



# The THUMB PRINT

**Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta**

[www.thermalthumbers.com](http://www.thermalthumbers.com)



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**NFFS**

November-December 2007

## HEADS UP

This missive closes out the 2007 season. The fact we're in the early vestiges of 2008 I can conveniently blame on a very heavy workload out of town and an outrageous case of food poisoning over Christmas itself. I'll let the simple fact I lost eight pounds in as many hours attest to the severity of my holiday dilemma. Season's greetings, indeed.

Please find the annual banquet form attached. At this pecking we don't have a speaker, but I don't think that'll damper any ardors. We can provide our own verbiage. The form doesn't carry a map, but that shouldn't cause a problem. It's the same place as in the last few years. Get your baddself to Powers Ferry Road and I-285; you can't miss it. Be sure to bring all your latest projects because we'll have our usual space to show-and-tell.

## RENEWAL TIME

Get out your check books and mail the money to Diamond Don Brown. I won't go into the nagging hysterics at this juncture. I can do that later, as required. Don says the renewals are lagging, as we've come to expect. Come on, guys. You know who you are. The membership form follows. Do it!

## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

We've a full schedule of events this winter and spring at North Cobb High School gym at the intersection of Old Hwy. 41 and Blue Springs Road, west of downtown Kennesaw. Mark your calendars for Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 15, and April 19.

Be advised we had a slew of cancellations there last fall due to the coach pulling the gym for team practice with short notice. Fortunately, we had enough advance warning and Webmaster Bill was able to send an e-mail to notify everyone in the club of same. So, keep your eyes glued on your inbox for this notice. It may happen again. How often is anybody's guess? Hopefully, we've seen the end of it.

This just in at this very pecking. Dohrman has secured a rash of dates at the Grand Hall of St. Lukes Presbyterian in Dunwoody, our regular meeting place. It's a good room and some even prefer it to North Cobb. St. Lukes is on Mount Vernon Road one mile east of Chamblee Dunwoody Road. The dates are: Feb. 16 (9 to 4), March 8 (1 to 8), and April 5 (9 to 4).

We'll have all this figured out in time to make an announcement at the banquet. Regardless, plan to show up at North Cobb on Jan. 19 unless you get flagged by Webmaster Bill. Suddenly, we've an embarrassment of riches. It could be worse. Count your blessings.

### **UNDER THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BIG BLUE SKY**

I talked with Dohrman and he's in the middle of finalizing the outdoor season schedule as I peck. Basically, we're doing the same thing as last year. Look for a contest every month, April through October, all of them one-day affairs, except for June and September, which will be two-day affairs.

Here are two reminders. The Model of the Year will be the Keil Kraft Senator, a fine flying British cabin job from their Vintage era. We'll also make a go of the international postal of the same persuasion. That thing is going down. Builders beware: some of the plans out there are bogus. The right stuff plan says "30 inch span", but is actually 32 inches, flat. I know, that sounds dumb.

As if we weren't having enough fun already, don't forget about the Event of the Year, the FAC's 2-Bit Rubber. Some of you already have eligible models. Any rubber-powered cabin job, WW II or younger, 25 inch wingspan or less is OK. The JA Skokie, FA Moth, King Harry, or any of that ilk will do just fine. If you've any questions about a model's eligibility, get with me; we'll look into it.

BTW: I'm looking for an out-of-the-box ringer. You've been warned.

### **ALL TOO FAMILIAR**

I recently took an interesting trip to a local model railroading trade show. As in many items of hobby interest, the Atlanta area has a large amount of these enthusiasts and they, like others, gather together a few times a year and spend money on cool stuff. My father is a retired railroad engineer and I've a passing interest in the hobby, although I don't own item one of the genre's bounty. What with my free flight involvement and a serious military diecast jones, well, I dare not tread. Still, models are models; modelers are modelers; and cool stuff is still great to look at.

(Actually, I was able to score some diecast 1/72 scale armor items that day from the nooks and crannies of a few isolated vendor tables. You've no idea how hard it is to find a good PKW Panther in 1/72. Happily, I found an Ausf G, late production, by Dragon, in the splendid tricolor, ambush camo of the Aryan fascist, very sweet at fifteen dollars, American. There was very sharp, 1969 Dodge Charger R/T in 1/24, resplendent in chrome yellow, that needed a home. OK, I've already admitted to having a problem.)

Some aspects of this world are worth telling. Every hobby has its fissures and model railroading is no exception. They break down mainly on "gauge". Namely, there are umpteen different scales and such persuasions are passionately held. Frankly, it's a little goofy. Aside from the familiar HO scale, there is an alphabet soup of good intentions. Some are unbelievably tiny and others, absurdly huge. Each scale has manufacturers offering up all manner of engines, cars, track, scenery, buildings, and little citizens, whatever. I saw earnest scholarship, heated arguments, acts of generosity, and fleecing of the innocent. Barely mobile geezers crossed paths with small children, while hip-hoppers types bargained with retired military men. Quite a scene, really.

There were undercurrents aplenty. The evil specter of radio control was present and many of the hobbyists of tenure thought it a crying shame and surely to be the ruin of the hobby. This in spite of the fact that the prices were not bad and the options for operating a variety of functions

on the trains was vast. The Luddites have a home in model railroading and the foundations are strong. It all seemed a bit silly.

There was much moaning and groaning about the graying of the hobby and the sirens of doom were in full operation. I'm no expert on the demographic of the hobby, but there seemed to be plenty of kids running around while their middle-aged fathers were buying armloads of stuff. My guess is there are a few more years left in the grand old hobby yet. What little boy doesn't like electric trains? And nobody but the most dedicated and lunatic experts "build" anything. Go to a store, buy it, go home and set it up, and off you go. And you can still buy a quality railroad hat cheap. (I already have plenty of hats. I did buy a nifty Seaboard shot class, a very classy delivery system for very old Scotch. "Though the Heart of the South." Indeed).

I've always had a soft spot for the hobby. My daddy is a retired railroad engineer for the old Seaboard Air Line, now conglomerated by umpteen iterations into the CSX. Several train sets have passed through these active hands during the late fifties and early sixties. (Lords knows, what those old Lionel's, might be worth now!) All are now gone, demolished with fireworks, purposeful and extricate derailments, gasoline fires, and material fatigue by hard use.

Frankly, if I had the space, I might have some cool set-up going, but this cozy 900 sq. ft. condo won't allow it. I've barely enough room for my life's necessities, free flight stuff, books, diecast collection, camping equipment, and the occasional woman of marginal repute and lapsed judgment.

## **UP IN SMOKE**

This just in: Lone Star Balsa of Lancaster, Texas burned to the ground shortly after Thanksgiving. It was soon after they closed for the holidays, and thankfully, no one was hurt. No word as to their plans, but the loss was total.

It must've been a mighty blaze. It was a large operation and we all know how well balsa burns. I've done a bit of business with them over the years and always came away pleased. They also were very generous to our club with gift certificates for contests. If they choose not to re-open, they'll be missed.

## **THE SOUTHEAST MODEL SHOW**

The wagons will be circling again in Perry next February 29 and March 1 at the Georgia State Fairgrounds. Impresario Norm Deputy says he'll be running out of tables soon, so it'll be another sellout, the largest model aviation swap meet in the known universe. Be there. As usual, Clarence and Yvonne have a table, so contact them if you've an armload of treasure that needs a new home. More later.

## **WHERE CRAZY STARTS**

Your editor spends way too much time on the internet. I go where my nose points and my interests should be familiar to you by now. I thought I'd seen it all until I spied the item(s) I'm about to describe.

Go to <merit-intl.com>. Go to their vendor listing and click on "FOA Rolling Thunder". On that page you'll find a variety of offerings from the good people at FOA and it's worth a quick perusal. The 1/6 scale models of the Panzer Mk. IV and Tiger I are testimony to the fact that there's always somebody out there weirder than you in your hobby interests. Now ponder this for a second: At 1/6 scale, the "model" should be over three feet long and almost two feet wide.

Basically, the next time you spent over fifty bucks for a model airplane kit, you've less reason to feel so bad. Brother, it can be a lot worse.

I wish the good people at Merit all the good luck and fortune in the world. Who knows, if in the not too distant future, I see a 1/6 scale Tiger I at a swap meet for a few hundred bucks, heck, I might buy one. I guess I could hang it upside from my ceiling or something. As such, it certainly would be a conversation piece. (What people would be actually saying would be another story.) It appears to be made of fiberglass and metal and with the right paint you could put it outside; it would be much more interesting than a birdbath or gazebo, for example. Still, if in the future you hear me considering such a purchase, I'd like one of you to take me aside and try to talk some sense to me. At the least, make sure I'm getting it cheap.

However, it would look pretty cool, wouldn't it? No, I'd better stop now . . .

### **THE WELL-DRESSED FREE FLIGHTER**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary NFFS T-shirts are for sale. I'll probably get a couple because they look good and don't cost much. White, 100% cotton, good graphics, what more do you need? You can get onto the NFFS website, click on "Shop" and get a look at them. Price is \$15.00, plus \$4.00 postage, men's sizes M through XXL. They also have some of the old, good-looking, pale gray NFFS shirts in stock and plenty of all kinds of quality caps and hats.

They're also are selling the new 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary peel-off decals, about 2 by 3 inches, for one dollar, American, each. They look good and can take some rain, just the thing for your bumper, stooge or toolbox.

### **NEXT ISSUE**

Look for another issue shortly after the banquet. We'll have the final dates for the outdoor season and the flyer for the Peach State Indoor Champs to be held at either North Cobb or St. Lukes. We'll have a handle on everything by then. Keep the faith. Maybe we'll just have too many indoor contests this winter and spring. An embarrassment of riches, indeed. Stay tuned.

Ciao, y'all! Send me something!

## **TTOMA Meeting Minutes**

### **November 18, 2007**

President Hodson called the meeting to order at 7:35PM at St Luke's Presbyterian Church Gymnasium. Eleven attendees were present.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Don Brown gave the Treasurer's report, which showed that the balance-on-hand at the beginning of the reporting period, October 18, was \$ [REDACTED]. From October 18 to November 18, income was \$310.00 from membership fees and entry fees for the October 21 indoor contest. The only expense for the period was \$20.00 for the January 19, 2008 indoor contest sanction. The resulting closing balance was \$ [REDACTED]. The report was accepted as reported.

#### **Old Business**

A correction was submitted for the minutes of the October 18, 2007 meeting. The TTOMA dues for Juniors should be stated as \$1.00. With that correction, the minutes were accepted.

Don Brown requested that the TTOMA Web site be changed to note the new membership dues of \$20.00.

Dohrman Crawford reported that the banquet date has been set for Saturday, January 26. Six hotel rooms have been reserved for out-of-town guests. Dohrman solicited any suggestions for a program speaker.

#### **New Business**

President Hodson posed the question of what the TTOMA indoor activity will be in the future. This subject was presented because the last few scheduled indoor contests have been cancelled by North Cobb High School. The two possibilities ahead are to take our chances with the sites we now use or to make a focused effort to locate a new, more reliable location.

The first possibility presented was the gym at St Luke's, but Dohrman Crawford indicated that the gym has been very heavily used since it was completed. This is not a likely venue. A suggestion was made to investigate the availability of military armories in the Metro area. David Mills will look into the northern part of the area for possible facilities while Frank Hodson will check the southern side of the Metro area.

Don Brown made a motion that a Christmas gift be sent to the North Georgia Turf Farm in appreciation for the use of their site for the TTOMA outdoor flying activity. The motion was unanimously supported.

At 8:15 PM, David Mills made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill Gowen seconded the motion.

### **After The Meeting**

After the meeting, several indoor models were flown and David Barfield flew his radio-controlled ornithopter. David's machine flapped, flew and flopped in grand style! The "flopped" part has to do with the landing style.

Submitted By Karl Hube, Secretary

## The Last Fling Til Spring TTOMA contest – Whit Russel

We had 17 fliers of which two were juniors. Samuel McCranie, Frank's grandson and Alex Kramb, my grandson.

We had five out of state competitors including old time TTOMA member Pam (now) Coleman from the Husker's state of Nebraska.

After a hot and hard day of fierce competition we gathered around the tent and the six winners of TTOMA's first annual (hopefully) cash awards contest were honored.

Event	Flyer	Model	Time (in seconds)	Entries
P-30	Al Pardue	Echo	337	12
Senator	Clarence Purdy	Senator	165	(Only official entry)
Cat-A-Piglet	Bob Thoren	Cat-A-Piglet	155	12
E-36	Graham Selick	Accorte (?)	315	2
Gas (All)	Ed Hardin	1/2A Maverick	332	2
Jr High Point in P-30)	Alex Kramb	Stringless Wonder Fying in P-30 ..(Alex actually came in 4th in P-30)		

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### 2008 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AMA # \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

State and ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Other Family Members \_\_\_\_\_

\$20.00/yr. for adults, plus \$1.00/additional family member(s). Juniors and seniors-no charge.  
Note \$25.00/yr. after Feb.15

Send your check payable to TTOMA to: Don Brown/477 Safari Cir./Stone Mountain, GA 30083

THE 2008 TTOMA BANQUET  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2008

THE CROWNE PLAZA POWERS FERRY, ATLANTA  
6345 POWERS FERRY, NW, ATLANTA, GA, 30339  
770-955-1700

RECEPTION---6:00-7:00PM IN THE WARWICK PREFUNCTION ROOM WITH CASH  
BAR

DINNER---7:00-11:00 PM IN THE WARWICK BALLROOM  
\*\*MENU\*\*

TOSSSED GARDEN SALAD WITH ROMA TOMATOES AND SLICED CUCUMBER  
WITH CHOICE OF TWO DRESSINGS

ENTREE

ROASTED PORK LOIN ROULADE- \$35.00/PERSON

OR

BREAST OF CHICKEN CHAMPIGNON-\$32.00/PERSON

INCLUDING

CHEF'S CHOICE OF RICE OR POTATO

CHEF'S CHOICE OF SEASONAL VEGETABLES

WARM ROLLS AND BUTTER

CHEF'S CHOICE OF DESSERT

FRESHLY BREWED REGULAR COFFEE, DECAFF COFFEE AND ICED TEA

\*\*\*\*\*TAX AND GRATUITY INCLUDED\*\*\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_CUT HERE\_\_\_\_\_

TTOMA BANQUET RESERVATIONS, SATURDAY, JANUARY 26,2008

NAME[S]_____	CIRCLE ENTRÉE CHOICE
_____	ROAST PORK    CHICKEN
ADDRESS_____	ROAST PORK    CHICKEN
_____	\$35/PERSON    \$32/PERSON
TELEPHONE_____	Total:_____    Total:_____
	TOTAL ENCLOSED_____

Return this form by Saturday, Jan 15, 2008, with check or money order made payable to Dohrman Crawford  
Mail to: TTOMA BANQUET RESERVATIONS, c/o Dohrman Crawford, 1400 Mile Post Drive, Dunwoody, GA, 30338

## WHO KILLED MODEL PLANES?

By Howie Stalls

WHO killed the model planes that once graced the skies? Everyone interviewed said

“CERTAINLY NOT I !”

“Not I !” exclaimed the TV set. “I merely entertain, it’s not my fault kids have no time to make a model plane !”

WHO killed the model planes that Grandpa used to get? Banana oil and tissue, the dime or nickel kit?

“Not I !” say manufacturers of the costly RC gear, pre-cut parts and instant glue which cost so very dear.

WHO killed the pride in building, the work all done by hand? Balsa sticks and printwood we learned to cut and sand?

“Not I !” says the plastic man with parts pre-formed and such. “Anyone can make a plane, if the effort isn’t much !”

WHO killed the model gliders we once bought for a cent? That looped the looped and made us laugh. I wonder where they went?

“Not much profit selling those!” the local hobby shop chimes. “Pennies will not pay the rent, not nickels, even dimes !”

WHO killed all the flying sites? There’s no place left to fly! Where’s the local vacant lot with grass so green and high?

“Don’t blame me !” the builders say, with KEEP OUT signs in hand, “People want houses, and houses use up land !”

WHO killed model plans once found in mags of yesterday? That you could use that very night; not have to send away?

“Not I!” say all the editors. “We need the space for ads. RC is what pays the bills, not kid-directed fads !”

WHO killed the rubber-powered planes we kids all used to fly before the city ran us out of parks and out of fields and sky?

“Not I !” the council man disclaims, his golf club in his hand. “Your planes are much too dangerous, and take up too much land !”

WHO killed model airplanes? Is their time now past? Can it be that times have changed and that the die is cast?

In a pre-cut plastic world where batteries are a must, will the skills of yesteryear become but balsa dust?

WHO’ll save model airplanes? Is there still time to win? Where do model planes leave off and where do kids begin?

Will other people save them? I’ll have to disagree. Find a junior, show him how. Don’t leave it up to me !!

This jewel was published in “SAM 35 Year Book #10”. It has been edited and some terms updated.

F. B. "Frank" Hodson  
Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta

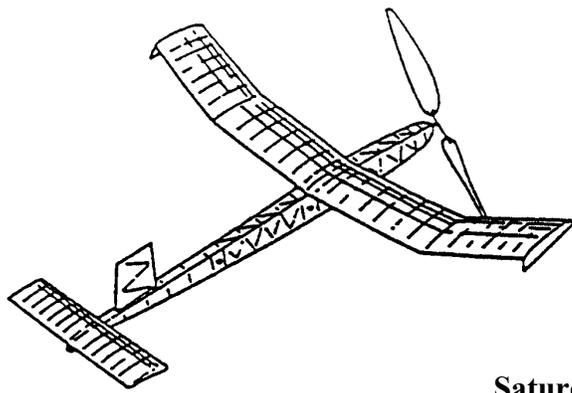
## More Senator Photos



**Clarence And His Senator, One Happy Guy 1**



**Richard Barlow's Senators—  
Most Wakefields Don't Travel This Good**



MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB  
OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA  
**MACH WINTERCOUPE EVENT**

Sanction Class A # 08-0029

**Pensacola, Florida Navy Helicopter Field Site 8A**

**Saturday, February 9 and Sunday February 10, 2008**

Directions to Site: Take I10 West from Pensacola. Take Exit 5 to Alt 90 and continue west approximately 2 miles to the field

Enter the 19th annual MACH Wintercoupe Event to be held in Pensacola, Florida at Navy Site 8A. **We have the facility for two days.** The glider events (HLG, CLG and Classic Towline Glider) will be flown on Saturday. Coupe d'Hiver will be flown in rounds on Sunday. Sunday's events will also include P-30 and Commercial Rubber. Contest start-stop times are 0800-1600 both days.

This is a National Cup event for HLG,CLG,TLG and P-30  
\$10 Entry Fee. Fly any or all events. Plaques to third place

**Saturday Events:**

**ENTRY FORM**

- Hand Launch Glider
- Catapult Launch Glider
- Classic Towline Glider — Any glider 750 sq inches max total area projected; No weight requirements; BOM applies; No circle tow; fixed surfaces except for glide rudder; zoom launch OK; No tow time limit

**Sunday Events:**

- Coupe d'Hiver — 70 gm airframe; 10gm rubber; 5 rounds, 2 minute max  
Rounds: 0900-1000, 1000-1100, 1100-1200, (Lunch), 1300-1400, 1400-1500+ Flyoffs until 1600
- P-30 Rubber — 40 gm airframe; 10 gm rubber; 3 flights, 2 minute max
- Commercial Rubber — 36" max wing, freewheel prop; 3 flights, 2 minute max

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ AMA #. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

CD — Bob Thoren, 10002 Bluff Drive, Huntsville, AL 35803, Tel 256-880-8099 email [dthoren3@comcast.net](mailto:dthoren3@comcast.net)  
or [bob.thoren@tdytsi.com](mailto:bob.thoren@tdytsi.com)