected as a member of the NFFS Electric Subcommittee. Keep in touch with these fellows to stay in the know!

There being no further business, Dohrman Crawford made a motion for adjournment, and David Mills gave a second. The meeting concluded at 12:55 pm. Respectfully submitted by Karl Hube, Secretary/Treasurer.

## **May Meeting Minutes**

The May meeting of the TTOMA was held on May 22 at the N GA Turf Farm. Six members were in attendance, and the meeting convened at 12:00 noon.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Karl Hube reported the current balance in the club account is \$X,XXX.XX. There are no outstanding debts at this time. The only open matter is a plan to make a contribution toward a new wind sock for the sod farm hanger. Karl still has to ask the owner what he would like to do with the sock replacement.

David Mills made a motion to accept the report as presented, and Dohrman Crawford gave a second. The motion was carried unanimously.

### Meeting Minutes

The April minutes were presented. No changes or additions were offered, and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

### Old Business

David Mills again recommended the new edition of the NFFS Symposium. David says the document is bigger and better than ever with a good collection of technical data being reported. David also reminded the members that the indoor and outdoor Nationals will be located close enough to each other to make a stop at both in one trip.

### New Business

Dohrman Crawford reported on the formation of the Blue Ridge Free Flight Society in North Carolina. The new club is scheduled to soon start flying on a sod farm at Mills River, North Carolina. Our members in North Carolina and South Carolina may find that venue a good addition to their flying locations. Flying will be a bit more restricted than our field as only weekends and after 5:00 pm on weekdays will be available. There are no current plans for contests on the field until a relationship can be built with the owner and staff at the farm. It was reported that the fall (October) contest at Raeford, NC is on the schedule again this year. We need judges for the coming FAC contest on June 25. Let Jim Altenbern know that you can give him some help.

There being no further business, Dohrman Crawford made a motion to adjourn, and Lee Russell gave a second. Respectfully submitted by Karl Hube, Secretary/Treasurer.



# ***Have a FACtastic June!***

***You are invited to the TTOMA  
June Bug FAC Jamboree, Saturday, June 25, 2016  
at the TTOMA Sod Farm Outdoor Flying Site  
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Jim Altenbern CD***

## **Events:**

**Rubber Scale  
Peanut Scale  
Embryo Endurance  
FAC Old Time Stick  
Simplified Scale  
Jimmie Allen**

**Dime Scale  
Scat Jet  
FAC Old Time Fuselage  
No-Cal  
Two-Bit +1  
Phantom Flash**



## **Mass Launches:**



**11:00 AM**

**1:30 PM**

**Racers**

**WW2**

***AMA membership required.  
FF duration events are flown on the following day.***

**[jaltenbern0705@charter.net](mailto:jaltenbern0705@charter.net)**