





The THUMB PRINT

Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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Charter # 1834


Sept.-Oct., 2019

HEADS UP

Welcome to the fifth issue of the year, and it's pithy as usual—no flimsy rag this. In depth coverage of the USOC Muncie Nats follows, as does the same from all the local contest in the interim. Be sure to notice the particulars of the impromptu Gollywock mass launch at the September outdoor contest. There's also some personal news about two charter Thumbs, including the passing of one of our founding members. Several Thumbs enjoyed either some national accolades or other local notoriety. Those details follow.

A very important item in this issue is the flyer for Gary's Baughman's Turkey Shoot in November. Mark this down and make planes to attend. You won't be sorry because it's always a hoot. Good times are had by all, and see y'all there. Time for me to get out of the way. Later, y'all

TWO TIMES THE NAGS

First for you laggards, there's still time to take advantage of the club's one-half off membership deal for the remainder of the year. The form follows, so stroke that check, signed on the line that is dotted and mail it to Karl Hube at the address indicated. Welcome aboard, but you're good only until New Year's Eve.

Second, we shamelessly reprint the following nagging excerpt from the last newsletter:

"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 NFFS membership form follows. You know who you are. Eyes on you!

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO BE AND PEOPLE TO SEE

The year's remaining schedule follows. There are still plenty of opportunities for you to get out of the house. No excuses, so glue some sticks together and show up somewhere with a model airplane.

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

Sept. 14: indoor contest, St. Lukes

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: USOC MUNCIE NATS

TTOMA was well represented at this year's Nats, and I doubt if any other club as many on the field. This motley crew included Dohrman Crawford, Jim Conery, Gary Morton, Graham Selick, Hayden Ashworth, Frank Perkins, Scott Lapraick, Graham Webster, Ed Hardin, Jim Jennings, and your editor, plus club friends Andy and Larson Ringlien, Robert Marier and his flying buddy Clay. Likewise, Camp David was well stocked with six of these hardy souls. And at only five dollars, American, a night it sure beats the price of hotel accommodation and leaves more dough room for food, beer and goodies.

The weather couldn't have been better with daytime temps in the mid-eighties and nighttime temps in the mid-sixties. One night it got down to 58 degrees! Needless to say, sleeping outside under the stars was very pleasant. It was too windy only one day, and it only rained just once, a welcomed cooling shower lasting but an hour. It was some of the best Nats weather in everyone's memory.

The overall turnout was OK, somewhere just north of 160 contestants. We might've pushed the 200-mark if the AMA hadn't scheduled the Free Flight portion of the Nats after the start of many of our youth's school terms?! Point of sad fact, the AMA originally had us in there the previous week but moved us back one week to appease 19 RC glider guys and some big advertisers. That's what I heard, anyhow. The only additional downer in this regard was the untimely passing of Mark Carter, the Hot Dog Man. Another guy was on site and did a good job, but the snappy repartee was sorely missed.

Our club's assemblage of members, family and friends did very well throughout the week. However, this writer won't be able to give you all the details. For you see, the AMA neglected to publish the daily paper *NatsNews*! Further, the *NatsNews* published digitally each day weren't complete in terms of the individual event results. I guess it was only a matter of time before it went digital only. That said, some of the same coverage was available off the AMA website. (Don't get me started. Finding the Free Flight *NatsNews* wasn't easy nor the results complete, at least by my yeoman efforts.) Whatever, some detailed event results were published, and the posted photos of the awards ceremony of each day can be blown up and transcribed half-ass to the keyboard. However, it still reads OK, and a massive load of photos is on their Flicker thingies, courtesy of my friend Rick Pangell, *NatsNews* reporter and photographer. (Don't blame Rick for the omissions. I'm sure his boxers are in the same sort of bunch as mine are.) So thusly dredged, the incomplete and vague podium finishes follow:

Hayden Ashworth—F1P Jr

Larson Ringlien—Classic Towline, P-30 Sr, HLG Sr, OT HLG Sr, HLG Sr and Sr National Champion

Andy Ringlien—P-30, OT HLG and OT Stick,

Robert Marier—Dawn Unlimited, A/B Classic Gas, Moffett, Team Moffett, Small NosRub and C NosGas,

Scott Lapraick—B Electric

Dohrman Crawford—Embryo

Jim Conery—WW I ML

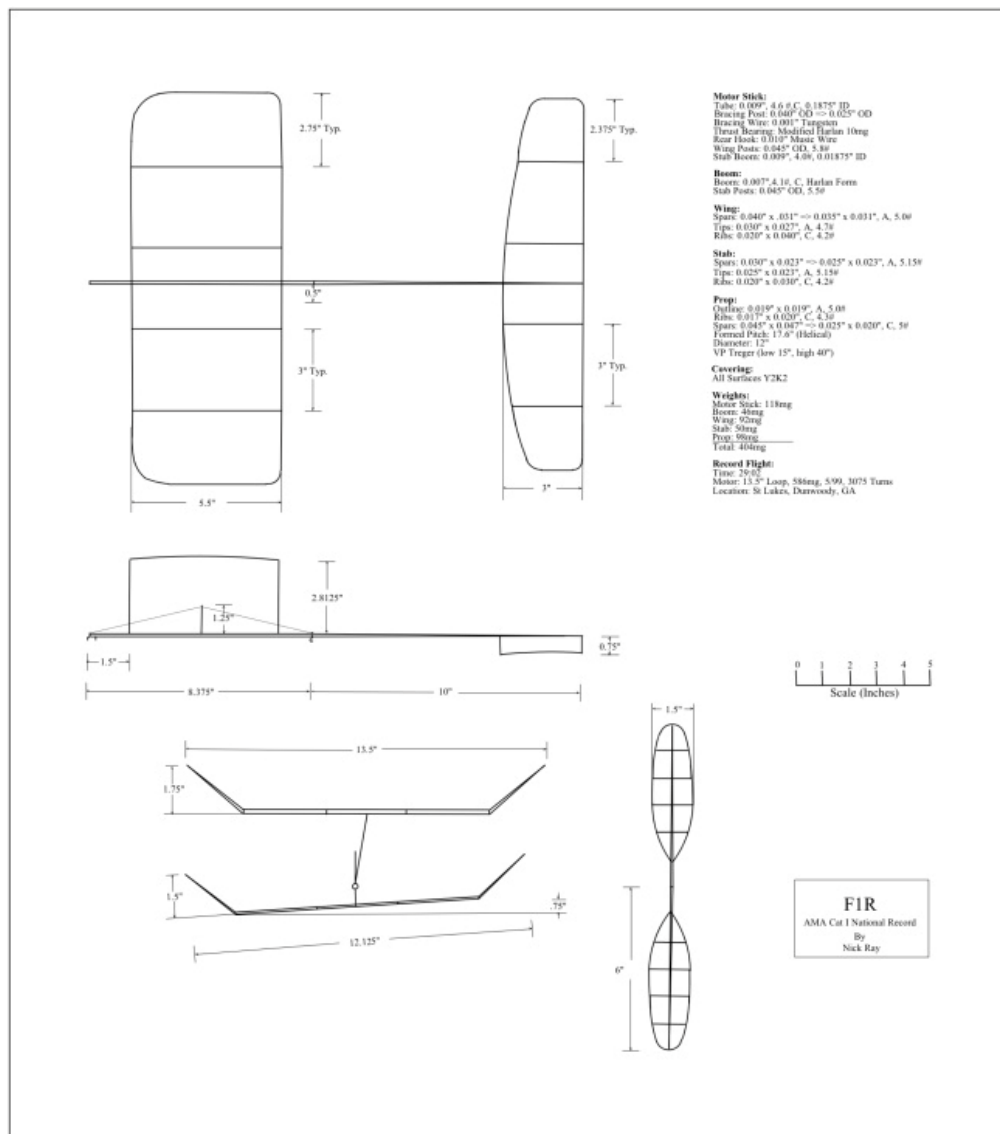


2019 USOC Muncie Nats: photos by Crawford, Perkins, Conery and Pangell

THUMBS BEDAZZLED

We're proud to broadcast the selection of Nick Ray's well-traveled F1R as a 2019 NFFS Model of the Year. The 2019 Symposium has all the details. Summing up, his F1R design currently holds the national records in all four categories and has dominated the event for years. It's a beast and not a bad looker, either. What more could you want from a model airplane? Well done, sir.

The NFFS Symposium is out and on sale for thirty-nine dollars, American. This year's editorship team of Rick Pangell and John McGrath did a fine job, and you won't be disappointed. The website, freeflight.org, has all the details. Buy it.



THUMBS ON THE MEND

This July, once again Dohrman Crawford ran afoul of the spinning propeller at the sod farm, except this time it was of the rubber-powered variety. Nonetheless, he was still injured, as the photo testifies. But, contrary to times past, he didn't have much in the way of an entertaining story

afterwards. Despite his grievous infirmity, he drove himself to one of his favorite emergency care providers in Coweta County. They patched him up in short order, and he drove himself back to the field and rejoined the fray. He had great things to say about his caregivers, and can add this experience to his catalogue of same in the local area. Appreciating wisdom when met and bestowing respect when due, we proclaimed him *ein experte* in such matters and will consult him should another such occasion arise. Every group needs an emergency medical care authority.



THUMBS AT THE BENCH

A few members of TTOMA and several more across the USA were involved in the early beginnings of the FAC's scale hi-start glider event. The event had a modest but solid start, and we're beginning to see some amazing models now, even a few kits and plans. Concurrent with this delightful activity, there was another such event getting some traction for pure duration gliders, eventually under NFFS auspices. Both events enjoyed some cross-fertilization that was helpful in providing some basic parameters for the models and the launching method. Thusly, the rules were written, signed off upon, and off we went. Both sets of rules can be found on the FAC and NFFS websites.

Well, Karl Hube provides the following photo of his latest example. It's a cutie, to be sure, at a 36-inch wingspan and 162-squinch wing area and a curb weight of 63 grams. Maybe we'll see it fly soon, and maybe a few of us should cobble up a few from our odd bits we've sitting around. Better we get some air beneath our bric-a-brac. Thumbs, to your tools!



Is Dohrman Crawford getting fancy on us? Say it ain't so! Look at the photo of his latest scale project, a resplendent Junker Dr. I. He flew it for the first time at the Muncie Nats. It was just dandy, as is. You'd think any normal modeler would've considered it finished. But, no, it seems he had something to else in mind. He passed along the taunting photo of his new pilot of same. Has he gone over the Dark Side? Is an intervention in order? I trust not. Regardless, let's keep an eye on him in case he needs our help.

THUMBS NOT GONE AND NOT FORGOTTEN

While at the Nats, I was asked repeatedly how Jim Walston was doing. I hadn't talked to Wanda in a few months and didn't have anything to say. I should've known better and called beforehand for an update. However, upon returning, I called Wanda and got the latest word.



The fact is, Jim is doing fine, considering, and rather miraculously so. He remains alert, jolly, rosy-cheeked, head-full-of-air and even recognizes Wanda occasionally. His assisted living center's staff continues to adore him because he remains an ideal patient. Yes, he's still slowly being ravaged by Alzheimers, but he's doing as good a job of it as can be hoped.

But, let's not kid ourselves. His end is no mystery and is inevitable, but Jim remains a class act. Wanda and I see the wisdom in staying in better touch, and any further news about Jim can be found in these pages or in the Bulletin. Yo, Jim!

THUMBS GONE AND NOT FORGOTTEN

A few days before the Nats, we got word that Ken Grubbs had died after a long illness. He will be missed. He was a lifelong Free Flight modeler and a charter member of TTOMA and SAM 47. The following obituary, lifted shamelessly from the *Athens Banner Herald*, doesn't mention it, but he grew up in Griffin and was a boyhood friend of George Perryman, Bob Baker and many other Southern notables. His dental career was spectacularly successful, and he was well known around the world. He took all of it lightly, often chuckling, "not bad for a country dentist." Indeed. He had a pretty good run, 92 active years. Not bad, Ken.



1927–2019, R.I.P

"Dr. Kenneth Grubbs, age 92, of Monroe, GA, passed away Thursday, August 1, 2019, just nine months after his beloved wife, Bunky. Kenneth was born in Cordele, GA on April 7, 1927, a date he happily shared with Bunky. He was the son of Dr. Victor Grubbs and Margaret Huckaby. Kenneth attended Emory at Oxford, the [University of Georgia](#) and Emory Dental School after serving in the Army. Kenneth and Bunky settled in Monroe, GA in 1956 where he practiced dentistry until 2009. While practicing dentistry, Kenneth taught at Emory Dental School for 21 years and then at the Medical College of Georgia for 12 years.

"Kenneth was known worldwide for his amalgam technique known as the "Grubbs Technique." He lectured at dental meetings across the country throughout his career. When he wasn't at work, he was flying sailplanes, chasing his model airplanes, flying ultra-Lights at his farm, hang-gliding, riding his bike, looking for gorillas in Uganda, camping, hunting, and always bringing someone new home for dinner. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe, the Kiwanis Club and countless other dental and flying organizations.

"Kenneth was truly a Renaissance man. He had many talents that were comparable to his publicized expertise in operative dentistry. He was an accomplished inventor, educator, artist, photographer, sculptor, woodcarver, model builder and aviator. Sharing his home, hobbies and knowledge with everyone brought Kenneth great joy. Kenneth and Bunky knew no strangers; their generous spirits will always be remembered as their door was always open and welcoming.

"In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Frances Clapp "Bunky" Grubbs and his adored older brother, Victor Grubbs. Kenneth is survived by his children, Victor Franklin

Grubbs, Virginia "Ginger" Grubbs Heery (Rusty) and Allen Warren Clapp Grubbs; grandsons, Franklin Moss Heery (Amber), James Thomas Heery and Kenneth Benjamin Heery; great-granddaughters, Millie Moss Heery and Margaret Edward Heery; his best and lifelong friend, William Brown; and loving "good dog" companion, Ella.

"The family would like to thank Kenneth's extraordinary caregivers of many years, Donna Harwell, Lois Woods and Julie Bennett of Abbey Hospice."

GOLLYWOCKS GALORE

Just for grins and tickles, we're having a Gollywock mass launch at the club's September 22 contest at the sod farm. The club has several already built and trimmed within its ranks. Why not? CD David Barfield has organized the soiree as follows. The launch will be at 11:00 am sharp. That'll allow everybody to get in a test flight or two to tweak these old campaigners. The last one down wins. If the wind doesn't cooperate, we'll think of something. Hopefully, we won't challenge the Mighty Hooch. Any questions, call him.

The Gollywock saga is well known amongst veteran Free Flight modelers. However, for those not so tenured here's more information. Wally Simmers was one of the premier designers and competition fliers before and after WW II, and one of our hobby's most successful entrepreneurs, founding Midwest Models and soon becoming the "S" in the K&S Company. In the years before WW II he penned a family of classic designs, comprised of the Jabberwock, Gollywock and Dynamoe. This family of models shared a bewildering collection of similar wings, stabs, fins and props, and Wally flew all of them, mixing parts as he went. Adding to the intrigue, an equally bewildering series of plans and kits of each followed from Midwest. In fact, there were several Gollywocks, including the original, and the later Gollywock II and New Gollywock. (As for me, I prefer the New Gollywock, and the SAM-approved 13.5 inch folding prop.)

Regardless of this confusion, SAM approved all the bits for our use in the Gollywock and Jabberwock. (You get to be fussy over only the Dynamoe, only one plan being extant, if memory serves.) Ergo, have a go with your Gollywock of choice. Decades ago, I had a long and delightful chat with Wally over beers at a Pensacola SAM Champs, and we talked about his life and models. Along with some war stories and roughly hewn marital advice, he relayed a few trimming caveats on this beloved series of models, first and foremost, setting the CG exactly 1.125 inches ahead of the wing's trailing edge, period. Also, put the wing where the plan shows, it being better to add demon lead up front rather than shorten the tail moment. Further, don't set up a slow glide because the airfoil works better with some speed. I've flown Gollywocks with 16, 18 or 20 strands, the latter being a real stick of dynamite. Fret not, it can take some power, so don't be bashful. These birds wants to fly. (Your editor's old New Gollywock is pictured below, trimmed out and ready-to-rock. Look out!)



PIMPING FOR THE MAN

It's not often this writer heaps praise on any specific issue of *Model Aviation*, the AMA's magazine. Not that I'm too judgmental, I understand the publishing business a tad and realize their need to serve the RC majority of the membership and pander to the industries that pay the advertising bills. However, the results are usually devoid of any meaningful Free Flight content. We got used to it a long time ago.

Ergo, the September issue came as quite a surprise. First, Pres Brunning is shown gracing the cover launching a stunning, rubber-powered Lockheed *Constellation*, an impressive sight. It was soon followed by a delightfully penned and wonderfully illustrated summary of Free Flight modeling by Bob Sifleet. Its allure was almost shocking. Closing out the coverage, they provide a visually exquisite column by Bob Slusarczyk on the F1D model boxes of Vladimir Linardic of Croatia. These are really something to see, made of carbon fiber and full of nifty storage ideas. (Sometimes those indoor guys scare me.)

The cynic in me says this isn't the sign of any sort of trends necessarily in our favor. But, you take what you get. The reasons why we're so graced this time? I suspect the powers-that-be realized that Free Flight is interesting and exotic to the majority of the membership, given the usual parade of drab RTF and drone coverage, and they want eyeballs to stay on target. OK by me.

WHY WE KEEP SCORE

The latest tally of the club's high point tourney follows. The main point to be addressed is the level of participation, a very good thing. The other is the tightness of the race at the top. We've four months worth of indoor and outdoor contests left this year and plenty of opportunities for fame and glory. So, glue some sticks together and show up somewhere with a model airplane. The game's afoot.

Hope Finn	56	Bill Gowen	18
Dohrman Crawford	56	Matthew Canady	17
Josh Finn	55	David Barfield	17
James Conery	37	Gary Morton	13
Richard Schneider	33	Lee Russell	12
Doug Demasie	31	Jimmy Jordan	11
Frank Perkins	31	Savannah Canady	9
Nick Ray	27	Ed Hardin	8
James Martin	26	Karl Hube	6
Joe Ryan	23	Dan Crews	5
David Mills	22	Scott Lapraik	3
Jim Altenbern	19		

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in around Thanksgiving. We'll have two big items therein. Namely, a full report on Gary Baughman's Turkey Shoot and the club's annual banquet flyer. Reports of any interim contests will be therein, too. Along with whatever else comes over the transom, it should be a good one.

And as always, I beseech the multitudes for anything is the way of articles, plans, photos, rants or raves. Don't make me work too hard! Later, y'all.

AUGUST OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

We had nine fliers sign in, but only seven flew due to the hot August heat and back trouble. Still, the winds were very light and variable and a lot of flying got done. No models went OOS, and we had a very good day. Lee Russell, CD, reporting.

P-30

Dohrman Crawford Majestyk 360
Jim Conery Speckled Bird 308
Joe Ryan NJAPF 175
Jim Altenbern Square Eagle 115
James Martin Speckled Bird 82

Blue Ridge Special

Dohrman Crawford 351
Jim Altenbern 212
Jim Conery 160
Joe Ryan 133

SCat Jet

Jim Altenbern 225
David Barfield 107
Joe Ryan 58

No Cal Scale

James Martin Typhoon 78

½ Wakefield

James Martin 43

SAM Commercial Rubber

David Barfield Miss Canada Sr. 50

AUGUST INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Seven TTOMA members showed up for an excellent day of flying in calm air at St. Lukes, and several other members showed up to spectate and hang out. Models of all types were flown—scale, gliders and lightweights for a nice variety. Yours truly was just about to put up a flight with my Lightweight when the A/C unexpectedly fired up, ending the day a shade before 4 pm. Despite some frantic moments, all models were safely packed away with no damage. CD Josh Finn, reporting.

Order of the Rainbow Uniform

Josh Finn
Nick Ray
Dohrman Crawford
Hope Finn

Limited Pennyplane

Josh Finn 9:00
Dan Crews 5:47
Bill Gowen 3:28

Ministick

Nick Ray 9:02
Hope Finn 6:04
Josh Finn 5:52

Standard CLG

Josh Finn 20.9 + 18.1 = 39.0
Hope Finn 20.0 + 16.6 = 36.6
Dan Crews 11.0 + 13.5 = 24.5

F1N

Josh Finn 28.2 + 30.4 + 32.2 + 90.8

Unlimited CLG

Hope Finn 28.2 + 28.8 = 57.0

A-6

Hope Finn 3:00

F1D

Lee Russell 9:44 + 8:52 = 18:36

Hangar Rat

Dohrman Crawford 2:29 + 2:21 = 4:50
Hope Finn 1:55 + 1:49 = 3:44
Josh Finn 0:33 + 1:02 = 1:35

F1N-150

Hope Finn 17.4 + 18.4 + 16.7 = 52.5
Josh Finn 3.1 + 22.0 + 17.7 = 42.8

No Cal Scale

Hope Finn Chambermaid 5:47
Karl Hube Chambermaid 5:23
Josh Finn Cassutt Racer 3:49

Ninth Annual TTOMA Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot

9:00 AM-3:30 PM eastern standard time, Nov. 3, 2019

Gate opens at 9 AM

North Georgia Turf Farm Field, Whitesburg, Georgia

Last chance for outdoor flying in 2019. Weather will be perfect, and the events will be a HOOT! Note change to eastern standard time, so fall back!

No entry fee. Winners of events receive \$25 Publix Gift Certificates!!! No builder-of-the-model rule. Build one or borrow one from your old flying buddy. No excuses! Come to fly.

Contest Schedule

- 10-3 The famous target time event* (rec. time of every flight)
- 10 FAC Scale Mass Launch (Any FAC Scale model, top 3 F/O)
- 10-1 Cat Jet, Best 3 of 6, high time wins
- 11 Embryo Mass Launch, H/L, last down wins
- 10-3 AMA Electric/Gas, 120 sec max, best 3 flight total wins
- 10-3 P-30, 120 sec max, best 3 flight total wins
- 1:30 Catapult/Hand launch glider mass launch, top 3 fly off
- 2:30 Blue Ridge Special, Mass Launch, Last down wins
- 3:15 Awards Ceremony and clean up (Early Get-Away for Home)
- Target time will be sealed in an envelope to be opened at the conclusion of flying. Make sure you record time on every flight.

Winners will be awarded a \$25 Publix Gift Certificate good for a Thanksgiving turkey bounty for your family gathering.

Events/Rules may be amended to fit weather conditions or for other considerations. These changes will be announced by the Head Gobbler in Charge (HGIC) prior to the start of any scheduled event.

HGIC: Gary Baughman gibman@bellsouth.net 770-313-4921

Last Half 2019 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ AMA# _____

Address _____ State and Zip Code _____

Other Family Members and AMA # _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

\$10.00/yr. for adults and other adult family members in same household. Only good to Dec. 31, 2019. No charge all aged 19 yrs. old or less. Send check, payable to TTOMA, to Karl Hube/104 Smith Forest Lane/ Alpharetta, GA 30004 /770-886-0604.

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

Make checks payable
in U.S. dollars to:
National Free Flight Society

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:

New Member Renewal Address Change Donation

Amount: \$ _____ Current expiration date: Mo.-Yr. _____

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY

Name: _____

Date of Birth		
M	D	Y
/	/	

Address: _____ AMA#: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Send all renewals, address changes, applications, and membership questions to the Membership Office, email: <membership@freeflight.org>

Please go to www.freeflight.org for credit card renewals.

