



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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July-August, 2018

HEADS UP

Welcome to the July issue! It's not too lengthy but chockfull of goodies, nonetheless. We've flown a ton locally and elsewhere, and contest reports follow, as do news of several members getting some good deeds done or being on the mend. Be advised, your editor takes a detour of sorts in the Treasure Trove section in this issue, but it's all to the good. And it'll probably happen again, lest candidates for coverage of the long lost nuggets of old designs remain shrouded in the fogs of lore, and gaps in presentation ensue. What the hell, electrons are cheap! Please make note of the annual banquet—details follow.

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

NAG, NAG, NAG

It's time for your editor to put the TTOMA membership nags on the back burner and move the encouragement to join or renew your commitment to the National Free Flight Society (NFFS) to the fore. 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 bit we don't, 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 my OFB Don DeLoach. Most, if not all, 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.

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 making it happen.

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 hole because you don't get to complain, at least not when I'm around. Like that cranky, old sage of capitalism Ted Turner once said, "Lead, follow or get out of the way!"

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO BE AND PEOPLE TO SEE

The fall indoor and outdoor season is almost upon us. Overall, participation this year has been high, and over half of our membership has made official flights. (I doubt if there's as many large clubs with that percentage of participation.) Add to this group all the spectators and other interested parties, and we're having a very busy year. But, it's not over just yet, as the following list of upcoming events portray. So, glue

some sticks together and show up somewhere. It's not like we don't give you reasons to get out of the house. The game's afoot!

Sept. 15: St Luke's, CD- Joshua Finn

Sept. 23: NGT sod farm, Summers Swan Song, CD-David Barfield

Sept. 27-28: FAC Outdoor Nats, Muncie, IN

Oct. 7: NGT sod farm, Last Fling 'til Spring. CD-Lee Russell

Oct. 20: St Luke's, CD-Bill Gowen

Nov. 4: NGT sod farm, Turkey Shoot, CD-Gary Baughman

Nov. 17: St Luke's, CD-Nick Ray

Dec. 8: St Luke's, CD-Joshua Finn

Jan. 12, 2019: St. Luke's, CD-Bill Gowen

Jan. 26, 2019: Annual banquet, *Petite Violettes*

THUMBS PASSING IN REVIEW

The May issue of *FAC News* brings an update from the Kanone Report, and a number of Thumbs figure in the rankings. Major General Josh Finn leads the way with 34, and Brigadier General Gary Morton isn't far behind with 29. Lt. Colonels David Mills and David Barfield hold 18 and 16, respectively. Major Dohrman Crawford holds 12. Captains Jim Conery and Karl Hube both hold 8, and Captain Gary Baughman holds 7. Lieutenants Hope Finn (4), Jim Jennings (3), Jim Altenbern (2) and Ed Hardin (2) comprise the rest. Recent local contest results indicate a few Thumbs should hold higher totals than those published therein and are due a boost in fruit salad, including Hope, both Gary's and others.

THUMBS IN PRINT

The July issue of *FAC News* has a very supportive write-up of our recent, two-day Chattahoochee Challenge contest along with a collage of David Barfield's photos. The blurb gives a solid summary of the contest with rehashes of the fine weather, high level of flying and many compliments of our sod farm. Well done, my fellow Thumbs and special kudos to Jim Altenbern and Gary Morton for their organizational efforts. I'll say this: our flying field looks pretty darn good in that national rag.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

The attendance of the Thumbs at the Muncie Nats was much lower this year than in the past. Many of the usual suspects had solid doctor's excuses and work or volunteering conflicts and are hereby pardoned. Nonetheless, a few Thumbs did attend and made their presence felt. Scott Lapraick and Ed Hardin flew like dervishes all week. Scott contested in just about all of the AMA Gas and NosGas categories. Ed did likewise in the Rubber categories and enjoyed podium finishes in Mulvihill (5th), Moffett (2nd), Small Mulvi (4th), Small and Large NosRub (3rd and 2nd), Small and Large Rubber Stick (5th and 2nd) and FAC OT Stick (2nd). Young Hayden Ashworth put in a good showing in F1J (1st and last) and practiced a ton in F1P for his then upcoming FAI Junior WC. We assure the membership that most if not all of the usual suspects will be attending next year, the Fates allowing.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH II

Our own Hayden Ashworth took his winning ways and Old Glory to the 2018 FAI Junior World Champs in Pazardzhik, Bulgaria. He was the only F1P entrant from the USA, but that didn't matter. After solid maxes in the rounds and a couple of monster flyoffs, he was only bested by the young Estonian and finished second for the silver. Hayden, you made us and the USA proud. Mention should also be made of his granddaddy and mentor, our own Graham Selick. Good job, the both of you. This outcome is the result of years of hard work and big fun for the two of them, and it sure is great when a plan comes together. Young Kyle Gerspacher also hoisted Old Glory from the podium, winning a second in F1B. Good work, Kyle.



THUMBS ENSHRINED

As many already know, our man Richard Schneider has a long history of involvement in Control Line Scale competition and administration, and he continues in this pursuit. He's been active in national contests, representing the USA at the World Champs many times and volunteering in many capacities along the way. (This is in addition to his enjoyment of Free Flight, of course.)

Well, the national organization of the scale circle burners has instituted a Scale CL Hall of Fame and has inducted Richard into its hallowed halls in the inaugural class of twelve. It's a solid group, some of whose names you'll remember from your reading over the years. Congrats to him!

THUMBS ON THE MEND

Bill Gowen has gone under the knife for a second *faux* knee. Now he has a matched set! He's convalescing and doing well, ambling around the house just fine. He should be moon-walking at St. Luke's shortly. Eyes on you!

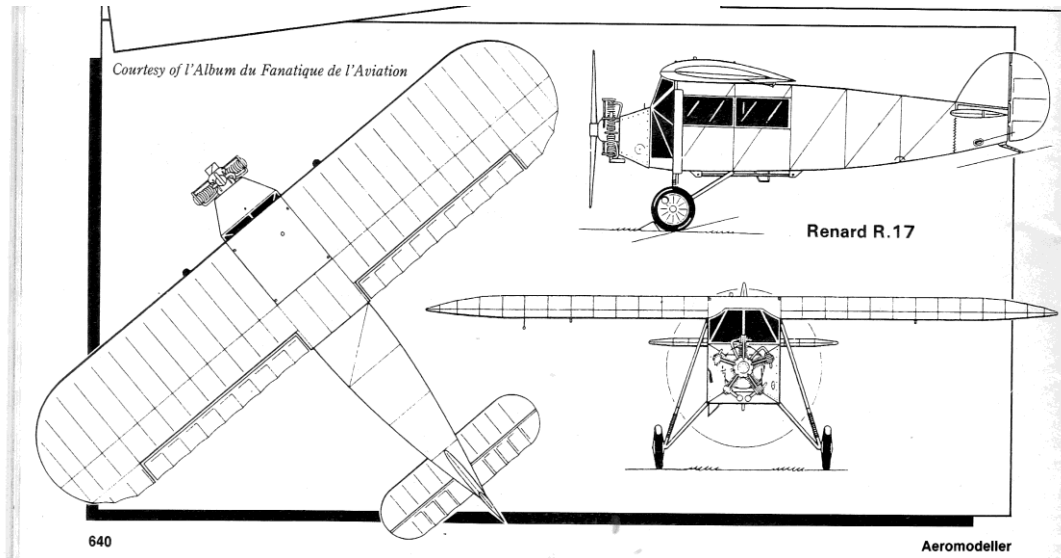
THUMBS TO BE ALL DRESSED UP

Dohrman Crawford has finalized the date for our annual banquet at *Petite Violettes*. So, mark your calendars for January 26, 2019. Expect to be nagged once or twice in these humble pages in the interim. This is your chance to show appreciation to your wife, mistress, life partner or rent-a-date how much you appreciate their patience and forbearance for all your smelly and dirty hobby activities throughout the year. Let's face it, you're not nearly as clever and charming as you think you are, and this is an opportunity for you to show some class. Expect news updates to be forthcoming at the appropriate times.

TREASURE TROVE

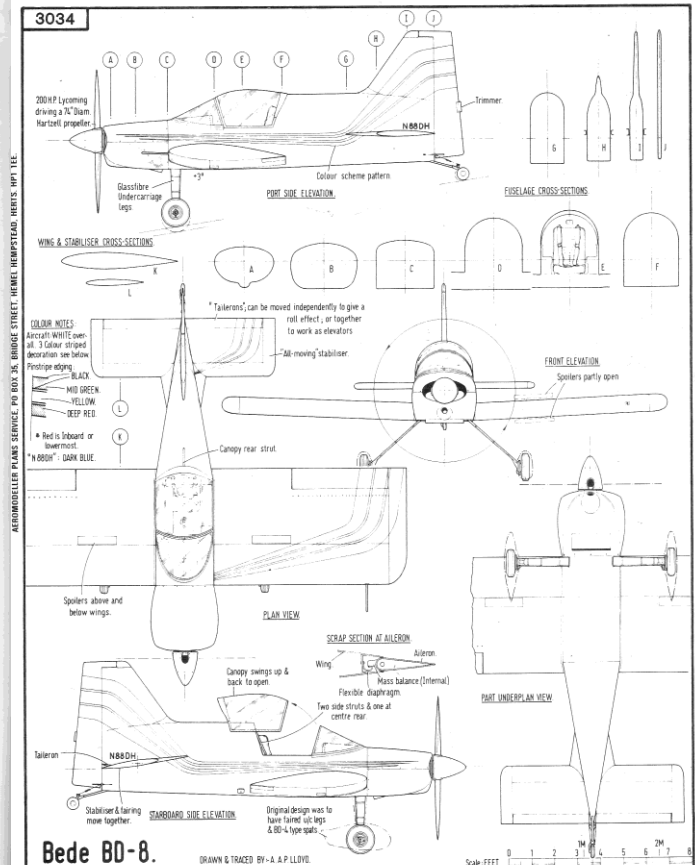
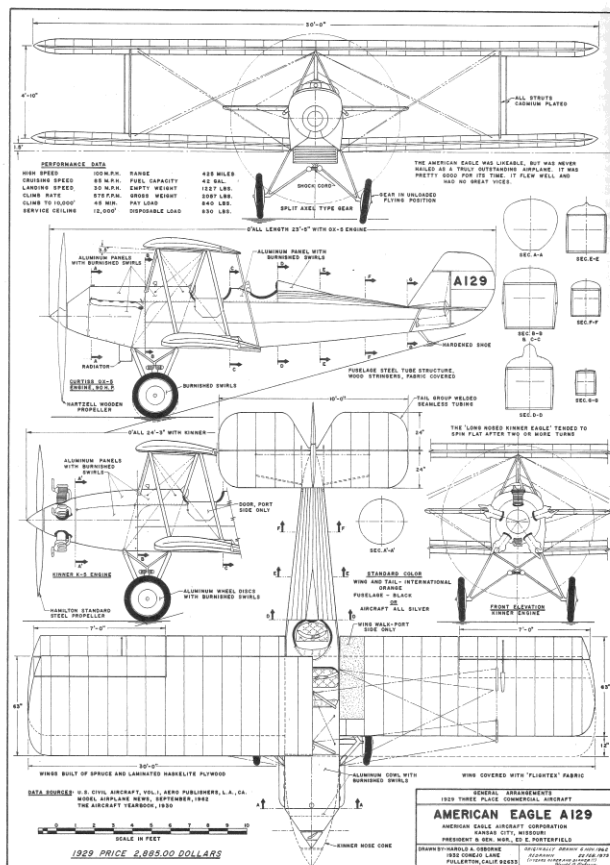
We break with our usual methods this issue in the Treasure Trove. As fate would have it, no plans of interest came over the transom. However, as the Fates would otherwise have it, I continued my obsessive, lifelong quest of three-views of interest, and a few items were gaffed thereby. (Hey, let he who is without sin cast the first stone!) As a result, four lovely candidates for workbench space follow. Each has something to offer the prospective modeler, all of which lure the eye of the scale enthusiast, such as relative rarity and any combination of long noses, wide chords, big tail feathers and adequate documentation. And, being a looker never hurt. Solid googling await all, but a few comments on each might be helpful here.

The leading Renard R.17 will be hardest to fully research, being French and thereby obscure. However, cool color schemes are probably out there, and that wing's wide chord will insure good flight times. The basic construction is simple with a boxy fuselage and curved and easily laminated flying surfaces outlines. That fat, cantilevered wing needs no struts and leaves less lumber in the breeze. Fear not, the landing gear and exposed 5-cylinder engine offers opportunities for filigree. The tail feathers can be enlarged without betraying the design's fine lines. Eyes on you! Somewhat pugnacious in aspect, it's still a cutie.

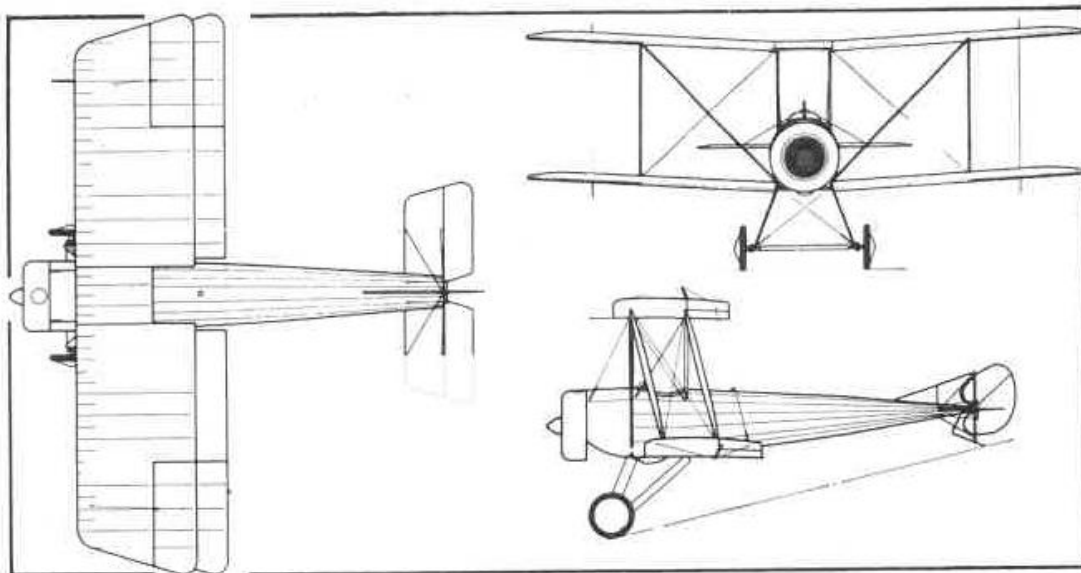


The American Eagle is just lovely, and there's nothing about which to fret. The radial engine version made for an unstable aircraft but should produce a better model with a longer fuselage with less balancing issues. The wings offer good chords and adequate separation. The tail feathers can be enlarged without betraying the design's fine lines. Plenty of delightful aggravation awaits those so enthused in the exposed radial engine and flying wires, and lots of gorgeous color schemes are out there.

The Bede 8 is a continuation of its better known predecessors. The fuselage is a bit squat, but that wing should put time on the clock. As far as the tail feathers go, that fin might be too large! Some gorgeous color schemes are no doubt out there, but the one pictured doesn't look to difficult to replicate. That big, fat canopy will provide some needed vacu-forming experience. A low-winger, it'll offer some bonus points, too. However, it's as close-coupled as can be, so expect some trimming challenges.



The sleeper of the group is the Grahame-White Type 20 and a longtime favorite of mine. (Note it's an unsuccessful British WW I prototype and didn't enter service. So, no WW I Mass Launch candidacy thereby, but the later and less sexy Type 21 saw some use, I think.) For starters, just look at the chord and separation of those wings—good grief! Yes, the nose is a little stubby, but the rest of the fuselage aft offers some serious motor length with contemporary braiding and wobbly pegging. The tail feathers do need some serious enlarging, but please take care not to ruin its lines. The scale dihedral might work! Documentation is scant but minimally adequate. No markings of any sort were seen in my googling, and the color scheme seems to be bland linen or silver. On the other hand, plenty of wiring awaits the obsessive and artistically inclined.



Grahame-White Type 20

MAKING A LIST

Here's where we are at this juncture in the club's high point soiree. The past several contests fleshed out the numbers and re-arranged the rankings considerably. And, there's still plenty of flying to be done. So, glue some sticks together and show up somewhere with a model airplane! The game's afoot.

Dohrman Crawford	63	David Barfield	17
Josh Finn	51	Mathew Canady	11
Hope Finn	39	Jimmy Jordan	10
Karl Hube	23	Dan Crews	9
Jim Conery	22	Gary Morton	8
James Martin	22	Bill Gowen	7
Richard Schneider	21	Lee Russell	5
Nick Ray	20	Dana Russell	4
Jim Altenbern	20	David Mills	3
Joe Ryan	19	Todd Russell	3
Doug Demasie	17	Gary Baughman	3

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in October. The featured item will be Gary Baughman's Turkey Shoot contest flyer. Forewarned is forearmed, so mark your calendars thusly on November 4. All the contest reports supplied in the interim will be included and expect some movement in the high point totals.

As always, I beseech the multitudes to forward news, articles, photos, plans, rants and raves to the offices. Don't make me work too hard. Later, y'all!

Contest report
TTOMA Indoor Contest
St. Lukes
July 14, 2018

Six fliers registered for the July 14, 2018 contest and recorded 24 official flights. Here are the complete flight times:

Mini-stick

Hope Finn 4:15, 5:09

Dime Scale

Richard Schneider 33, 30, 31 (1:34 total of 3)

Chattahoochee Challenge

Richard Schneider 2:11, 2:02, 1:36, 1:23, 1:28

No-cal

Richard Schneider 72, 73, 77 (3:42 total of 3)

Hope Finn 78, 32, 23 (2:13 total of 3)

Josh Finn 61 (1:01 total)

AROG

Josh Finn 12:25, 16:00

Peanut Scale

Richard Schneider 0:45

Hangar Rat

Karl Hube 1:06

Helicopter

Karl Hube 1:01, 1:16, 1:13

AMA Cabin

Josh Finn 15:58



Peach State Free Flight Champs

Eight fliers and a handful of spectators made for a good turnout, and the weather co-operated. The temps were pretty reasonable early, with some humidity and overcast skies. But, by the afternoon the skies cleared, and the sun came out, and things got genuinely hot. However, being all-pro Southerners and converted Yankee Diasporattis, we brought out our wide brims, canopies and buckets of ice water, and all was well. As we've come to expect, the air was fantastic all day and thermals numerous. Winds were light and came from all directions. We set up at the hangar and stayed there, and retrievals presented no real issues. A few models gave us scares, but all stayed on the field. Really, for a hot July day we had it pretty good. Gary Baughman got his entry fee back for his featured victory in Simplified Scale, and he and Karl Hube (Dime Scale) earned kanones. (One more flier in Jimmie Allen and BRS, and we'd had two more!) The scores follow, CD David Mills reporting.

Jimmie Allen

David Mills Skokie 183
David Barfield Sky Chief 38

No-Cal Scale

David Barfield Wildcat 52

Blue Ridge Special

Jim Altenbern 324
Joe Ryan 244

P-30

Jim Conery Speckled Bird 360
Karl Hube Scorpion 353
Jim Altenbern Square Eagle 306

Catapult Glider

Jim Altenbern Cata-piglet 226
Jim Conery Carbonette 112

Simplified Scale

Gary Baughman Douglas 0-38 236
Jim Conery Spartan Cabin 169
Gary Morton Farman 400 61

Dime Scale

Karl Hube BAT Monoplane 79
Gary Morton PT-19 68
David Barfield Howard DGA 22

Coupe

David Mills Coupe de Brie 120

August Indoor Contest Report

Due to a constellation of life events, most of the regulars were otherwise engaged during the August indoor contest. The flying conditions were great, and Dohrm took home the big unicorn with some solid Hanger Rat flights. Hopefully, attendance will be better in September. CD Nick Ray reporting.

Order of the Rainbow Unicorn.

Dohrm Crawford
Nick Ray

Hangar Rat

Dohrm Crawford 2:55+2:30=5:25

Ministick

Nick Ray 4:01

August Outdoor Contest Report

Sizzle While You Fizzle is the official name of this event. This proved to be true, as even experienced hot weather fliers felt it was HOT! I made a special attempt to keep the sunscreen working, and I drank more water than I usually do. Even so, I could tell the heat was affecting me more than usual. My fellow fliers felt the same, I'm sure.

Overall light winds most of the day, with stronger NW winds for a brief period led to some great flights with little drift, and in the bad news column, a number of lost airplanes: two P-30s, a BRS, and a Cata-piglet crossed the Mighty Hooch. We had one Kanone win in BRS, and if we had had one more flier in SCat Jet and No-Cal Scale, we could have gotten two more Kanones in the club. We need more FAC fliers!

Without further ado, here are the scores, respectfully submitted by Dohrman Crawford, CD and cub reporter:

Blue Ridge Special

Jim Altenbern 80, 82, 262 424
 Dohrman Crawford 255, OOS 255
 Doug DeMasie 37, 47, 72 156
 James Martin 82, 21, 32 135
 Joe Ryan 45, 39, 40 124
 David Barfield 82

Catapult Glider

Doug DeMasie Cata-piglet 156
 Joe Ryan Stray Cat 93 (4th better)
 David Barfield Cow Pie 93

P-30

Jim Altenbern Square Eagle 360
 Joe Ryan Sparrow Hawk 342
 James Martin Ikara 243
 Karl Hube Scorpion 224
 Doug DeMasie Snickerdoodle 152
 Dohrman Crawford Pirate 120*
 Gary Morton Marie 120**

SCat Jet

David Barfield P-59 50
 Dohrman Crawford Heinkel 178 18

No-Cal Scale

James Martin Turbo Stallion 185
 David Barfield Wildcat 71

FAC Scale

James Martin Nesmith Cougar 45

*lost into the Hooch (heroic end)
 **OOS on test hop, no DT (not so)

NFFS MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION	
Mail to: NFFS Membership Office P.O. Box 74 Grosse Ile, MI 48138 USA	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) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years \$58.00 (\$18.00 Youth) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year \$30.00 (\$10.00 Youth)	Youth: Age 18 & under as of July 1 of the current year <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you desire <i>Digest</i> delivery via email. This saves valuable funds on printing/mailing, and you get your <i>Digest</i> about 3 weeks sooner. As a bonus, the electronic version contains exclusive content in each issue.
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