



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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






Jan.-April, 2021

HEADS UP

Welcome to the first issue of 2021 that actually concerns 2021 stuff. You'll recall the issue from earlier in the year that was an attempt to summarize all that did or didn't happen club-wise in that miserable year of our Lord 2020. Things are very different now, however. We're moving forward on all fronts, more or less, and we've convinced ourselves we're in somewhat "normal" times.

The issue in hand encapsulates club activity this year so far. There's quite a bit to tell, thanks to three contests, some individual actions of the membership and two opportune international postals of interest. Lord knows, we've been busy on the workbench front the last year, with plenty of new models needing some air beneath them. Activities are ginning up nicely, and our traditional publishing schedule is justified now. Henceforth, issues will be published every two months, more or less, reality permitting.

It's time for me to get out of the way. Ciao, y'all!

RENEWAL NAG

As this is technically the second renewal nag of the year, we'll be a little more pointed in our pleadings. My fellow Thumbs, it's time to renew your memberships. Yes, we've excuses in abundance from last year, but these excuses are obsolete in 2021. So, go stroke that check to the amount that is proscribed, sign it on the line that is dotted, and mail it to the address that is indicated on the membership form provided forthwith later in this issue. You know who you are. Eyes on you!

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

The outdoor schedule follows, so mark your calendars accordingly. Be advised the outdoor season is well underway with two contests under our belts, and they'll follow monthly thru November. On the indoor front, Dohrman Crawford says the situation at St. Lukes is about to change. Like the rest of the state, vaccines in our area are becoming more widespread, and infections rates are on the way down. He's in touch with the church powers-that-be, and we'll get our foot back in the door as circumstances allow. We expect more opportunities at Christ Church in Macon, too. The game's afoot.

June 26-27: N G Turf Farm, Chattahoochee Challenge FAC Contest, CDs-Jim Altenbern/Gary Morton

July 11: N G Turf Farm, Country Fried Contest, CD-David Mills

Aug. 15: N G Turf Farm, Fizzle While You Sizzle Contest, CD-Lee Russell

Sept. 5: N G Farm, Summer Swan Song Contest, CD-David Barfield

Oct. 3: N G Farm, Last Fling Til Spring Contest, CD-Jim Conery

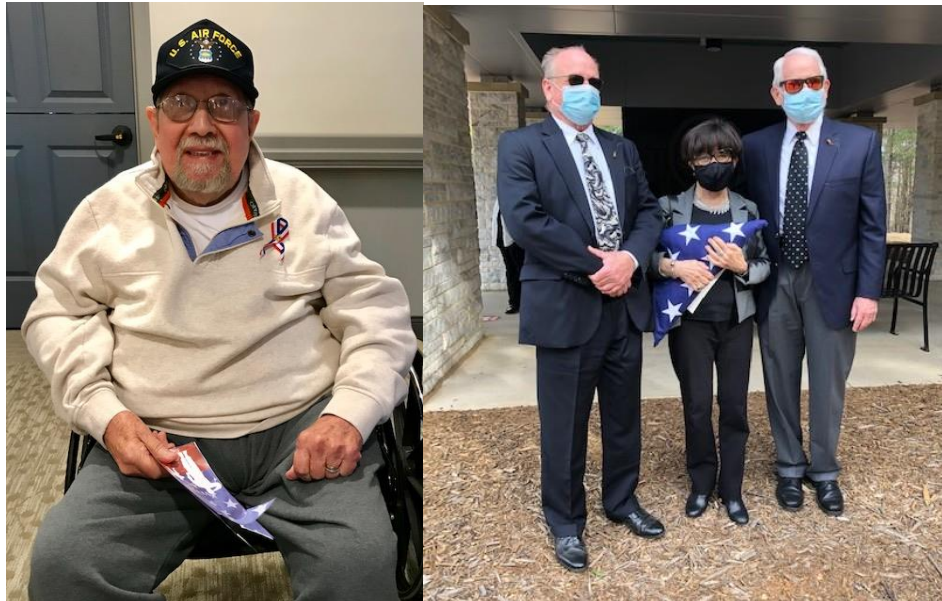
Nov. 7: N G Turf, Turkey Shoot Contest, CD-Gary Baughman

THUMBS DEPARTED: JIM WALSTON R.I.P.

Our OFB Jim Walston's long and valiant struggle with Alzheimer's finally ended in the winter of 2021. We've all seen this awful disease ravage many, and frankly, I've never seen anybody kick its ass like Jim did. He lasted many, years, way longer than most, and retained a bit of his old self to his eventual end. He passed through a long series of health facilities, each giving incrementally more care to him as needed. Through it all, he remained jovial and a favorite of the doctors and nurses, a very rare thing as all who know the disease can attest. I like to think of it as a tribute to Jim and his character.

Naturally, much credit can be given to Wanda and all the wise decisions she made along the way. Jim always said he was lucky in life, especially to have her as a wife. How little he was to ever to fully realize it in his final years, given his diminished capacity. You can't beat luck; it'll beat brains and hard work anytime. And, Jim, you had yours.

His final resting place is a great one, and highly recommended to those military veterans in our area. If you haven't seen the Georgia National Cemetery outside of Canton, GA, you should pay a visit. Lovely and majestic, it reminds me of Arlington Cemetery, except smaller in scale but no less inspiring. The ceremony was solemn and dignified, conducted by servicemen in uniform and per regulation, as it should be. (Taps well played on a bugle by a soldier in uniform in that setting is an entirely different experience.) Dohrman and I attended along with members of Jim and Wanda's families. The staff there did a great job of providing this worthy service, while dealing with this cursed pandemic.



THUMBS ON THE MARCH

Thumbs Hope and Josh Finn and Nick Ray made the trek to Rantoul, IL to fly at the big regional contest last October at the USAF base at Hangar #3. The room provided good conditions many times before and didn't disappoint again. All flew a ton and won places in AMA and Manhattan Cabin, Ministick, HL and Intermediate Stick, A-6, Limited Pennyplane, FIN and IHLG. The photographer who took the two photos of Josh and Nick did a lot with the material at hand. (Frankly, he would've had an easier time of it with Hope but chose not to. Go figure.)

THUMBS ON THE MARCH: YO, GUILLOW!

The WHAM club extended the time frame for the Guillow Sky Battle from Saturday, May 29 to Sunday, June 6. The reason given was multiple reports of bad weather across the country and meager

participation thereby. Apparently, our gale force winds during the April contest were shared from sea to shining sea, along with widespread rain. Unfortunately, our sanctioned contests in May and June would bracket the new two-week window.

Dohrman Crawford and your editor decided to go out to the sod farm on Memorial Day and put in a few hours and have another go. The weather mostly cooperated in a big way. Temps were in the mid-80s, and the skies were sunny and filled with puffy cumulus clouds providing much lift. However, winds were in the 5-10 mph range, but coming out of the southeast across the short side of the field, right toward Snake Creek and its waiting tree line.

Our efforts weren't wasted, and each of us hoisted up flights well ahead of those posted to date. Dohrman put his Lancer into a buoyant patch and high into a tree at the creek's southern bank. We never saw it even after much looking, but the watch said 117 seconds. I had better luck with my Javelin's first and only timed flight. I wound the bejesus out of it, launched hard and hooked a boomer that quickly took it high above and over the creek and eventually onto the small field on the other side. The watch showed 210 seconds, which ought to put a scare into somebody.

We soon realized we'd pushed our luck about as far as reasonable people would allow and left. One model lost with more likely on the way was enough. We'll see what the final postal results are. Regardless, we'll fly these two designs outdoors every month as a special club event.

I can recommend the Javelin as a great flyer and easier to build than the Lancer, a cutesy cabin job burdened in a mild degree by that charming configuration. Trimmed as follows, the Javelin really goes. Build lightly, of course; mine weighed 23 grams empty. Balance it so the CG is right at the wing TE of the inner panels. The stab is huge at almost 50%, hence the aft CG. Decalage is minimal with the wing at zero degrees and a 3/32nd shim under the stab TE. Mine flies well right-right, so build in some stab tilt for glide turn, pilot's left tip low. Use most of the sheet TE of the fin for a 1/16th right trim tab for glide turn. Wing warps are conventional: left inner flat, right inner about 3/32nd wash-in, both tips wash-out about 3/32nd. The Sky Battle requires a 6-inch prop of any material. Of the six inch, plastic variety, the black Testor is the best I could find in my bounty of treasures at hand, offering wide blades and decent pitch. Use about 2 degrees right thrust and 3 degrees down. If you're going for the gusto, run 10 grams of 1/8th rubber with 4 strands, braided aplenty. Frankly, wound to extremes the torque is way excessive for the design at burst, so hold it for three or so seconds before launching. Otherwise, it's crazy monkeys. Use a DT because these two Guillow birds will fly away.

THUMBS AT THE BENCH

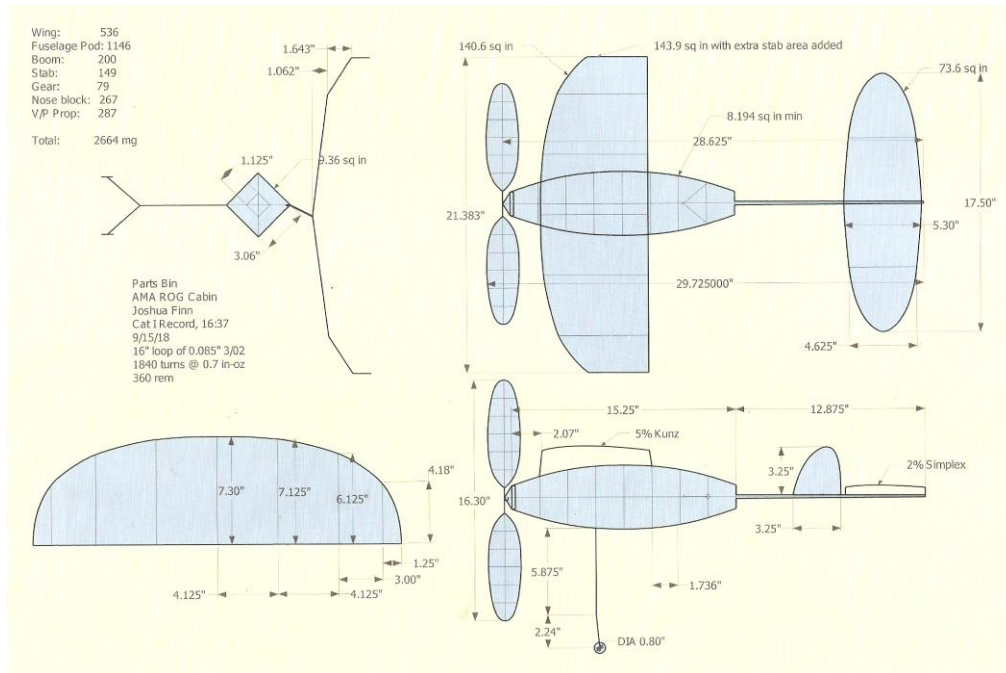
Dohrman Crawford sent photos of two models in progress, since completed. The first is an IHLG kit of Josh Finn's, and the other, a Lancer from the good people at Guillow. Both are known to be good fliers and have already seen use "behind closed doors" and "under the cathedral of the big blue sky".

They say never trust a man with a neat desk. By that measure we can all stand fore square behind Dohrman. Well done, sir!



THUMBS IN PRINT

Josh Finn and his record-setting indoor cabin model are featured in a big article in the past September issue of the NFFS digest. Indoor cabin was a once popular event that is now rather obscure, but still exists on the record books. Partly to resurrect the event and to have some fun with his box of discarded model bits, well, here we are. The text is penned by Josh and the photos and plan are first rate. St. Lukes gets a little more praise, as we say “the place where indoor records go to die”, and rightly so. Well done, sir.



ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH, YANKING AND BANKING

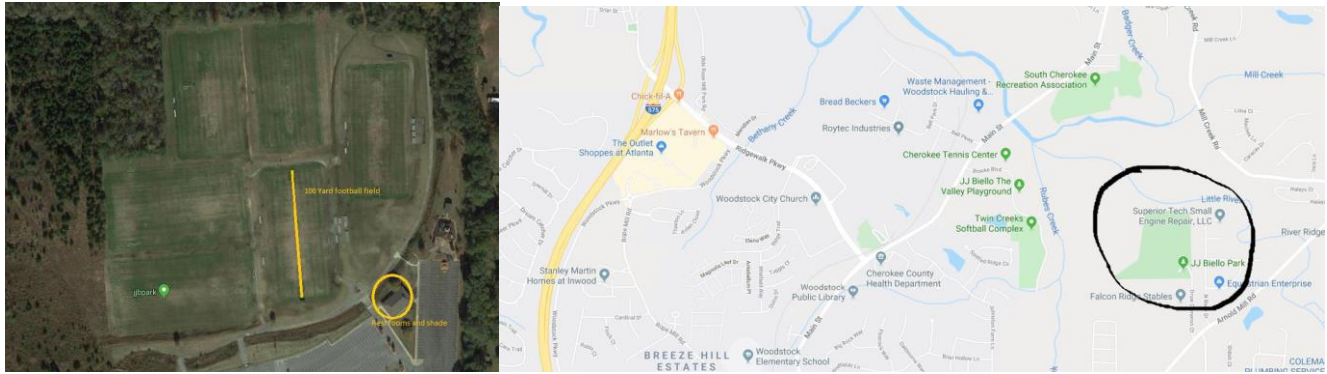
Other reasonable allowances have been made in the international postal arena. Namely, the good Brits behind the Classic A-1 glider postal extended the deadline to this year’s end. The reason given was our comrades in the southern hemisphere, namely those Down Under, didn’t have enough time to build and fly models due to epic floods there. No worries, let’s hope all turns out well. A full rundown on these rules and contact info is given in the last newsletter.

FLYING IN THE HOOD: KARL IN HORSE COUNTRY

This just in from Karl Hube on his test field near his home at J. J. Biello Park in Cherokee County east of I-575 near Woodstock in the northern edge of metro Atlanta. “This is a great spot for test flying and doing some serious trimming. We now fly many small models that can be flown at full power on calm days in this park. As the photos show, the field is a collection of soccer and football fields with a maintained grass surface, and there are restrooms and a shade pavilion on the edge of the field.

“Measuring the field on the satellite view shows a top-to-bottom distance of about 900 feet with a width of nearly 1000 feet in the lower half of the field. The RC DLG flyers use the lower quadrant of the field with good success. By choosing days with good weather and going out early on week days, it’s not unusual to have the place to yourself. There may be a few walkers and joggers, but they’ve never been an issue. Summer mornings from 8:00 am until about 11:00 am are very comfortable before the temperature gets too high. You may arrive to see a sea of temporary PVC soccer goals on the grass, but that has never been an issue either.

“This is a property to be treated with care with no disturbance to the neighboring homes as there aren’t too many patches of grass this size in our area. All of our silent flight models are appropriate here.”



MAKING A LIST

It gives your editor great pleasure to present the high point totals thus far amassed by the membership in our three, sanctioned 2021 club events. Yes, it’s been a while. One indoor and two outdoor contests are in the books. Note that we expect and hope that St. Lukes will be opening soon, and we’ll have more events at Christ Church in Macon. Ergo, we’ll see the indoor contingent increase their contribution. The game’s afoot.

Frank Perkins	12	Jim Altenbern	5	Karl Hube	3
David Mills	12	Jim Conery	5	David Barfield	3
James Martin	8	Gary Baughman	4	Nick Ray	1
Dohrman Crawford	7	Doug Demasie	3	Bill Gowen	1

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something after the June outdoor contest. We’ll have full coverage of June’s FAC Chattahoochee Challenge and July’s Country Fried contests at the sod farm. Hopefully, we’ll have word on the resumption of indoor flying at St. Lukes and Christ Church in Macon, so stay tuned. Look for a full pimping of July’s Indoor Nats at Pontiac, MI and Outdoor Nats in Muncie, IN.

As always I beseech the multitudes for op-eds, articles, photos, plans, photos, rants and raves. Don’t make me work too hard. Ciao, y’all!

2021 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ AMA# _____

Address _____ State and Zip Code _____

Other Family Members and AMA # _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

\$20.00/year for adults and other adult family members in same household. No charge all aged 18 yrs. or younger. Send check, payable to TTOMA, to Karl Hube/104 Smith Forest Lane/ Alpharetta, GA 30004/770-886-0604.

MARCH INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Christ Church, Macon, GA

After a year's time the Thermal Thumbers once again took to the gym for some much deserved indoor flying. The new site at Christ Church in Macon offers two flying sites in one. The first is a Cat. I indoor soccer field with the FAI's 15 meter circle being measured at 24 feet above the floor. The second is a basketball arena that doubles as a sanctuary. This larger site has more insulation and is approximately 33 feet at the FAI phantom 15 meter circle with an actual peek height of 43 feet. Both rooms offer stable flying conditions and similar ceiling obstacles. (The larger room is pictured below, and the smaller can be seen in the last issue.)

Six competitors and two spectators attended the event. A special thanks goes to Doug Demasie for arranging continuing access and bringing the cookies. The scores follow. CD Nick Ray, reporting.

No Cal Scale

Doug Demasie unknown model 1:29

Hangar Rat

Doug Demasie 1:17

Phantom Flash

Doug Demasie 0:47

P-18

Doug Demasie 1:14

Peanut Scale

Dohrman Crawford BD-4 0:36

Ministick

Nick Ray 7:47

Limited Pennyplane

Bill Gowen 8:00

Unlimited CLG

Bill Gowen $43.0 + 39.0 = 82.0$



APRIL FOOLS OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”
--Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities

It was the best of times because it was a bright, sunny spring day with a clear, blue sky. It was the worst of times because there was a northwest wind gusting at 10-15 mph toward the Chattahoochee River! Because of the conditions the maximum flight times for all classes was set for 90 seconds.

Our April contest is usually windy, but we can always rely on catapult glider events to get us in the air. This year catapult glider was flown using the proposed AMA rule change which specifies all six flights count in the total score, and all maximum flights will be at 90 seconds.

Catapult Glider

Frank Perkins	44	38	22	90	72	41	307
Dohrman Crawford	46	22	62	56	40	50	276
Jim Altenbern	21	16	32	90	34	23	216
David Mills	13	1	35	15	28	23	115
Jim Conery	19	10	31	11	19	22	112
Karl Hube	90-oos						90
James Martin	19	19	12	17	8	12	87

One again, Frank Perkins led the way with the new rules, high winds and significant turbulence. Note that only three maximum flights were scored out of 37 official flights logged. One of those maxes took the model 2,000 feet across the field to the river in about 100 seconds for an indicated drift rate of just over 13 mph! Generally, it appears that the proposed rules change would be effective at promoting consistent flying and minimizing the lucky single flight changing the outcome.

SCat Jet

David Mills	YAK 15	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>	7	3	2	<u>12</u>	39
Jim Conery	de Hav. Venom	<u>10</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>9</u>	7			38
Karl Hube	Hawker Hunter	8	7	<u>13</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>		38

Look at these scores! Times were low in the gale, but look how tight the competition was. This was a 1950s era battle with a Yak 15 against two British stalwarts, a de Havilland Venom and Hawker Hunter. A salute to David Mills for doing a field repair on the YAK and getting in the air for a win.

Lancer/Javelin Challenge

James Martin	Lancer	58	48
David Mills	Javelin	7	

The Guillow Sky Battle was a national postal competition, and it was unfortunate that it was a one-day event for the 25th only. James Martin somehow found a brief pause in the wind to get off two flights that looked good. The 58 second flight has been filed with the postal officials. Earl Brightbill was on standby all day looking for a break in the wind to get a chance to test his new Dime Scale, but that break never came. Wisely, the model went back in the box. Our appreciation goes to David Fletcher from Dublin, GA who visited with us on the field.

This was a determined start toward getting a full year of flying and thanks to all who came out to get their first wind and sun burn of 2021! Respectfully submitted by CD Karl Hube.



MAY DAZE OUTDOOR REPORT

The club's May Daze contest featured very nice weather and fair winds for most of the day. Several of the usual suspects went absent due to factors ranging from sandy beaches to dead batteries. We had visitors, too. Gary Baughman invited Ted and Judith Landers, Chad and Sally Hake, Mike Senkbeil and Suellen Thomas. Welcome to all!

Without further ado, here are the results. Join us in June for the Chattahoochie Challenge! CD Dohrman Crawford reporting.

Catapult Glider

Frank Perkins DIYCLG 203
 Dohrman Crawford Fried Squash 184
 David Mills Straight Up 173
 David Barfield Road Apple 111

E20

Frank Perkins Kawliga 102

Guillow Sky Battle Apres

David Mills Javelin 193
 James Martin Lancer 90

Blue Ridge Special

Dohrman Crawford 193

Old Time Rubber

James Martin Flying Cloud Jr 128
 David Barfield Pepper 112

Simplified Scale

Gary Baughman Rearwin Speedster 189
 Dohrman Crawford Draine Turbulent 137
 James Martin Heinkel Julia 51
 David Barfield Howard DGA 36

Chattahoochee Challenge June 26-27, 2021

Sponsored by the Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta

And FAC Squadron 54 Phantom



Saturday 8:00-5:00

FAC Rubber Scale*

Jimmy Allen

Simplified Scale

Jet Catapult Scale**

P-30

Embryo**

No Cal

Blue Ridge Special NBM

WW1 Mass Launch 11:00#

Golden Age Mass Launch 1:00

Entrance Fee

\$10/day flown

Sunday 8:00-3:00

FAC Rubber Scale*

GHQ Peanut Scale**

2Bit+1

Dime Scale**

CLG

Embryo NBM

Phantom Flash

Blue ridge Special

WW2 Mass Launch 11:00

Combined Racer ML 1:00

***Single Engine Planes only**

****Judging done the day of the event**

#Combat/Observation monoplanes permitted, no high wing or parasol models.

RULES: 1. All events will be flown to either AMA or FAC rules depending on which organization supports the event. Sod Farm is a Cat 3 field. The CD will determine if modified rules for maxes will be needed due to the weather. Any modifications will be communicated at the beginning of each day.

2. FAC Rubber and GHQ Peanut will be the average of three flights.

3. A plane that qualifies for both Jimmy Allen and 2 Bit+1 may be flown in either event, but not both.

4. Judged planes and documentation should be brought to the HQ table between 9:00 and 12:00.

5. All fly offs will be a Mass Launch.

AWARDS: Ceremony between 3:30 and 4:00 Sunday. Certificates given for first 3 places. Points awarded to contestants for placing they had in events entered.

Prizes awarded based on total points obtained.

CONTEST DIRECTORS: Jim Altenbern [jaltenbern0705@charter.net]

Gary Morton. [gmorton@centurytel.net]

NG Turf, 1487 Black Dirt Rd, Whitesburg, GA30185

CHATTAHOOCHEE CHALLENGE

PRESENTED

BY

THERMAL
THUMBERS
OF
METRO
ATLANTA

JUNE 26, 27

2021



FOR CONTEST DETAILS, GO 2
WWW.THERMALTHUMBERS.COM

DYC