



The THUMB PRINT

Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

www.thermalthumbers.com



AMA
Charter # 1834

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NFFS

March-April 2008

HEADS UP

Welcome to the issue in hand. I'm pleased to say it's pithy with news and I hope you enjoy it. We present the close of the indoor season with the report on the Peach State Indoor Champs and the beginning of the outdoor season the Perryman April Fools Annual report. Other news items follow.

Your editor offers a variety of announcements dealing with the club's event of the year, FAC Two-Bit Rubber, and a new Perryman-inspired kit on the market, as well as reports of this or that as might have befallen my lifecycle since the last issue of interest to the membership. We've an embarrassment of riches and are blessed with visuals in the many photos sent by Dohrman and Peter—many thanks! Keep them coming, everybody.

I end this issue with a photo of the latest in outdoor wind turbine generators. George would be pleased. You'll understand when you see it.

UNDER THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BIG BLUE SKY

The outdoor contest season has begun and will continue through the fall. Mark your calendars thusly: May 25, June 21 (FAC only) and 22, July 13, August 17, September 20 (FAC only) and 21, and October 19. Fearless Leader Emeritus Redux Frank has posted on our web site an excellent summary of the club's special programs this year.

Be advised that we're having our monthly club meetings at the flying field at 1:00 pm. We blow through them pretty quickly, conducting our business in a brisk fashion. If only the Federal government worked as well. Don't get me started.

2008 PEACH STATE INDOOR CHAMPS

We had a great time and did a lot of flying. Attendance was a little down with only 24 contestants, but the group still managed to post around 140 official flights. There were innumerable more trim and fun flights, so the air was fun of models all day. Tim Lavender's group of kids from Tennessee made their annual pilgrimage and used the room to good advantage. In addition, a home-school group from Augusta showed up and was very impressed with the variety of models flown; previously, they were only really familiar with models of the Sci Oly type. I tried to talk them into going to Johnson City; maybe they'll go.

We had several visitors throughout the day, including the reporter for the local Dunwoody rag. He hung around quite a while and asked a lot of questions and took a lot of pictures.

Several days later a very good article was published in the rag and the people at the church really liked it. I guess even churches appreciate good publicity and earthly graces help, too.

The room at St. Lukes fills up fast with models and the action was fast and furious all day. This was not a good day for record trials, but we had fun anyway. Robert Stevens certainly did and he won high point and his Floyd Bean Special was the CD's Award winner. The Bean was flawless all day, winning No-Cal and the racer mass launch by wide margins. It just flew and flew and flew. Young Cole Daniel wasn't that far behind and won junior high point by a ton and trailed Robert only by a tad overall. He scored most of his points in the mass launches, no mean feat given the congestion in the air.

All in all, I'd say we had a great contest and it wasn't hard on the club's pocket book. We'll do it again next year.

A-6

Wayne Anderson	3:01
Tim Lavender	2:31
Robert Stevens	2:34

Bostonian

Robert Stevens	3:03
John Barker	2:40
Jessie Brown	0:46

Limited Pennyplane

John Barker	5:38
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F1D

Nick Ray	3:12
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Catapult Glider

Kayla Brown	64.7
Liz Brown	40.3

IHLG

Liz Brown	35.8
Jessie Brown	8.4

Hangar Rat

Brook Dixon, Sr.	5:46
Dohrman Crawford	5:05
Kayla Brown	1:58
Liz Brown	1:07
Jessie Brown	1:05

No-Cal

Robert Stevens	Floyd Bean	6:34
Logan Couch	Cessna 210	3:12
Cole Daniel	Fokker F. 11	2:42
Joe Traugher	Hosler Fury	2:38
Liz Brown	Sea Fury	2:27
Seth Haynes	Cessna 210	1:09
Bob Boyd	Cessna 210	1:06
D. Crawford	Cessna Birdg	0:59
Kayla Brown	Hughes H-1	0:40

Easy B

John Barker	6:50
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Chattahoochee Challenge

Kayla Brown	0:47
Jessie Brown	0:06

WW I Mass Launch

Tim Lavender	A.W. F.K.8
Robert Stevens	F. Eindecker
Brandon Swanner	DH-4

Embryo

Brook Dixon, Sr.	5:41
Jacob Hardy	1:50
Burton Beeson	1:23
Brandon Swanner	1:05

WW II Mass Launch

Cole Daniel	P-39
Graeme Gastineau	P-51D
Logan Couch	P-51D
Liz Brown	Yak-3
Wayne Anderson	Zero

Mini Stick

Nick Ray	5:29
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Kayla Brown 3:30
Liz Brown 1:42

Dime Scale

John Barker Curtiss Robin 3:46
R. Stevens Rearwin Speedster 2:17
Tim Lavender Loening M-8 0:55

Racer Mass Launch

Robert Stevens Floyd Bean Special
Joe Traugher Hosler Fury
Brook Dixon, Sr. Cassutt Racer
Cole Daniel Rare Bear
Liz Brown Sweet Pea
Kayla Brown Hughes H-1
Seth Haynes Caudron C-460
Tim Lavender Hosler Fury

Rubber Scale

Robert Stevens Fokker D VII
Brandon Swanner Spitfire Mk. IX
Joe Traugher Piper Cub Liaison
Graeme Gastineau Piper J-3 Cub

Tim Lavender Kingfisher
Robert Stevens Barracuda
Brandon Swanner Spitfire
Seth Haynes Kingfisher

Civilian Mass Launch

Cole Daniel Fokker F.11
Bob Boyd Cessna 210
Logan Couch Fokker F.11
Graeme Gastineau Piper Cub
Wayne Anderson Aeronca Defender
Robert Stevens Cessna 210
Seth Haynes Cessna 210

Hangar Rat Mass Launch

Brook Dixon, Sr.
Dohrman Crawford
Robert Stevens
Bob Boyd
Kayla Brown
Liz Brown
Jessie Brown

Peanut Scale

Tim Lavender F.K.8
Wayne Anderson Vultee L-13
Brandon Swanner DH-6
Robert Stevens General Aristocrat

LINWOOD'S ESTATE SALE

Linwood Cochran's family has scheduled an estate sale for our OFB's stuff. I've not been over there in a very long time, but as I recall it's a lot. The sale is being held on May 24 at 12:00 to 6:00 at his old residence at 6769 Angels Lane in Tucker, GA. His house is easy to get to, not being very far off I-85N just outside the perimeter. If you've any questions, ask Frank. I'm told this estate sale is limited to club members.

AS GOOD AS ADVERTISED

Some issues back, I forwarded a building tip about the wonders of parchment paper from a member. I was in Wal-Mart the other day, looking for some wax paper for a building project, when I saw they were selling parchment paper, too. I thought, "why not give it a try?" The price for a roll by good people of Reynolds was only a little more than a monster roll of Saran Wrap or wax paper.

It performed as advertised. Nothing ticks to the stuff; it must be coated in Teflon or something. Plus, being thicker than either Saran Wrap or wax paper, it resists the slash of the old #11 to a small degree. I haven't tried epoxy yet, but I seldom use the stuff. I'm sold.

I've read it's used in some process called "baking" which is supposed to take place in kitchens. They tell me it's pretty common. Search me.

THE NUTWORTHY SOCIETY

It's good to belong. Our lofty hobby and sport, for all of its virtues, does tend toward the esoteric, odd, and unlikely. I'm not complaining; sometimes things go your way and you find yourself being singled out for something. Such was the case when I saw the blurb in a recent "SAM Speaks" about the aforementioned Nutworthy Society.

Grant Carson has begun an august association for all those fortunate few who've ever participated in a twin pusher mass launch. I remembered such a mass launch the club held several years ago and I dove into my old photo stash and came up with four portraying the event. For the record, this four-man mass launch in May, 2000 was comprised of the late Wayne Brock, the late George Perryman, Fearless Leader Emeritus Redux Frank, and your trusty editor.

I immediately set to applying, scanning the photos and writing a note to support my case for approval. I asked Grant if you had to be alive to be deemed "nutworthy". I need not have worried because a few days later I received the certificates honoring same. It turns out that Grant holds the view, as do I, that "nutworthiness" lives beyond our mortal lives and is eternal and the universe is all the better for it.

In the note accompanying the certificates, Grant tells the story of growing up in Alabama and being mentored by George. Life is, in fact, a closed circle and everything touches everything else.

POISED FOR FAME AND GLORY

I just received the latest issue of the FAC News and went over the member rankings. Several Thumbs are poised for advancement. Gary, Dohrman, and your editor are only one kanone shy of promotion from lieutenant to captain. Barf is only one kanone shy of promotion from captain to major. About ten Thumbs are FAC members, but they remainder is buried in the middle of their slot rankings. But who knows, with the variety of FAC events we're running this year, most prominently FAC Two-Bit Rubber, a number of us could get a bump and some fruit salad. A remainder: sixteen (16) kanone gets you the coveted Blue Max, a not-inconsequential item of neckwear.

As a club, we're really not that far from having enough of a regular quorum at our contests for our FAC events to offer kanones. An additional flier or two a month in SCAT Jet, Dime Scale, Peanut Scale, No-Cal, Rubber Scale, and Embryo and we'd have the required three fliers. Better yet, we might have fields of four, five, or six. And there's one thing that regular competition does and that is you get better.

BACK IN BUSINESS

One of my all-time favorite web sites was <theplanpage.com>. A downloadable darling and labor of love, the site carried a multitude of choice plans, generally of the Old Timer stripe. These were usually updated on a monthly basis, more or less, and I checked in regularly. However, several years ago and the updates stopped and the site fell off my dance card of inopportune web time-wastage.

Recently I got back onto the site in order to check out the options for club members in our Event of the Year tourney, FAC Two-Bit Rubber, beyond the usual suspects like the Skokie, FA

Moth, Miss Canada, Jr., and King Harry. Imagine my surprise when I found that, in my absence, the site had been up and running for much of the interim. Ouch!

Diving back in, I found several candidates worth a perusal. These include the very odd Scotch Monoped (02/02), Plecan Flyabout (02/03), Lightweight Zephyr (11/01), and Lidgard Foo (04/01). There are others that fall into the dimensional box, but in my view, aren't worth the trouble. But, what do I know, so feel free to inflict your own prejudices.

Ironically, I had already built the Lidgard Foo, not knowing of the fine plan and detailed text a mere, few clicks away. I could've saved myself a lot of laborious and rude scaling that I did from my fuzzy three-view, but I was close enough for our purposes. I've always had a weak spot for Ed's designs and I'm looking forward to flying it this year.

Although it's a bit chunky, being all-sheet, the Foo looks like a flier. I first flew it at the April contest which proved to be very windy. The all-sheet construction proved to be useful because I crashed it mightily several times, where it merely cart-wheeled merrily along the ground, little worse for wear.

STILL IN BUSINESS

Several good FAC Two-Bit Rubber candidates can be found in the offerings of Easy Built Models, <easybuiltmodels.com>, courtesy of Easy Dave and his family. They carry good laser-cut kits of the Jimmie Allen Skokie, Jimmie Allen Blue Flash, and Erie Daily Times, as well as die-cut kits of the Miss Canada, Jr., Dart, Junior Commercial, Baby Flea, and Baby Commercial. I think my list is OK, but check with them first. All are high-wing, cabin jobs, except for the Erie Daily Times, which is a low-winger but a real cutie.

WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT

Somebody needs to build Earl Stahl's "Ol' Reliable" for the club's EOY. I've never seen one in the flesh. She looks like a flier on paper. I've an old Model Builder plan if anybody out there wants to build one. You have to give it back once you're done; if you don't, I'll come looking for it. Try not to cut it up too much. It drops into about the same dimensional box as the Flying Ace Moth, looks a lot better, and will build lighter. You know where to find me.

WHODDATHUNKIT

Many of my brother free flighters hold "Model Aviation" in very low regard, largely for the scarcity of free flight content. This much is true; there isn't much. However, this writer usually finds a worthy nugget here and there, maybe nothing of personal use but interesting, nonetheless.

Such was the case in the recent May issue. Thumb through to page 92. You'll find the photos of electric-powdered, indoor RC models built by Martin Newell down to ½ grams. Yes, you read that right. These marvels of miniaturization feature throttle and rudder control and span only 2.65 inches. The accompanying text claims it's a world record of some sort. I don't doubt it. The things they're doing with electricity these days.

VIEWER BEWARE

If you value your free time, don't read any further. A few years back, I ran across a web site out of Lithuania (?) that was bursting with three-views and photos of all kinds of aircraft with an abundance of Soviet and European types. It was called the Virtual Aircraft Museum. The only problem was you couldn't get to it directly; you had to go somewhere else and go through a link. It was always a pain because sometimes there were issues between here and there.

This just in from Tim Lavender: <aviastar.org/index2.html>. You can get right to it now. Many thanks, Tim. I'm guessing there's about 2500 aircraft listed, most with three-views and photos. Ouch! Your lawn just got a lot worse. Maybe your marriage.

DIFFERENT STROKES

Every year the Atlanta area IPMS club (that's plastic models) has a big contest and trade show. I usually go, schedule permitting, and have a great time, spend a little money, and meet a few people. This year they're having it at the Cobb County Civic Center on Roswell Rd. in Marietta on Friday afternoon, June 20 and all day Saturday, June 21. The contest is celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the introduction of the McDonnell F-4 Phantom, so expect to see plenty of them. The accompanying trade show will have 120 or so tables of stuff. For more info: <ipmsmetroatlanta.org>

Bring some \$\$\$\$. I usually find some nuggets, usually in the form of books and hand tools. You might see some free flight stuff, which the plastic guys consider junk. Imagine the same crowd as the Perry model show, but much nerdier and more in need of a regular exercise program and an increased daily ration of bran. (Sorry, y'all. I'm just calling it like I see it.)

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

The June issue of "Flying Models" features an ad from BMJR models for their new P-30 kit, the "Speckled P-30". It looks like George Perryman did it and it's covered in speckles in the photo. Why not? George's name, though misspelled (?!), is given, so it can be readily identified as such. Their web site gives further details: <bmjrmodels.com>. In any case, there couldn't be any doubt thereof.

George designed and built a few P-30's in his day, among them the "Small Speckled Bird", "Dirty Thirty", "Baby Speckled Bird (aka "30-30")", "Red Wing Blackbird", and "Sparrow Hawk Speckled Bird." The blurb on the BMJR web site identifies their model as based on the winner of the 1978 Nats, but having a wing span lengthened to 28 inches.

This would make it an enlargement of the Baby Speckled Bird (BSB), which sported a wingspan of only 24 inches, projected. I don't have a clue as to why he used a short-winged model that particular year, but the model had been around for a decade. (He had a lot of reasons for doing a lot of things and I guess it worked.) The design was published after the Nats and the accompanying text outlines some of its history. It was originally designed for his participation in a NFFS design postal competition in 1969 and he estimates that over the ten year interval that he'd put in over 1000 official flights with it without serious mishap. (The enigma grows wings: why did he nickname it the "30-30" when only one dimension, the fuselage length, was thirty inches?)

The BSB shouldn't be confused with another Nats-winner, the Sparrow Hawk SB, which has a full 30 inch wingspan, 140 sq. in. area, and was published in 1988. Frankly, he flew P-30 aggressively since the class's inception and probably won the Nats multiple times. He was always fiddling with this or that part, subbing out bits as damage required or inspiration suited him. The dedicated archivist of his P-30 oeuvre would find it very complex and far-flung, in my estimation.

I wouldn't worry about how well the Speckled P-30 flies because copying George usually works. The model looks mighty OK to me, and being a laser-cut kit, it'll build quickly. Be sure to add the speckles; it'll make a difference. The kit sells for \$32.75 and features laser-cut parts, but probably no covering material, as is BMJR's wont.

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something shortly. Fearless Leader Emeritus Redux Frank and Barf have been working on a very worthwhile project which we'll present in full in the next issue. The effort is intended to bring a greater awareness among the membership of the club's various high point trophies and other awards. I, and perhaps others, tend to forget their vast expanse on a banquet table. It's rather impressive, really. Look for it first on the web site. Maybe it'll encourage some participation, too.

We should have additional contest reports and meeting minutes, plus whatever else comes down the cable. Send me more stuff!

Ciao, y'all.

PERRYMAN'S APRIL FOOLS ANNUAL FOR 2008 Frank Hodson CD

The 2008 Outdoor Season for TTOMA has started out with a BIG THUD! I believe the desire was there but it got very windy early in the day and grew worse as the day wore on. We had sixteen (16) contestants including two Juniors. Four contestants were from out of state, two from Tennessee (Ed Hardin and Gary Morton), Al Pardue from Alabama, and Jim Altenbern from South Carolina. We had sixteen (16) contestants, eleven entries in four events for a grand total of forty-eight "Official Flights". A total of twenty-eight high points were earned, with Dohrman Crawford winning the 1st place high point cash prize of \$30 and James Martin picking up \$20 for second place.

"If we've said it once, we've said it a hundred times: It was a beautiful day except for the WIND!! And so it was again." That line was copied from my contest report for April, 2007. Flying consisted of some test flights by the Gas Guys, Graham and Gary B. Graham S. had an exceptional day: he didn't crash, lose, or put anything across the Hooch! However, the day was not without casualties. Gary B. did a 90 foot loop with 85 feet of altitude with his T-Bird. Dohrman Crawford launched his Vee 15 CLG into a thermal taking it up, up, and OOS. Alex Kramb (Whit Russell's grandson), a Junior, lost his Champion P-30 on it's first test flight under Grandpa's supervision, being allowed to test flight it with a few turns and no DT. Tsk, tsk! They made the trek across the River Hooch and searched for several hours to no avail. Also, on the upside Ed Hardin managed to fly his "Tail Firster" P-30 during the few lulls we had and it flew beautifully.

"And Now For The Rest Of The Story": I received a call from the horse farm caretaker. He had found Alex's P-30 while out mowing. Grandpa is off the hook and Alex has learned a valuable lesson. All's well that ends well.

We had a half dozen or so spectators out to see what it is all about and Howard K. was out with "donut hole goodies" for everyone. Looking good, Howard! We hope to see you more often. We held our April club meeting and the minutes will be published in our next newsletter.

AMA 140 HL GLIDER (JSO)

1 st Sam McCranie	Vartanian	20 sec
t	23 sec	

AMA 142 CATAPULT GLIDER (JSO)

1 st Dohrman Crawford	Vee 15	261 sec
Firster		210 sec
2 nd James Martin	Cat-a-Piglet	239 sec
3 th Jim Altenbern	Bo Weevil 16	172 sec
4 th Karl Hube	Drifter 12	158 sec
5 th Al Pardue	Hitailer	140 sec
6 th Clarence Purdy	Cat-a-Piglet	133 sec
7 th Ed Hardin	??	84 sec
8 th Frank Hodson	Cat-a-Piglet	32 sec

AMA 162 ROCKET POWER (JSO)

1 st Dohrman Crawford	Sw-i-f-f-
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AMA 124 P-30

1 st Ed Hardin	Tail
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HIGH POINTS WON and YTD TOTALS: Dohrman Crawford = 7; James Martin = 6; Jim Altenbern = 5; Karl Hube = 4; Al Pardue = 3; Clarence Purdy = 2; Ed Hardin = 1.

TTOMA Meeting Minutes April 20, 2008

The April meeting of TTOMA was held in conjunction with the gathering to open the 2008 outdoor flying season at the North Georgia Sod Farm. The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by President Frank Hodson with twelve members and four guests present.

Treasurer's Report

Don Brown presented the current Treasurer's Report. All deposits came from member's dues which totaled \$241.00. Expenses were for use of a gym for indoor flying and a fee for the club Web site which came to \$67.00. As of April 4, 2008 the total on hand was \$2,615.25. Clarence Purdy made a motion to accept the report as presented and the motion was supported unanimously.

Meeting Minutes

President Hodson asked if the attendees would accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in the club newsletter. The members accepted the minutes unanimously.

Old Business

No old business was presented for consideration.

New Business

David Mills reported that the Peach State Indoor Championships had 24 contestants and about 140 official flights posted. Tim Lavender and his group from Tennessee brought 12 contestants to the competition. In addition, there was a contingent from Augusta as well.

Dohrmand Crawford reported that the Dunwoody neighborhood paper had a good presentation about the indoor flying at St Luke's gymnasium.

Looking toward the fall beginning of indoor season, the opinion was expressed by President Hodson that the club needs to again visit the subject of a flying site. Dohrman Crawford was asked to check on the availability of St Luke's gym during the fall and winter.

David Mills stated that the Junior US Free Flight Team needs support to attend the next World Championships. Around the country, clubs are making donations and raising funds through raffles. President Hodson asked David to gather more information on this subject before taking action.

President Hodson reported that a project was underway to list all the club trophies on the TTOMA Web site and to document the requirements for winning each trophy. It is expected that this effort will be completed soon.

David Mills made a motion to adjourn which was accepted unanimously. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15PM and the attendees returned to a sunny, windy day of flying.

Submitted: Karl Hube, Secretary

PSIC PHOTO'S



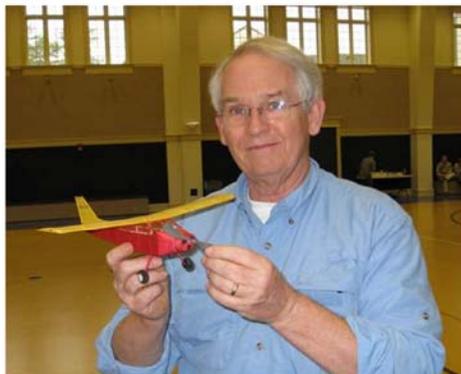
Civilian Sudden Death Mass Launch



Jessica Brown and her Bean Box,
aka Pink Pig



Kayla Brown and her
Hughes H-1 Racer No-Cal



Dohrman's DB4 peanut



Liz Brown and her
Swee' Pea No-Cal

APRIL OUTDOOR CONTEST



Fearless Leader Emeritus Redux Frank



**Graham's New Bastard Pearl
and Super Tiger 15**



Gary's Brand New And Big Astrostar



**Dohrman Launches His
Rapier-Powered Swift. Smell The Glove.**



Gary's Veteran Embryo



**Your Editor's New Lidgard Foo
Gets A New Motor**



The Latest in Home Wind Turbine
Electricity Generation.
George May Be In Heaven, Laughing.

The Mother of all Swap Meets

Our Fifth Annual Event
Sponsored by TTOMA and NFFS
at the NATS Event HQ
Aug. 4th, 2008 5PM UNTIL DARK
VENDORS WELCOME

Please join us and our friends

We will gather under the big tents behind the farmhouse for an evening of socializing and trading. One man's junk is another man's treasure and the free flight community has plenty of both. We expect space to fill quickly, so SIGN UP EARLY and get your table reserved under the big tents. Send your check to Don Brown at the address below. We encourage everyone to bring folding chairs, tables and canopies if tailgating.

Coordinated by the Thermal Thumbers of Metro Atlanta.

David Mills, event coordinator.

For Info <davidmillsat1@comcast.net>

\$5 for a full table or tailgating

All proceeds go to the NFFS Scholarship Fund, so add a "0" to your fee and do something extra for the kids.

Make checks payable to NFFS; send to Don Brown
<donkay@mindspring.com> 477 Safari Circle,
Stone Mountain, GA 30083