



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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HEADS UP

Welcome to the last issue of the year. You'll find it filled with a lot of club news and other items of interest, including several contest reports, club member contributions, banquet news, and of course, a timely membership renewal nag. Was it not ever thus? Yu should be used to it.

Editor's soapbox: looking back at it, the club has much to be proud of in 2021. It wasn't easy, but we persevered. On the negative side, the membership list took a hit. This wasn't a result of anything we did wrong; rather, we can caulk it up to the far-reaching effects of the Covid mess. On the contest side of things, we undertook our usual outdoor schedule, only witnessing a modest decline in attendance here and there. Our big FAC contest in June gathered quite a large crowd of fliers and spectators, and much flying was done at a very high levels. The weather helped all year, recalling only one Saturday with bothersome rain and wind. Indoors we had some challenges, but we did OK. Thanks to the efforts of the DeMasie's, we had the use of the quality indoor spaces at Christ Chapel in Macon five times. Looking ahead, we remain hopeful of getting back into the Great Hall at St. Lukes in Dunwoody. The chances are very good we'll be awash in flying opportunities in 2022 in both indoor sites, fingers crossed. So, start building!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Time for me to get out of the way. Ciao, y'all!

ANNUAL RENEWAL NAG

As this is the first nag of the year, we'll keep it cheery and brief. It's time to renew your TTOMA membership. So, find the membership form provided later in the issue, fill in out as needed, stroke that check, signed on the line that is dotted and mail it to James Martin to the address indicated. Many thanks and welcome aboard.

THUMBS ON THE WORLD STAGE

Our own Nick Ray was scheduled to compete in the F1D World Champs in the Romanian salt mine this December. That contest has since been cancelled. No doubt, in response the regrettable surge in Europe of the Delta surge and the approaching Omicron variant. These two overlays have everyone righteously spooked worldwide, except for the stupid deniers, of course. Screw them.

This is a pity for the world, the USA and not least of all Nick, but I guess it can't be helped. It'll be rescheduled, but who knows when, or dropped outright. He's competed at this level before, and he'll do us proud when that time comes.

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

The Finns made the long trip to Colorado to fly at the Rocky Mountain Champs last September. It was their second trip there of the year, so I guess they knew the way. Josh had nothing but good

things to say about the flying field, the club and the contest. He did pretty good winning or placing in several events. Hope and Caleb, likewise.

Quoting from the MMM newsletter: "Weather was absolutely awesome, some of the best I've ever flown. Thermals were simply amazing. I know several people have commented on my doing well in the meet, but the reality is that none of that would have been possible without the help of folks like yourself (Chuck), Don, Jave, and Tim. Big thanks to you, Frank, and whoever else was involved in food prep. And a public thank you to Don and Jace for the loan of chase bikes and for keeping track of me so I didn't hurt myself.

"Caleb and Paul are still going on and on about all the flying. Thank you to everyone who made us feel welcome, and especially Tim Batiuk for helping Caleb figure out how to get higher catapult launches. Can't wait to fly with y'all again next year!"

THUMBS IN SERVICE

The results of the club officer election are out, and to no one's surprise or disappointment, we'll be led in 2022 by Jim Altenbern (President), Dohrman Crawford (Veep) and James Martin (Secretary/Treasurer). Now is a good time to thank the retiring Veep David Barfield and Secretary/Treasurer Karl Hube for their many years of service. Karl says he'll continue with his timely and informative *Bulletin*, and for that, we're grateful.

All of us can do more to forward the club's agenda in 2022. Dohrman will be generating the outdoor schedule soon for next year and will need contest directors for those. Get with him to volunteer, and better yet, become contest director if you're not one already. And thereby, you'll also get a half-off discount on your AMA dues and save a few bucks.

THUMBS IN PRINT

The September issue of *Flying Aces News* has some coverage of our recent Chattahoochee Challenge contest. Therein, we find a good blurb of the contest by CDs Gary Morton and Jim Altenbern and a photo of James Martin and his son prepping for a mass launch and Wally Farrell and Mark Fineman's mass launch near-miss. (I must say, our field looks pretty good.) Elsewhere, there's a photo of Dohrman being awarded his Blue Max at the recent Muncie Nats. We'll all bask in the national media glow.

Scott Lapraik made the cover of the November *Model Aviation*. He looks rather jaunty atop his motorcycle during retrieval at the Nats with a large gas model slung over his shoulder, panache aplenty. Well done, sir.

Not to be undone, Josh Finn and his J&H Aerospace business gets a lot of pub in Don DeLoach's column in the December *Model Aviation*. Much is written and pictured about his new kits of the "Saturno" P-30 and "Polly C" tip-launched glider. Both can be found on his and Hope's website (jhaerospace.com).

THUMBS AT THE BENCH

Dohrman Crawford sent along the following photo of his warp-preventing storage technique for his models. All you need are some small pieces of foam and rubber bands. As we all know, this and other ways are especially useful in the scale arena in keeping everything aligned, particularly at the tail feathers.

Let me add another, which is hardly a secret and in much use by many others. That is, simply don't use nitrate of any kind on stabs and fins because the nitrate (even the non-taughtening) inputs continuing warping pressures. Rather, use any of the rattle can spray clear lacquers, available in the vandal section of many hardware and craft outlets. Matte finish is better in appearance for FAC work. Two or three thin spray coats work fine. The weight difference is minimal. I hear the acrylic variety works, too, but I've never tried it.

Dohrman also sent along a photo of his freshly built P-18 kit by Retro RC. He put some air under it a Christ Chapel, and it's a good flier. He compliments the kit's engineering, ease of construction and wood selection. Get yours today! The Retro RC website is an easy google.

The ever busy Josh Finn sends along his newly completed indoor HLG, a real beauty with all the up-to-date materials and hardware. Just look at the photo, good grief! I don't recall the kit manufacturer or its country of origin, but I do remember the name was incomprehensible and impossible to spell and from some country I'd never heard of. I guess that means it's got to be good. A full discussion and construction video can be found on his and Hope's YouTube channel. Get with Josh for the details.



THUMBS IN THE COUNTING

This is about the time of the year we update the tally of the FAC kanones of our membership, and that list follows below, current as of last August. Of note, the fruit salad is more widely dispersed via a few increases in rank, and a few are on the verge for further promotions. Plus, David Barfield and Dohrman Crawford earned the vaunted Blue Max this year. Well done, sirs!

<u>Lt. General</u>	<u>Lt. Colonel</u>	<u>Lieutenant</u>
Gary Morton 35	David Barfield 17	Jim Altenbern 4
		James Martin 3
	<u>Major</u>	Doug DeMasie 2
<u>Colonel</u>	Karl Hube 11	Ed Hardin 2
David Mills 22		Joe Ryan 2
Dohrman Crawford 20	<u>Captain</u>	Jim Howell 1
	Gary Baughman 9	

BANQUET NEWS

We decided to start planning our annual banquet and see what make sense. First, we explored the details on having it again at our usual spot, "Petit Violettes" on Clairmont Road off I-85. Based on our estimated attendance numbers, we determined we couldn't afford it, not providing enough attendees to forego a large minimum charge for the banquet room's empty chairs.

Appeals were made for alternatives, and several Thumbs hit the streets. The best prospect so far is a suggestion of Karl Hube's, "Lucia's Italian" at the intersection of Sandy Plains Road's dead end into Woodstock Road/Highway 92. The Post Office says it's a Roswell address, but it smacks a lot more of East Cobb, in this old courier's view. Karl and his church group are having their Christmas party on December 16, and he'll give it a good look and taste and report back. If Google can be trusted, it gets a very high mark, a 4.5 from 186 views.

SAME CHURCH, DIFFERENT PEW

Your trusty editor was delighted to attend Atlanta's big IPMS contest last October. (Yes, that's plastic models!) The annual event was delayed due to this year's Covid mess. It was great to attend, and it was its usual real hoot. The amount of craftsmanship shown by these guys is absolutely amazing, and the contest presents an avalanche of eye candy. The large swap meet offers plenty of cool stuff, and if you're looking for plastic kits, books and tools, the prices are way below retail. Honestly, the contestant and spectator count was down from 2020, but that's no shock. Happily, the contest for 2022 will be held during their traditional March date. (Look for the details in this rag early in 2022.)



INTERWEB EYECANDY

Independently, Karl Hube and Dohrman Crawford sent me notes on the excellent YouTube channel run by Tom Hallman, "maxfliart", and suggested a broadcast of its excellence. Well, all within reach of these humble pages are hereby advised. Be sure to visit; you won't be disappointed. Frankly, it's amazing.

For the next issue, I'll cast about for others in this vein. The bounty will probably surprise.

CHECKING A LIST, CHECKING IT THRICE

I usually don't publish our club's final tally of contest high points, waiting on the annual banquet to acclaim the glory therein. Well, the final tally follows now for two reasons. One, we're not sure if there's going to be a banquet this year, although it's likely. Two, your humble editor messed up the totals big time in the last issue, leaving everybody with a really incorrect idea of where it was heading. Oopsie! Anywho, here's how we did in 2021.

Dohrman Crawford	56	Jim Altenbern	11
David Mills	52	Jimmy Jordan	9
James Martin	45	Gary Morton	5
Doug DeMasie	43	David Barfield	5
Frank Perkins	18	Bill Gowen	5
Jim Conery	15	Karl Hube	3
Gary Baughman	15	Nick Ray	2
Ed Hardin	14	John Federico	1

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something after the New Year. We should have the latest on the club banquet and the flyer for same. I think we can count on the DeMasie's to conjure up a "pop up" or two at Macon's Christ Chapel. Who knows maybe something will shake out at St. Lukes. Spring? Dohrman might have the tentative outdoor schedule at the sod farm. We going to be a bit prideful here and boast of a full schedule of events next year, both indoors and out. So start building.

As usual, I beseech the multitudes to send along any articles, photos, plans, rants or raves to these humble offices. Don't make me work too hard!! Ciao, y'all.

2022 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 James Martin/3901 Bays Ferry Trail/Marietta, GA 30062/404-632-7226/jhnmartin1963@gmail.com

October Indoor Contest Report

Christ Chapel, Macon

It was nice to return to indoor flying and to seeing old friends. Christ Chapel is considerably more comfortable flying site once the heat of the summer has passed. Caleb established a new F1M Junior Record. CD Nick Ray reporting.

No-Cal Scale

Doug DeMasie Lacey M-10 2:08

Hanger Rat

Dohrman Crawford 2:52

Doug DeMasie 2:33

David Mitchell 2:30

Peanut Scale

Dohrman Crawford EDY 0:22

Catapult Glider

Bill Gowen 40.0 + 42.4 = 82.4

Hand Launched Glider

Josh Finn 33.0 + 31.0 = 64.0

Phantom Flash

Doug DeMasie 0:25

F1M

Caleb Finn 5:55

Wright Stuff

Bill Gowen 3:20



The roomy Christ Chapel sanctuary comes with a drum set!

October Outdoor Contest Report

October's "Last Fling 'til Spring" contest took place in spite of marginal weather conditions. The low clouds and light sprinkling as I opened the gate didn't look too good, but the faithful flyers came. A few sunshades were set up which occasionally became rain shelters, but spirits were not dampened. Dorhm Crawford and Jim Altenbern dueled for top spot with catapult gliders and David Mills repossessed his entry fee by winning the monthly special event which was P-30. Graham Selick's grandchildren treated us to some great model rocketry launches, and Dorhm gave them each catapult glider lessons. Hopefully, they will be our new competition! The tents were folded around 4:00, and everyone headed home. It was the last official contest for the year and my first time as CD. Thanks to all who came out to fly!

CD Jim Coney, reporting from my native New Hampshire for my nephew's wedding. Guess where I'd rather be? "Live free or die. Death is not the worst evil"—General John Stark.

P-30

David Mills 306
James Martin 238
Doug DeMasie 158

Catapult Glider

Jim Altenbern 182
Dohrman Crawford 155
Doug DeMasie 82

OT Rubber Stick

David Mills 62
James Martin 25

Guilow Event

James Martin 150

1/2 Wake

James Martin 155

Rubber Scale

David Mills 117

SCat Jet

Doug DeMasie 17

Blue Ridge Special

Doug DeMasie 144

November Indoor Contest Report

Christ Chapel, Macon

We had five members attend the November indoor contest at Christ Church. It was a nice day with the air improving in the afternoon as it warmed up. Nick Ray was busy trying to get his final flying time in preparing his F1D for the World Championship in December in Romania.

Other contestants were flying Hangar Rats and Limited Pennyplanes. Dan and Nancy Crews dropped by for a few minutes. It was good to see them. David Mills came by for a while. We all enjoyed the cookies by the DeMasie's. Have a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. CD Lee Russell reporting.

Limited Pennyplane

Dohrman Crawford 2:10, 2:08, 3:38

Doug DeMasie 1:38, 1:13

Hangar Rat

Dohrman Crawford 0:54, 2:50, 3:19

D. Fletcher 1:08, 1:15, 1:28

Phantom Flash

Dohrman Crawford 1:41, 1:28

P-18

Doug DeMasie 1:32

Easy B

Doug DeMasie 1:47

Tenth Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot

Sunday, November 7, 2021, dawned with a forecast of warm temperatures and light winds. Arriving at the sod farm before 9 am to open the gate, I found that the forecasters were correct with their prognostication. We set up operations in the northeastern corner of the field, and we were able to remain there for the duration of the event. Everyone told me that this was probably the best flying day our club had all year.

Events began at 10 am with an FAC Scale mass launch. The top three entered the final launch. David Barfield flew a Monocoupe, David Mills, a Mr. Smoothie and James Martin, a Cougar. My Cessna CR-3 did not make the final. It was David's superb Smoothie that garnered first place in the fly-off and earned him a \$25 Publix gift certificate.

Meanwhile fliers were keeping their scores to enter into the Target Time event. Some Cat Jet flights were zipping across the skies and a few P30 and SAM rubber models were "climbing into the sun."

The Embryo mass launch took place at 11 am. Six beautiful models circled up into the blue ether above, sun lighting up their coverings like neon lights. Last one down was David Mills's beauty. Mills pocketed another gift card. Jim Altenbern finished second.

Catapult Glider/HLG had three entries for the mass launch at 1:30 pm. Dohrm Crawford's model out flew Frank Perkins's and David Barfield's for the prize.

The SAM rubber event was won by David Mills with his Gollywock, SCat Jet by Doug DeMasie, and P-30 by Frank Perkins and his sleek Pirate design. One of the highlights of the day was a P-30 flight by Doug Demasie. After 14 plus minutes his unique model went out of sight straight up over the field, entertaining the fliers the whole while. No DT!!

The Blue Ridge Special mass launch was the last event of the day. Large mass launches are spectacular, and this one did not disappoint. Last one down was my last remaining BRS from the stock of three he built for the 2021 flying season; the others having been lost OOS in contests.

James Martin and David Barfield matched the target time of 33 seconds. James won the Gift Certificate in the tiebreaker. Contestants were treated to model kits donated by Gary Baughman and drawn for by lot.

Thus ended the 2021 TTOMA outdoor contest season with an entertaining contest on a perfect flying day. If you weren't there make sure to mark your calendar for the November 2022 Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot. Contestants are guaranteed to enjoy the day, the events, and the camaraderie of fellow fliers. Submitted by CD Gary Baughman.



December Indoor Contest Report

Christ Chapel, Macon

Doug DeMasie's good work brought us another "pop up" contest, and eight fliers attended along with a few guests, in spite of the short notice. Nick Ray volunteered as CD and your trusty editor wrote this report. We had a good day and flew a ton. Two new state records were set by Bill Gowen and Nick. We flew in the big auditorium because the soccer field was busy with their girl teams' practice. We didn't mind because the room is as wide and has a higher ceiling, making it a midrange category II site.

More Thumbs should attend these. It's not as long a haul as you might think, being on the north side of Macon down I-75 at the Bass Road exit. I'd say it's about one hour south of I-285, "with no traffic". The DeMasie's cookies continue to spoil us. Not-the-CD David Mills, reporting

Hangar Rat

Dohrman Crawford 2:33 2:36
David Mills 1:01 1:17 1:40

Unlimited Catapult Glider

Bill Gowen 50.4 50.9 52.9 51.3

Wright Stuff 2022

Bill Gowen 2:57 2:53 3:23

Ministick

Nick Ray 7:10 1:37

Easy B

Doug DeMasie 0:18 0:41 0:58

P-18

Doug DeMasie 0:52 0:38 0:57

Limited Pennyplane

Dohrman Crawford 1:13 4:06

Doug DeMasie 0:76 0:78 0:75

A-ROG

David Mills JA R.O.G. 0:15

