

The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

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AMA Charter # 1834
 FLYING ACES club

SAM
 NFFS

Jan.-Feb., 2023

HEADS UP

Welcome to the first newsletter issue of 2023. This year promises to be a good one, and we're off to a flying start with a full indoor and outdoor contest schedule in the offing and the rebirth of our annual banquet tradition behind us. A full presentation follows on both of these vital items. A few vital and interesting items came over the transom, and those follow. Also, membership renewal time is upon us, so be prepared for the following "pointed reminder", as it's now February, and membership dues are due.

Time for me to get out of the way. Ciao, y'all!

RENEWAL TIRADE

Alert readers will notice the expected "Renewal Nag" is upgraded in the header to something more severe, as in "Renewal Tirade". Yep, partner, it's 2023, and there's a new sheriff in town—this ain't no fooling. As you may've noticed, there's a whole year's worth of indoor and outdoor activities awaiting you, and now is the time for you to do your part and support the club providing all this opportunities. So, cut out the nonsense, stroke a check made payable to TTOMA, signed on the line that is dotted and mail it to the address so indicated. The 2023 membership form follows. You know who you are. Eyes on you! Forces from the infernal regions await you, otherwise. You are hereby forewarned.

THINGS TO DO, PEOPLE TO SEE AND PLACES TO GO

Behold our epic 2023 contest schedule! Don't tell me you don't have enough opportunities for flying some model airplanes under the cathedral of the big, blue sky or behind closed doors. Ergo, start gluing some sticks together and show up to fly somewhere! The game's afoot.

- Feb. 25: Indoor Contest. Christ Chapel, Macon, GA. CD-Nick Ray
- Feb. 25: IPMS AtlantaCon. Lockheed Union Hall, S. Marietta Pkwy, Marietta, GA
- March 3-4: GAMA Southeastern Model Show, Perry, GA
- March 11: Indoor Contest. St Lukes Presbyterian, Dunwoody, GA. CD-Dohrman Crawford
- March 26: Outdoor Contest. Feel Lucky, Punk. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Dohrman Crawford
- April 1-3: Indoor Contest. Jim Richmond Open, West Baden, IN
- April 15: Indoor Contest. St Lukes Presbyterian, Dunwoody, GA.
- May 13: Indoor Contest. Christ Chapel. Macon, GA. **CD needed!**
- April 22-23: Indoor Contest. Kent State Field House, Kent, OH.
- April 30: Outdoor Contest. April Fools. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Karl Hube
- May 20-21: Outdoor Contest. Kudzu Classic, Raeford, North Carolina. See flyer.
- May 21: Outdoor Contest. May Daze. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Dohrman Crawford
- June 19-23: Outdoor contest. AMA FF Indoor Nats. Kibbie Dome, Moscow, ID.
- June 24-25: FAC Outdoor Contest. Chattahoochee Challenge. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA. CDs-Gary

Morton/Jim Altenbern

July 8: Indoor Contest. St Lukes Presbyterian, Dunwoody, GA. **CD needed!**
July 9: Outdoor Contest. Country Fried. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA. CD-David Mills
July 12-15: Outdoor Contest. FAC Non-Nats, Genesee, NY
July 17-21: Outdoor Contest. AMA FF Nats, AMA HQ, Muncie, IN
Aug. 20: Outdoor Contest. Fizzle While You Sizzle. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Lee Russell
Sept. 10: Outdoor Contest. Summer Swan Song. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Jim Conery
Sept. 22-24: Outdoor Contest. FF SAM Champs/FAC Contest. AMA HQ, Muncie, IN
Oct. 15: Outdoor Contest. Last Fling Til Spring. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA. CD-David Barfield
Nov. 5: Outdoor Contest. Turkey Shoot. NG Turf, Whitesburg, GA. **CD needed!**
Nov. 18: Indoor Contest. St Lukes Presbyterian, Dunwoody, GA. **CD needed!**

THUMBS PROMOTED AND REMEMBERED

Every year we post the FAC Kanone totals and officer ranks of our members. Those follow, current to the last list on the FAC website, circa October, 2022(?). So, check where you stand in the Fame and Glory department.

This year your trusty editor thought we'd do it a little differently. Namely, rather than just the club members, why not add the people who presently fly FAC events with us and that of the dearly departed? An executive decision was made, so here we go, the fruit salad our past and present FAC community. Not only does this broaden our ranks, but it gives us a chance to post up and remember our OFBs no longer with us. This is better, so get used to it. *And yikes, it looks like Hope Finn earned her Blue Max! Well done, Madame! (If I've left out anyone with kanones, let me know.)

A number of observations can be made, of course. The first and most obvious one, not much needs to be said about our OFB Wally Farrell. Yes, he has a bit of a lead on us. So, if you've managed to win outright or just place ahead of him anytime, anywhere—you've really accomplished something.

<u>Air Marshall</u>		<u>Colonel</u>		<u>Captain</u>	
Wally Farrell	705	Dohrman Crawford	22	Gary Baughman	9
Mark Fineman	189	John Blair (d)	22	James Martin	6
Easy Dave Niedzielski	92	Oscar Smith (d)	21		
Wayne Brock (d)	50	George Perryman (d)	20	<u>Lieutenant</u>	
				Jim Altenbern	4
<u>Lt. General</u>		<u>Lt. Colonel</u>		Doug DeMasie	4
Ollie Benton	39	John Barker (d)	18	Richard Schneider	4
Josh Finn	38	David Barfield	18	Brook Dixon, Sr.	3
Gary Morton	35	Tim Lavender	18	Wayne Anderson	3
		Billy Pennington (d)	17	Jim Jennings	3
<u>Major General</u>		Hope Finn	16*	Ed Hardin	2
Dean McGinnis	30			Al Pardue (d)	2
		<u>Major</u>		Don Peacock (d)	2
<u>Brig. General</u>		Jimmy Jordan	13	Frank Hodson (d)	1
John Diebolt	28	Karl Hube	11	Barry Sholder	1
David Mills	25	Jim Conery	10		

THUMBS ON THE MARCH

The February issue of *Model Aviation* just arrived and it was a delight to see Thumbs James Martin and Jimmy Jordan featured in some coverage of last year's CAFFA Hurricane contest in the District IV VP column. The column's many photos told a good story of a good contest. Check out page 98 therein.

Sidebar: while on the subject of that issue, I'd like to give the magazine staff a few kudos for it and other recent content. There's actually no real shortage of material of Free Flight interest: two good blurbs on Dick Korda's Wakefield; an article on the use of narrow surgical tubing for rubber power; a mention of Dave

Lindley's downloadable YouTube on rubber storage; an article on CAD, laser cutting and 3-D printing; an article on restoration of old stick-and-tissue models; another rock-solid column by Louis Joyner; and finally, the District IV column mentioned previously.

I'll toss onto this heap the many columns in front by AMA officers on the AMA's dealings with the FAA and the latter's overreaching efforts at protecting us from ourselves. I can't imagine how trying this last bit of labor is. Thank you, AMA.

ANNUAL BANQUET

It was a joy to hold another club banquet after the three years of pandemic shutdown malaise. As in times past, a good time was had by all. The turnout was a little down from 2019 (?!), but that was the only disappointment. Many thanks go to Dohrman Crawford for his setting it up for us. He even saved us a few bucks from earlier banquets because the new local venue was a real bargain and was very much liked by the attendees. Well done, sir. The photo collages follow, courtesy of David Barfield.

The new venue was a revelation. The Lost Corner Preserve was both a shocking and pleasant surprise. Our longtime residents of the metro area only heard of its existence after Dohrman's email a few weeks prior, including this writer, in spite of its location deep in the heart of residential Sandy Springs, just off Johnson Ferry Road. Who knew? Many of us will be returning to check out the hiking trails and exhibits there.

The meal was catered by City BBQ and vanquished in short order by the attendees with nary a complaint. The Show and Tell was up to previous years standard, and the kits/books/models/stuff giveaway was superior to all years past and a real treat. Just about everybody walked away with an embarrassment of riches.

We announced the new club officer slate for 2023: Jim Altenbern-President, Dohrman Crawford-Veep, James Martin-Treasurer and Doug DeMasie-Secretary. Your trusty editor has agreed to don the newsletter editor yoke again, there being no surge of volunteers to replace me. Speaking of volunteers, Dohrman made a call for persons interested in being contest directors to step forward to help with the burden on our not quite abundant enough supply of contest directors, now that our contest schedule appears to be back in full swing. Please note: we need CDs for four contests! For those intrigued thereby, you can get one-half of your AMA membership discounted for the next year, so financially it's worth your while, as well as being just a good thing to do. Contact Dohrman if you're interested. And, if you're a little vain, you can get your AMA number shortened to a far sexier four digits, styling and profiling.

The much anticipated awarding of our usual mahogany row of trophies went without a hitch, save for the MC's confusion at a juncture or two. Due to the issuance of two year's worth of accolades, we'll just list them in the table format below and save on the verbiage. (Note the absence of any concern over our diminished 2020 efforts, our nation's awful year best forgotten.)

George Perryman Memorial High Point Award

2021	2022
1 st Dohrman Crawford-56	1 st Dohrman Crawford-70
2 nd David Mills-52	2 nd Doug DeMasie-57
3 rd James Martin-45	3 rd David Mills-53
4 th Doug DeMasie-43	4 th James Martin-46

Bob Baker Old Timer High Point Award

2021	2022
1 st David Mills	1 st David Mills

Scale High Point Award

2021	2022
1 st James Martin	1 st James Martin



Photos and collage by David Barfield

SCat Jet Top Gun Award

2021	2022
1 st Jim Conery	1 st Doug DeMasie

Club Scramble Trophy

2021	2022
1 st Frank Perkins	1 st Frank Perkins

Norm Purdy Club Service Award

2021	2022
Debbie and Doug DeMasie	Debbie and Doug DeMasie

SAME CHURCH, DIFFERENT PEW

We discussed the annual, upcoming IPMS AtlantaCon in the last issue, but we'll do it again here. The AtlantaCon is the state's biggest plastic model contest and swap meet, held at the Lockheed Union Hall in Marietta on South Marietta Parkway, just west of Cobb Parkway. I've rarely missed it because it's such a hoot. It always draws a huge crowd of modelers and offers plenty of eye candy and stuff to buy at very low prices, much below retail. This includes model kits, books, tools and more. The models themselves are amazing, and the high level of craftsmanship is astronomical. Those attending are planning the February lunch somewhere in the vicinity. Adults are charged five dollars, American, and kids get in free, if I'm not mistaken. Doors open February 25 at 9 am and close at 4 pm. The flyer follows.

Don't forget the Southeast Model Show at the state fairgrounds in Perry on March 3 and 4. This is the largest model aviation swap meet in the world with over 1000 tables overflowing with stuff to buy, sell or swap. And, who among us doesn't need more stuff, and GAMA does a great job. Admittedly, the vast majority of the merchandise is RC-oriented, but Free Flight nuggets can be found, as well as kits, books and tools, all at good prices if you get your elbows into it. A highlight for me is running into old friends you don't see anywhere else. I recommend attending on Friday, March 3, the busiest day. Things thin out considerably by mid-afternoon on Saturday. The door opens at noonish on Friday for non-vendors, earlier on Saturday. Saturday's dickering prices are likely lower, but selection isn't as good, many choice items being already out the door. Your call. The AMA always has a large presence there, so you can hurrah or harangue as you see fit. Ticket prices have increased a bit to fifteen dollars, American, for Friday at the gate if memory serves (\$12.00 online), still cheap for the fun involved.

The Finns usually have tables set up and doing some retail. This has served as a good club HQ, oasis and cubbyhole for your gathered goodies. They've plenty of chairs for the sufficiently life-tenured to rest their weary posteriors. Their presence is likely, so look for them.

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

The long discussed sale of Easy Built Models is finalized. Easy Dave sold it to the Fairchild family last October. The Fairchild's were looking for a small manufacturing business for their extended family's long term employment and later retirement. They have no previous modeling experience, but Dave worked with them for two months and got them up-to-speed on the business operations. Easy Built will remain in Prattville, AL, and several family members have moved there from their homes south of Atlanta, McDonough-ish if memory serves. Easy Dave is very sure the business is in good hands. All numbers and addresses will remain the same. Dave has since relocated to the Ohio area to be near his parents and other family members. He claims to be "retired", but you know how that goes. .

PANTONE VINDICATED

While on the FAC website to gather the aforementioned Kanone totals, I saw an entry about a big swatch of the original linen covering given to George Bredehoff from the wrecked carcass of the Chambermaid racer, a long time Free Flight favorite and current Dime Scale project of yours truly. You might recall the discussion of the various color descriptions in the lore of that racing classic in the last issue. Well, a vivid

color post of the swatch by George shows the designation of “Bright Cream” given on some three-views is, in fact, a basic yellow, reminiscent of our traditional, yellow Jap tissue, per the Pantone color code, and the oft-mentions of “Cream” are incorrect, as well as misleading modifiers like “light”, “dirty”, or “dark”.

Swatches of the original Cessna CR3 and Mr. Smoothie coverings are posted, too, and rest assured, there’re no controversies there either. This incontrovertible evidence shows the accepted dark red for the latter and a basic red and yellow combo for the former. Well done, obsessive archivists.

LONGEST EDITORSHIP STILL STANDING?

You take prestige where you can find it. Thus is the case when I received word from my OFB Rick Pangell, announcing the end of his long run as the *Max Out* editor of Colorado’s MMM club newsletter. He first donned that yoke back in 1982, giving him forty (40!) years tenure as the club’s scribe. Long since retired from his aerospace career, he’s done many things of which to be proud, like designing things currently sitting on Mars, and likewise at faraway locales elsewhere. But, I suspect he holds his long editorship as near and dear. The *Max Out* was, is and will remain a first class club newsletter, and speaking for the rest of us, thanks to Rick for his service. The editorship passed to John McGrath, an old club hand and no doubt in safe and dependable hands. We hope they’re still getting “heat from the lights”, as is their lifestyle choice.

We had a running gag between the two of us for decades about who would hang it up first. Now we know—I’m the leader in that old gray horse race. (Do I hear the sound of one hand clapping?)

STAB FROM THE PAST

I was delighted to get a telephone call from our OFB Rob Thoren, a card-carrying rocket scientist. He was looking for the contact information for whoever is left of the old Pensacola Free Flight Team. I didn’t know and referred him to Dohrman Crawford, who was in contact with the redoubtable George White.

I was great to hear from Rob and catch up. It’s been a while. He’s doing OK, still living in Rocket City, aka Huntsville, and celebrating his mid-eighties years on this blessed earth. His wife is recovering from some health issues, but back at home now and getting back into the domestic routines. He plans to come see us when his wife is a little further along. He reads the newsletters regularly, and the circle remains unbroken.

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in late March/early April. Barring the unforeseen, we’ll have coverage of the first indoor and outdoor contests of the year. Several of us will attend the annual IPMS AtlantaCon and GAMA’s Southeast Model Show, and we’ll report on all the fun the rest of y’all missed. As always, I beseech the multitudes for anything in the way of articles, plans, photos, cartoons, rants, or raves. Don’t make me work too hard! Ciao, y’all.



"No doubt about it, Bob ... You're infected with tiny fighter planes. What's worse ... you're a carrier."



Balloon scourge solution-David Barfield

2023
CHATTAHOOCHEE CHALLENGE
JUNE 24 - 25



Saturday
8:00 - 5:00

FAC Rubber Scale *2
Modern Civilian/Military combined
Jimmy Allen/2 Bit + 1 combined #
P - 30
No-Cal
Embryo * #
Phantom Flash #
Simplified Scale NBM
WW I mass launch (11:00)
Golden Age mass launch (1:00)
Fiction Flyer mass launch (3:00)

Sunday
8:00 - 3:00

FAC Peanut Scale *3
Jet Catapult Scale
Dime Scale *
Simplified Scale
CLG
Embryo NBM * #
Blue Ridge Special NBM
WW II mass launch (11:00)
Combined Racers mass launch (1:00)

* Judging will be done on Sat. morning from 9:00-12:00.

All planes must ROG unless told otherwise by the CD.

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

1. CLG has a 90 sec. max and all six flights count.
2. FAC Rubber Scale will be the best of three flights.
3. FAC Peanut scale will be the average of three flights.
4. Monoplanes will be allowed to compete in the WW I mass launch as long as they conform to the rules - no parasol or high wing cabin types.
5. All fly offs will be a mass launch.

AWARDS: The award ceremony will as soon after 3:00 as the results can be tabulated. Certificates will be given for the first three places in each event.

ENTRANCE FEE: \$20.00 or \$10.00 if you only fly one day.

LOCATION: North Georgia Turf Farm, 1487 Black Dirt Rd. Whitesburg, GA 30185

CONTEST DIRECTORS: Jim Altenbern (jaltenbern0705@charter.net)

Gary Morton (gmorton@centurytel.net)





**Kudzu
Squadron 13**

Kudzu Classic **May 20 – 21, 2023 Raeford, N. C.**

Saturday, May 20

FAC Mass Launch

WWI
Navy Scale Pat Daily Memorial @
Mod Civil / Mod Mill Comb
NIT Embryo Don Srull Memorial @@

FAC Judged / Timed

Embryo
Jet Catapult
Dime Scale
FAC Peanut Scale

Other

AMA Catapult Glider
AMA P-30
Timed Target

@ Any Naval Aircraft (including Marine and USCG); any era; any nationality; must be in Navy colors and markings

@@ Any published variant of Don's NIT Embryo. NIT II plans published in Flying Aces Club News Jan-Feb 2023.

Motorized chase vehicles allowed on roadways only

Water and soft drinks provided

On field comfort facility

Field MapQuest/Google Maps/GPS:
204 Ratley St, Raeford, NC 28376

Sunday, May 21

FAC Mass Launch

WWII
Air Racers Comb
GA Multi-wing / GA Monoplane Comb.
Miss Production Dan Driscoll Memorial #

FAC Judged / Timed

2 Bit + 1
Scale Glider
Blue Ridge Special
No-Cal Profile

Other

NFFS E-20
SAM Twin Pusher
Flying Hoard Mass Launch ##

Dan Driscoll resurrected this 1941 OT Rubber Stick. Plans published in Max Fax issue 2022-4. **Motor restriction** = 15% of all-up-weight less rubber. An attempt to keep them of the field.

Any rubber powered non-scale - max 26" wing span

FAC Events CD:
Dave Mitchell davedge@me.com

Other Events CD:
John Diebolt jdiebolt@mindspring.com

CAFFA Contact:
Jimmy Jordan jjordan18@ec.rr.com

Entry Fee: \$10.00 Covers both days
Juniors Free

March 3rd & 4th 2023

**GEORGIA NATIONAL FAIRGROUNDS
I-75 EXIT 135, PERRY, GA**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TABLE RESERVATIONS
GO TO**

WWW.GAMARC.COM

Don't Miss It!

HUNDREDS OF VENDORS

RAFFLES

Largest RC Swap Meet In the USA!



AtlantaCon 2023

Scale Model Show and Contest

Saturday, February 25, 2023

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

IAM Local 709 Union Hall

1032 S. Marietta Pkwy

Marietta, GA 30060

www.ipms-atlanta.org

