



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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FLYING ACES club




Nov.-Dec., 2017

HEADS UP

Welcome to the last issue of 2017, making its appearance in early 2018. Yes, it's a tad late—I'll take a pay cut. Much vital content follows, including flyers for the annual banquet and the Southeast Model Show. Gary Morton rallies the troops with a good summary of the opportunities for scale flying in 2018. Current news of some import follows, and I delve once again into my magazine collection and drudge up some vintage nuggets for your plan collection. I even provide a compliment for the AMA's *Model Aviation*. Time for me to get out of the way. Later, y'all.

RENEWAL NAG

OK, sport fans, it's time to get serious and renew that TTOMA membership. No sense pretending there's a bunch of time left because there isn't. Ergo, stroke that check, sign it on the line that is dotted, and mail it to Karl "Karats" Hube at the address indicated. The required form follows. We'll leave it as a courteous reminder at this juncture. Harsher measures await, however. You know who you are.

ANNUAL BANQUET

Dohrman Crawford has finalized the details for the annual banquet, and the flyer follows. Make your plans to attend because last year's first trip to the new *Petite Violettes* was universally hailed as a success. Get your form filled out and send to Dohrman at the address indicated along with a check signed on the line that is dotted. Not only will you have a great night socializing with your OFBs, but your wife, mistress, or life partner will have a nice night out, too. *Petite Violettes* is easy to find on Clairmont Road near I-85, and some good hotels are in the neighborhood. The deadline for getting the form and check to Dohrman is January. Eyes on you!

THUMBS IN COMMERCE

Another sign that FAC's Hi-Start Scale Glider (HSSG) might be catching on: Dave Niedzielski of Easy Built Models released their first kit in the category, a 36-inch Slingsby "Prefect T.30B". A photo, courtesy of Easy Dave, follows of the prototype with its *hors de guerre*. For sure, it's a good looking and a flyer. The kit is first rate with laser cut parts and a CAD plan. He's recently retired and no longer pimping for the man and remaining in the Montgomery area where much of his family has settled. We swapped a few messages, and he says he's coming to see us next year. Check out the new Prefect and the other offerings on his website.

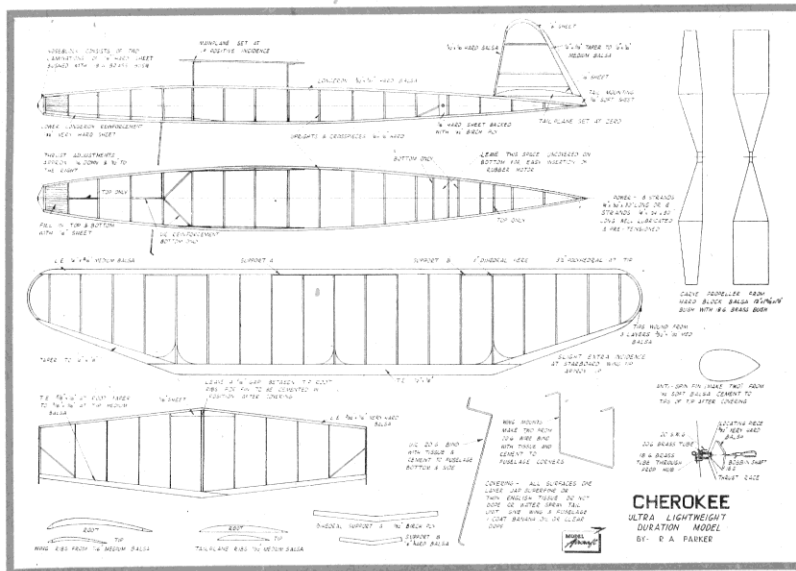
Let's just add the reminder that we might have a few HSSG examples up and flying this year. Kanones await! My Piper TG-8 will be finished by spring. As for the rest of you, this category has real potential locally and elsewhere. So, build something. Eyes on you!



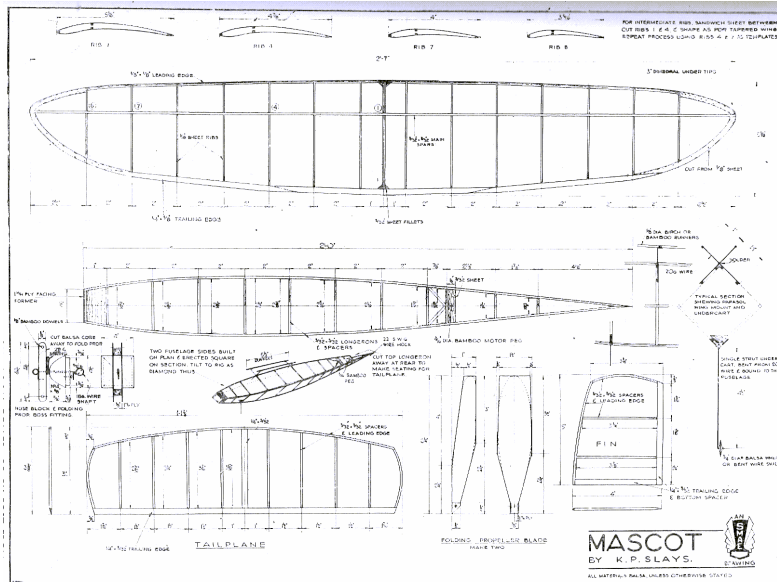
TREASURE TROVE

The hits keep coming from my journey through the wonderful pages of the old *Model Aircraft* magazine from across the pond. The thread from the last issue continues with more nuggets from those hallowed pages. This writer just can't get enough of the British Lightweights, and a trio of same follows.

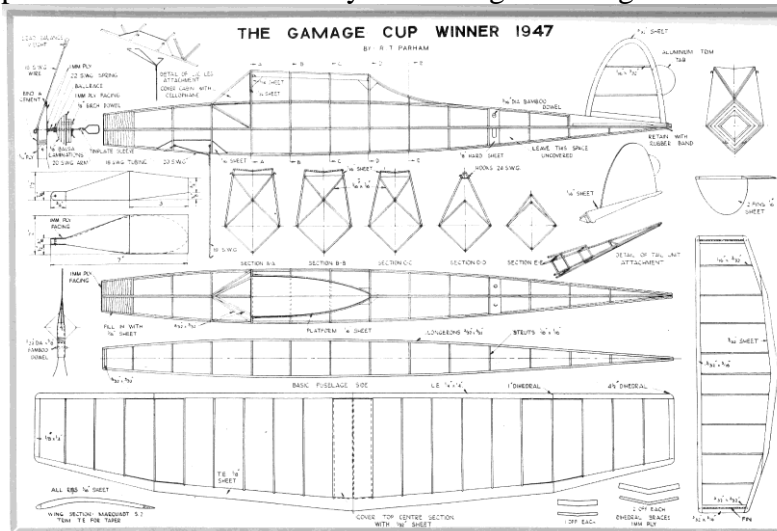
First, the "Cherokee" by R. A. Parker from the November, 1948 issue offers an amalgam of good qualities and enjoys a fine reputation as a flier. The fine airfoils and light construction stand out, and the 12-inch freewheeler, no doubt, will hoist it aloft. The wing is a standout with a fine airfoil, and though sparless, is well drawn and quite lovely. That said, its area is a bit small at 128 squinches, according to one report. The fuselage lacks any elegance, but aside from its awkward proportions, betrays no issues the atmosphere won't like. The wing mount cabanes should provide a few enjoyable hours in the workshop. DT can be easily provided. Blast tube provision presents a quandary, as is, but the rules allow some pooh out up front. The bird will fly and look good doing it.



The "Mascot" by K. P. Slays from the May, 1947 issue is also well beloved by our cousins and presents a very well-proportioned and attractive model. The 30-ish inch span wing is a comfort to modern eyes, being well and properly sparred and sporting a fine airfoil. The stab is a flat plate but should work fine as presented. This writer admits a weakness for diamond cross-sectioned fuselages, and this one is a well executed example, if a tad short in length. Thankfully, its wire cabanes are done with ease. The lovely, folding one-blade prop should conduct its business well. This bird will fly and look good doing it.



R. T. Parham's "1947 Gamage Cup Winner" from the August, 1947 issue is another well-known Lightweight. It's a lovely model and great flier, but perhaps sacrifices some simplicity and lightness along the way. Yes, a gracious plenty of sticks are hoisted aloft. Also, the Marquardt-esque airfoil does prod my oddness sensibilities but works just fine by all accounts. The wing area is given as 160 squinches in one report, pushing it into the Large realm of both SAM Rubber Cabin and NFFS NosRub. Frankly, shrunken a tad and given a retracting gear, this design might make a serviceable AMA Moffett design. Plus, NFFS allows Large NosRub's to be shrunken down to 150 squinches, so go that route if you like for a good Small NosRub and Moffett two-fer. The flat-plate stab has two small subrudders which aid the well-braced landing gear in a sound, three-point stance. The fuselage provides the fine diamond cross-section with a nicely done, Lidgard-worthy rendering of the cabin. Also, the fuselage's length allows an adequate moment arm aft and a long motor. The folding, one-bladed prop doesn't concern and should churn to satisfaction. DT provision poses no problems. This bird will fly and look good doing it.



A RARE SALUTE

It's been a while since I've saluted an issue of *Model Aviation*. I'm not going to bash it, but it certainly can use some more Free Flight content and other diversions from RTF RC and drone content. Whatever, we know what pays the bills in this world, and I don't get too wound up about it. But, frankly, each issue comes across as more or less just a drone catalog.

However, this time I'll encourage readers of these pages to actually read the new January issue. There are a few nuggets worthy of your purview. For starters, there's a good overview of the new Lithium-Sulfur

battery technology on page 89. This technology will revolutionize life as we know it and electric Free Flight in particular. Expect these batteries to be cheaper, faster charging, more durable and less hazardous, as well as packing many times the energy density of Lipos. BTW, once the engineering allows a major scaling up of battery packs, Lithium-Sulfur will provide electric cars with routine mileage capability between charges of many hundreds of miles. Other vehicles and machinery will be similarly blessed. In a matter of maybe a decade or two many of our marginal friends and determined enemies can take their oil and sand and make glass. Good luck with that, amigos.

3-D printing has been down-sized into cheap, desktop applications for a few years now. Well, CNC technologies have reached desktop sizes and costs of a few thousand dollars in kit form, more for ready-to-use. On page 69, a new CNC system by STEPCRAFT, Inc. (stepcraft.us) is presented, and it looks quite dandy. The basic model handles wood easily, and options are available for plastic, carbon fiber and metals. It appears to be operable from normal PC equipment via the packaged software. The potential is mind-blowing for the home model builder or cottage capitalist.

In the back of the issue Bob Brogdon's District V column gives TTOMA a good mention in his report of the visit he made to our Old Goat Smackdown. He says some good things about us, compliments our flying field and admits to really enjoying himself. I couldn't make the contest and didn't get the chance to meet him, but many Thumbs did. It's nice to have a AMA VP pay us a visit. He lives in Powder Springs, close to the field, so maybe he'll visit us again.

GATHERING OF THE TRIBES

The flyer for the 2018 Southeast Model Show down in Perry follows. Mark your calendars for Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3. I claim it as the largest gathering of model aviation enthusiasts in the world. (Josh Finn says the accolade belongs to the Joe Nall thing, but I ignore him.) GAMA does a fine job. Expect the 1000-plus tables of merchandise to be overflowing with goodies. It is, without a doubt, the most fun you can have for ten bucks anywhere in the world and the best place in the world to be on that day if you're a model airplane nut. Yes, it's 99% RC oriented, but Free Flight nuggets abound with a little digging. And, I guarantee you'll see a bunch of guys you missed for years. Be there, or be square. Eyes on you!

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something after the annual banquet, say in February. Expect to have the full contest schedule, as well as the first of the year's contest reports. If it's a little tardy, we'll have a report on the Southeast Model Show. As always, send me your articles, photos, plans, rants or raves. Don't make me work too hard!

2018 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 30004/770-886-0604.

Petite Violette Restaurant

2948 Claiborne Rd., Brookhaven, GA 30329
404-634-6268

January 27, 2018

Petite Violette Seasonal Green Salad

Fresh mixed Greens tossed in a Balsamic Dressing topped
with Pecans, Asparagus, chopped pear, Craisins & Feta Crumbles
* * *

Choice of Entrees

Entrees served with Bread, Butter, Starch and Vegetable

Chicken Florentine

Chicken Breast topped with a Creamy Alfredo Sauce and Sautéed Spinach.
or

Trout Meuniere

Fresh Skin-On seared Rainbow Trout with a Parsley Lemon-Caper Butter.
or

Braised Beef Short Ribs

Slow braised Beef Short Ribs totally Deboned. seared in a Burgundy Sauce
* * *

Strawberry Romanoff

Vanilla Bean Ice Cream topped with fresh Strawberries, Raspberry Sauce & whipped Cream
or

Chocolate Mousse Cakes

Flourless Chocolate Cake topped with Chocolate Mousse and Raspberry Coulis
* * *

Coffee and Iced Tea

Price \$42.00 (includes tax and gratuity).

Must have guaranteed number of people and Entree selection 48 hours in advance

Price is the same for all entrees. Please write in the names of all who will attend in your party or household. Indicate each person's choice of entree and their choice of dessert. Just print this out and use this paper.

Make your check out to Dohrman Crawford, and send it to:
Dohrman Crawford
1400 Mile Post Drive
Dunwoody, GA 30338

*****I must have your money in hand by January 20th.*****

I have also arranged for a tour of the Delta Museum down near the airport. The cost is \$10 per person, and you will pay when we arrive there. It will be a really neat thing to see and do. I know the tour guide really well.

Plan on meeting at the Dwarf House in Hapeville at 11:45. For out of towners, it is the very first Chick fil A on the planet. We will have an excellent lunch and then proceed to the Museum, which is very close by.

Please write in the names of participants below.

To sum up

Figure out what you want to eat.

Write it down with a name to go with it, and include your dessert choice, with a name to go with it.

Write down who is coming to the Delta Museum Tour.

Write a check for your meal and mail it to me at the above address.

See you at the Dwarf House.

GET READY FOR TTOMA'S OUTDOOR SPECIAL EVENTS EACH MONTH AND THE CHATTAHOOCHEE CHALLENGE NEXT YEAR

Gary Morton

Now is the time to begin to think about how you will strut your stuff next year to grab the oohs and aahs of your fellow flyers and possibly a kanone. The outdoor group will have a special event each month for each of our outdoor flying dates. If you do not have a plane to fly in an event, it is never too late to order a kit or get a plan from a member and build a plane. The events are chosen from the some of most popular events within our club that can be flown on our field.

The duration planes are the easiest to build and get to fly. There is no need to make it look like a real plane or finish it in a camouflage or special color pattern. The Embryo and P-30 fit this category. The Catapult Glider planes are not concerned about looks and are fairly easy to build, but trimming them is a little more challenging. P-30 and Catapult Glider rules can be found at the AMA website (modelaircraft.org). Club members have been flying the Blue Ridge Special which is the easiest to build and get to fly well. I am unsure when FAC will publish the rules for the BRS. They have agreed that it is kanone worthy. If you are unsure of the rules for an event you can check them out at their website.

Two events are for scale or scale-like planes. If you have never built a scale plane before, here is your chance. Most of the scale events that will be flown do not require documentation or any scale judging. All you have to do is build it to the plan and you are good to enter the event. These are not museum quality scale planes. If you want to build a scale plane with all the bells and whistles to wow your fellow flyers do. It can still fly in these events as long as you meet the requirements. Some of these scale planes fly as well as some of the duration planes but they are initially harder to trim. When building a scale plane make sure that whatever glue you use to attach the wings and tail feathers is easy to be unglued until you are finished with trimming. Changing the incidence of the wing or most often the stab is occasionally necessary, although I have usually been able to use Gurney flaps. The rest of the scale rules will be found at the FAC website (flyingacesclub.com). When in doubt ask a club member what to do.

For those that need some help in deciding what to build a short list with additional information is given below as well as some websites with kits for those that are just getting started.

P-30

There are many plans and kits available. All fly well, although some are more competitive than others, and most are very easy to build. If you are unsure what to build, talk to a club member about what they fly or have built. Kits are the easiest way to start.

Embryo

This event also has many plans and kits available. These are easy to build and trim, and you can make them any color or combination you like. Several kits that do very well are “Debut” by Easy Built (has an undercambered wing) and “Bad Axe” by Volare. The Peck Polymer kit of the Prairie Bird works well if you widen the fuselage and use a pop off wing. Fellow Thumb Joshua Finn also has plans (smallflyingarts.net). His “Maxout” has done very well at large contests this year.

Catapult Glider

There are many plans and kits available. Some of the members are flying their own design or have modified an existing design. Ask around and I’m sure that you will be able to get all of the information that you need to get started. Again, the easiest way to start is with a kit.

Dime Scale

This scale event has no judging. It has a maximum wing span of 16 inches and some other requirements (i.e. 1/16 in. sticks) that you do not have to worry if you follow a dime scale plan. Essentially the planes are checked against the plan. If it is on the plan, it must be on your model. Most of the plans are simplified so they are easier to build and decorate than a plane built for an event that requires scale judging. Comet, Mike Nassie, Tom Nallen, Rich Weber and Dave Mitchell all have plans that are excellent flyers. There are many others available. More than likely someone has made a Dime Scale model of your favorite plane. If you want to build it, look around on the internet or ask a TTOMA member. Some kits are also available.

Simplified Scale

Again, this scale event does not have any judging. It is for planes with a wing span of 18 inches or larger. Any scale plane will qualify with the required wing span. Here is your chance to build a high winger. Mike Nassie has some scale-like plans that are easy builds or use any scale kit with a wing span of 18 inches or larger. Unlike most of the other events in FAC, these planes can be flown in another FAC event, if it qualifies for that event.

Blue Ridge Special

This easy-to-build model is now kitted by Volare. They also sell the prop and hanger that is required. Most members have a plan that can be copied or you can get it from the July-Aug. 2017 issue of *Flying Aces News*. There are also four pages of directions that came with the original kit.

If you are looking for a kit or supplies then check out the following websites which you probably already have bookmarked. You might find something that interests you. Most of the companies below have more kits and supplies than listed because only those for the special events are mentioned. Remember that the club will be sponsoring the above special events and the Chattahoochee Challenge next year. If you still are undecided what to build, ask around, and I am sure that you will get a lot of suggestions. You might even find a member who has the plan you need.

BMJR’s – bmjrmodels.com – kits for Embryo, P-30

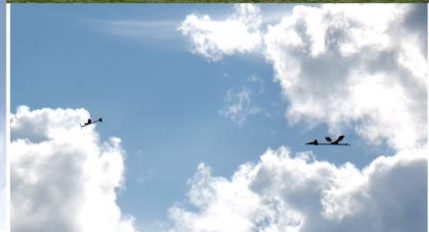
Easy Built – easybuiltmodels.com – Dime Scale, Embryo and Simplified Scale, plus supplies for FF.

FAI – faimodelsupply.com – maker of Super Sport Rubber and kits for CLG (many), P-30, and Embryo, plus supplies for FF.

Peck – peck-polymers.com – Embryo (Prairie Bird), Simplified Scale (Golden Age Kits), plus FF supplies.

Retro – retroc.us.com – CLG and P-30, plus some supplies.

Volare – volareproducts.com – Embryo, Dime Scale, Simplified Scale, a Blue Ridge Special kit, plus supplies for FF.



Photos and collage by David Barfield and Frank Perkins



SOUTHEASTERN MODEL SHOW

SMS

GEORGIA AIRCRAFT MODELERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

America's Premier Hobby Swap Meet

March 2 and 3 2018

- Doors are open 11am to 7pm on Friday and from 8am to 5pm on Saturday
- Over 1000 tables of Merchandise located in three different Buildings
- Parking: Easy Enter and Exit parking area, RV and Trailer parking
- Raffles, Electric Aircraft Demonstration Flights both Days

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



For additional information: gamarc.com/SMS2018.html

**Georgia National Fairgrounds, Perry, Georgia
Interstate 75 at exit 135**

