

March-April, 2024

HEADS UP

Welcome to the second issue of the year. It's a tad late, but let's hope the wait was worth it. If it wasn't, I'll take a pay cut. A lot has happened since the last ETP. First and foremost, we've had a torrent of four contests, both indoor and outdoor, wrecking havoc on the club high point tally. Those details await. Also, Thumbs attended the annual GAMA Southeast Model Show in Perry and the IPMS AtlantaCon in Marietta, and tasty reports follow. Fascinating items of only slightly less interest are forthcoming. Enjoy.

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NAG

Yes, my fellow Thumbs, we're into the "nag" category now. It's come to that because some of you haven't renewed your club membership yet, so no more unicorns and rainbows. This writer is mighty perplexed as to why and at a loss of words over it generally, a fairly unusual circumstance, if all I hear behind my back has any currency. However, regarding on the latter, according to that great life sage, Zsa Zsa Gabor, "any publicity is good publicity, darling".

So, all you recalcitrants, go look into the mirror, readdress your world view, stroke that check, signed on the line that is dotted, and mail it to Treasurer James "Diamond Jim" Martin to the address so indicated. Stronger words await for those who don't. The membership form follows. You know who you are. Eyes on you!

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

You can't say that we don't give you plenty of things to do on the weekends. Idle hands and all that, for sure. The present contest schedule follows. The outdoor dates are fixed, and the sanctions are in. The indoor dates are less so by necessity, especially at Christ Chapel in Macon. The indoor dates won't firm until a week or two prior to the tentative date given. Look for Doug DeMasie's Bulletin for the final word. So, get back into your workshop, build a model airplane or too and come fly with us. The game's afoot.

May 18-19: Outdoor contest. Kudzu Classic. Raeford, NC

May 19: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Dohrman Crawford

June 1-5: AMA Indoor Nats. Moscow, ID

June 8: **Possible** indoor contest. Christ Chapel, Macon, GA. Doug DeMasie to provide updates! June 29-30: FAC Chattahoochee Challenge. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CDs-Gary Morton and Jim Altenbern.

July 14: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-David Mills

July 22-26: AMA Outdoor Nats. Muncie, IN

Aug. 18: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Jim Conery Sept. 15: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Doug DeMasie Oct. 13: Outdoor contest. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-David Barfield Nov. 3: Turkey Shoot. NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA. CD-Gary Morton

THUMBS IN THE MIX

A few Thumbs made the annual trek down to Perry, GA for the GAMA Southeast Model Show. Frankly, the weather was pretty awful, cold with driving rain. Your editor can't say it was a fun drive down there Friday from Atlanta and back. Thankfully, the GAMA folks had the heaters on and most of the three arenas doors shut. I noticed attendance was down from last year, likely weather-related and understandable. Saturday was clear and a little warmer, and maybe more showed up then. However, the vendors showed up in force on Friday, and all the arenas were filled with few vacant tables. GAMA still has their bragging rights. (Kiss my grits, Hershey, PA.)

For the first time ever, I didn't buy anything except for a fine Italian sausage hoagie with peppers, onions and a good shmear of yellow mustard, a fine lunch. I was tempted by a few plastic kits but deferred in light of the upcoming IPMS Model Show in two weeks. The Finns did a good bidness, and I had the pleasure to hand over Caleb's fifth place club high point trophy.

A few trends were noticed. Gas power among the mass of RCers remains strong, and plenty of complete airframes, RC sets, kits and engines changed hands. One man's opinion, the precipitous fall in ignition engine prices appears to have bottomed out. Plenty of electric gear was bought and sold, too, no dampening of that inevitable future seen. The AMA has a good crew on hand, and many had a chance to catch up with acquaintances there and discuss of few items of concern. I did.

Whoever can make the event next year should do so. You won't be disappointed.



THUMBS FLYING IN THE HOOD

Many issues back a series was started on where members took their new models out for some first test glides and finger winds near where they lived. A few members sent in material. Adding atop that modest heap, please find the following of a nice city park near my temporary home in the gritty yet fashionable Huff Rd. area. (Google "Berkley Park" on the NW corner of 17th St. and Northside Dr.) It offers a flat patch of grass maybe sixty yards round surrounded by stately oak trees and plenty

of parking, and it's empty most of the time—perfect! The skyline views of Midtown along Peachtree Street to the east and nearby Howell Mill Road's Hipster Hill are rather impressive.

This kind of material is pretty good content, but the inflow of same went over the cliff and onto the rubble below many issues ago. I know most of y'all have such a place, so send that content down the pipe, please. Don't make me ask twice. You know who you are. Eyes on you!



THUMBS IN SERVICE

This just in from Carl Dowdy: "Apologies for my hijacking the CAFFA email list for non-club updates but felt it was appropriate to brag on our own Jimmy Jordan. As many of you know, Jimmy has been a Science

Olympiad coach in Wilmington for the Flight event (and a couple of others) for over a decade (both Middle School and High School). He was also later asked to become the State Flight Event Leader, and he's been doing that for three years now, too.

"Jimmy recruited a few of us local members to help as timers for invitational, regional, and state competitions, so we can say for certain that his leadership and hard work produced some very well run events that received a lot of positive feedback from the participants, parents, and Science Olympiad administrators. Jimmy let us know Saturday at the State tournament that he was awarded this year's overall Volunteer of the Year Award for North Carolina! He's invested a huge amount of time, effort, and not a small amount of money to bring the Flight events to where they are today, so this is very much deserved.

Congratulations Jimmy! Please understand that this will in no way hinder any of us from trying to beat you at the next CAFFA contest."



THUMBS MINGLING ON THE DARKSIDE

Unlike the Perry Southeast Model show, the IPMS AtlantaCon brought spring temps and clear skies. As a result of this blessing and other enticements, this year's crowd was the largest in recent memory, and Marietta's Lockheed Union Hall was packed. Like always, there was plenty of eye candy from their annual contest to enjoy, and a brisk trade was taking place at their huge swap meet. Gazillions of kits, accessories, tools and books were on sale, much of it well below retail. The following collage offers a mere taste of same. And for only a five dollar, American, entry fee, you can't beat it for entertainment value if you're a model airplane nut. The same can be said for the model car, ship, armor and figurine crowd, a veritable nerd fest.

Thusly enthused, a few Thumbs made the trip: Richard Schneider, Eugene Rush, Joe Ryan and your editor. I got away without buying anything, but Joe wasn't so lucky this year. Last year he reaped an enviable bounty from their big and juicy raffle, but got skunked this time. Next year will tell

the tale, for two dots do not a trend line necessarily make. Eugene brought several models to the contest and did just fine. The Spirit of St Louis diorama below is just one example. He placed second in the diorama category, but he was robbed in this writer's view. Uniquely original subject matter, demanding execution, what hath those judges wrought! Whatever, can you imagine painting all those 120 plus scale figures?! Does Eugene need a hobby?



THUMBS NOT PAYING ATTENTION

For years the club has given a lot of advice as to where out-of-towners could stay while flying in our contests at NG Turf Field. Fortunately, the area is blessed with hotels aplenty in Newnan, Douglasville or Carrollton, all a reasonably short drive from the field.

But, what about the RVers or those looking for proper camping near the field? Well, our RVers have praised the Walmart parking lot in Douglasville, and no doubt, equally commodious Walmart parking lots await in Newnan and Carrollton. For the would be campers, there was the well known and very popular Sweetwater Creek State Park a few exits east on I-20, a drive of some 28 miles.

Well, over the years the NFFS webmaster Alan Petersen and I've become pen-pals, and he mentioned recently he's attending our Chattahoochee Challenge this summer and camping at Chattahoochee Bend State Park, "just down the river from your field". What?!

After unclutching my pearls, a quick Google revealed Chattahoochee Bend is downstream, NW of Newnan, on the south bank of the Mighty Hooch. The park has five miles of scenic river frontage, RV hookups and campsites galore, hiking trails aplenty—and only a 17 mile drive from NG Turf! A whopping 2,910 acres state park, boy, howdy! (FYI, Alan lives in Flagstaff, AZ, so whoever holds the "most traveled" title to a contest of ours will surely lose it.)

Don't get too settled from the jaw-jacking experience thusly rendered, there's more. It's named the McIntosh Reserve Park, also another state park of an ample 527 acres, within an even shorter distance from our field. It's on the north bank of the Mighty Hooch, downstream and west of Whitesburg. You stay on Hwy. 5 and blow through downtown Whitesburg and take a left shortly onto West McIntosh Circle and proceed to the park. There's a long river frontage, camp sites, hiking and horse trails, and all the other usual amenities. Horse trails, so bring yours! A mere 8.3 mile drive from our field, who knew?!

A few of us are lifelong outdoors types and might give one of these parks a try the weekend of the Chattahoochee Challenge or any time some of us want to do some Saturday flying, if the weather's

nice, before one of our regular Sunday affairs. The gas and drive time savings should pay for the cheap camping fees and a few cold snacks by the campfire. What say y'all?

THUMBS AT THE BENCH

The flow of just built model photos from the membership coming into these humble offices continues to disappoint. Ergo, this issue we can only offer the following photo of your editor's just finished Comet Phantom Flash, perhaps one of the finest Free Flight model ever drawn. This, my

latest, might be my seventh in a long line of renditions. All flew away, never to be seen again. (Well, the last one got soaked to destruction, but that's another story for another day.) I encourage all who haven't ventured into this highly technical project to build one. Fear not, your efforts will be rewarded. The Volare kit is pretty good, but its few sheet parts can be a cut out easily enough. So, get a-holt of the old Comet plan and have at it. The FAC Rule Book will keep you on the straight and narrow when flown by those rules.



THUMBS AMID THE FRUIT SALAD

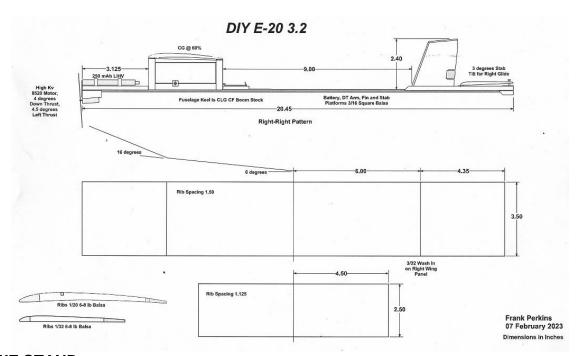
Your eagle-eyed editor checked out the FAC website and noticed the kanone list was updated to February 26 of this year, making it a great time to present our club's standings. Reprising last year's change of policy, we add the ranking of our colleagues from other locales that've flown with us at NG Turf Field and elsewhere over the years. A quick check of the top spot indicates our man Wally has built a bit of a lead on us, but hope springs eternal. In that vein be advised: this year's Chattahoochee Challenge provides the best opportunity to add to your personal kanone tally, as well as club high point totals. So, gird your loins, lads, and enter the fray. The game's afoot.

Air Marshall	<u>Colonel</u>	<u>Captain</u>
Wally Farrell 804	Dohrman Crawford 24	Gary Baughman 9
Mark Fineman 192	John Blair(d) 22	Matthew Canady 7
Dave Niedzielski 92	Oscar Smith(d) 21	•
Wayne Brock(d) 50	George Perryman(d) 20	Lieutenant
, ,		Jim Altenbern 4
Lt. General	Lt. Colonel	Doug DeMasie 4
Oliver Benton 39	David Barfield 18	Caleb Finn 4
Josh Finn 38	John Barker(d) 18	Richard Schneider 4
Gary Morton 37	Tim Lavender 18	Wayne Anderson(d) 3
	Billy Pennington(d) 17	Brook Dixon, Sr. 3
<u>Major General</u>	Hope Finn 16	Jim Jennings 3
Dean McGinnis 30	James Martin 15	Ed Hardin 2
David Mills 30		Al Pardue(d) 2
	<u>Major</u>	Don Peacock(d) 2
Brig. General	Jim Conery 13	Joe Ryan 2
John Diebolt 29	Jimmy Jordan 13	Paul Finn 1
	Karl Hube 11	Frank Hodson(d) 1
		Jim Howell 1
		Barry Sholder 1

THUMBS IN PRINT

Frank Perkins and his latest E20 were featured in the latest NFFS digest, another fine contribution by him to the state of Free Flight's art, science and craft in that category. He makes a very clever survey of several E20 power systems in use, analyses their structure and performance and presents the very lucid and helpful results. Well done, sir. A plan of his flagship in the event, taken shamefully from the issue follows.

Of course, members of the National Free Flight Society have already seen and read it. That not you? You'll find the membership form later in this issue, and you can lighten your burdensome load by joining. You won't regret it. Eyes on you!



WHERE WE STAND

Be sure to study the following club high point rankings. There's been some serious additions and reshuffles from the last issue by the last five contest results. Truly, the game's afoot. Certainly the Finn's are afoot, that is.

Caleb Finn 33	Joe Ryan 5
Doug DeMasie 28	Jim Altenbern 5
Paul Finn 25	James Martin 5
Josh Finn 20	David Barfield 4
David Mills 8	David Fletcher 4
Jim Conery 8	Nick Ray 2
Hope Finn 7	Richard Schneider 1
Frank Perkins 6	Stephen 1
Dohrman Crawford 5	- -

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something in late June. We'll feature the full blown coverage of our Chattahoochee Challenge and the thorough thrashing done by any attending Thumbs at the Indoor Free Flight Nats at Moscow, ID June 1-5. Expect a thorough pimping of the Outdoor Free Flight Muncie, IN July 22-26. Look for coverage of our May outdoor contest and any indoor action that comes over the transom. Gaffed and published it will be. Look out, Moscow!

Once again, your editor beseeches the multitudes to forward anything in the way of articles, plans, photos, rants or raves to these offices. Don't make me work too hard!

JANUARY INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

St Lukes, Dunwoody, GA

Your CD apologies for the lateness of this. (Your editor forgot, too-dm) Life got in the way. (Ditto-dm) I'll do better next time. (Same here-dm) We had a very good turnout at St Lukes for our first indoor of the New Year. Ten fliers competed, and here are the results. Cub reporter Dohrm Crawford reporting.

<u>Ministick</u>		Blue Ridge Special
Josh Finn	8:03	Doug DeMasie 2:07
Nick Ray	7:44	Caleb Finn 1:47
_		Paul Finn 1:30
Easy B		Josh Finn 1:22
Josh Finn	8:25	

	<u>Hand Launch</u>	<u>ı Glider</u>
Hangar Rat	Paul Finn	0:07

Dohrm Crawford	4:20	
Joe Ryan 3:1	5	Phantom Flash
Doug DeMasie	2:17	Caleb Finn 3:08

Joug Delviasie	Z.17	Caleb Finn	3:08
		Hope Finn	2:00
No Cal Scale		Josh Finn	1:31

		Standard CLG	
Chattahoochee C	<u>hallenge</u>	Paul Finn	0:52
Doug DeMasie	2:15	Caleb Finn	0:47

2:07

Cassutt Racer

Richard Schneider	1:00		
		<u>Unlimited CLG</u>	
		Caleb Finn	1:29

MARCH OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

First contest of 2024! The weatherman tried to trick us into believing that showers were in the offing for the afternoon, but as usual he was wrong. Some light rain early, but by the time the faithful started to gather, the rain was over. We had a bit of a problem getting onto the field as our lock had once again been removed. One of the NGTF employees showed up and let us in, and all was well. CD Dohrm Crawford officially named the contest the "Irish Open" in honor of the day and announced that there were special prices for the winners of two events that he had selected, those being P-30 and SCat Jet. Also, in respect for the Irish on this day Dohrman assigned an appropriate Irish first name to each contestant. As usual there was much jovial conversation and light-hearted ribbing as the models were being readied. There were no lost models (kinda-sorta) for the day when Dohrm put in a memorable P-30 flight when his Majestic DT'ed at a good height, and he suddenly remembered forgetting to attach the limit string on the wing! The wing was last seen rotating wildly and climbing in a thermal. However, the fuselage and tail descended rather like a bomb! Upon recovery the fuselage was found to be undamaged, and a new wing put things right.

Angus Mills was awarded the Pot of Gold special prize in P-30 with a bag of Werther Gold Carmel candy, and Muireadach Conery captured the SCAT Jet prize of a large (and tasty) potato. Good day was had by all! We found ourselves locked in at the end of the day, but Dave Barfield had a key so we all exited in parade. Submitted by Muireadach Conery for the ever entertaining CD Shamus O'Crawford. On with the results!

P-30

Angus Mills Hammerhead 216 Cashel Ryan Majestic 134 Muireadach Conery Speckle Bird 123

Shamus O'Crawford Majestic

FAC Rubber Scale

Liam Martin **Nesmith Cougar** 118 Heinkel 100D Angus Mills 113

FAC Dime Scale

Angus Mills Chambermaid 51 FAC Embryo

Liam Martin Supermax II 230 Muireadach Conery Tomahawk 90

FAC Jimmy Allen

Liam Martin Skokie 177

FAC SCAT Jet

Muireadach Conery Deh. Vampire 57





Photos by some drifter

MAY INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

Cochran Rec Center, Cochran, GA

We flew on Saturday in the Cochran Rec Center. Had a very nice day. Turned the blowers on when it heated up and it cooled down nicely. Wish it was not so far away from Atlanta. Also, wish it did not have walls or a ceiling. Josh Finn had a couple of STEM students from Charleston come and trim for their local contest. I can get the gym almost any time, Wednesday, Saturdays or Sundays. Too bad it's so far from Atlanta. Here are the results, Chief Conspirator Doug DeMasie, reporting.

P-18 Caleb Finn Paul Finn Paul Finn 124 135 Josh Finn 78

Catapult Glider

Paul Finn 38 Caleb Finn 32

HLG

Doug DeMasie* 18 Caleb Finn 10

Paul Finn

Blue Ridge Special

Doug DeMasie 139 138

FAC Phantom Flash Caleb Finn 210 Hope Finn 163 Josh Finn 160

FAC No-Cal Scale

Doug DeMasie* Hosler Fury 84

Sport Flyer

Doug DeMasie* 138 Hangar Rat

David Fletcher 254

Doug DeMasie* 184 <u>FAC Embryo</u>

Paul Finn 114
Easy B Josh Finn 85

Hope Finn 7:37 Doug DeMasie* 41

A-6 *Totes Ma Gotes and I hate ceilings and walls

Hope Finn 2:07

APRIL OUTDOOR CONTEST REPORT

NG Turf Field, Whitesburg, GA

Our April Fools contest, on the 28th of April was flown on a windy but nice day. Our contest sunshades were set up more toward the Mighty Hooch than usual. The steady wind from the SE made for a shorter max of 90 seconds to stay out of the trees. It must have worked, as I am not aware of any lost planes, but some close calls. As the day progressed, the wind died down at times, resulting in some very nice flights. We had 14 fliers registered, and lots of models filled the air.

Before I get to the scores, I need to mention something. I realize some of you are working quickly to get as many flights as possible in. Please take the time to write in your scores in a legible manner. Some of you are really bad at writing in your times. In the future, if I am adding up the scores and can't figure out what you wrote, I will just delete that score from your total. Mess with the bull, you get the horns. You have been warned!

29

I feel better now. Scores follow, respectfully submitted, CD Dohrman Crawford.

Blue Ridge Special

108

David Barfield

Dohrman Crawford	46	Dime Scale	
		David Mills	Chambermaid
<u>HLG</u>			

Josh Finn	53	<u>E-36</u>	127
Caleb Finn	70	Paul Finn	
Catapult Glider Josh Finn	200	<u>P-30</u> Hope Finn	212

Frank Perkins 196 Stephen 27

Jim Altenbern 129

Caleb Finn 120 Moffett

Paul Finn 64 Hope Finn 142

David Barfield 55

Stephen 27 SCat Jet
Caleb Finn 51
Peanut Scale Paul Finn 26

David Mills Lacey M-10 70

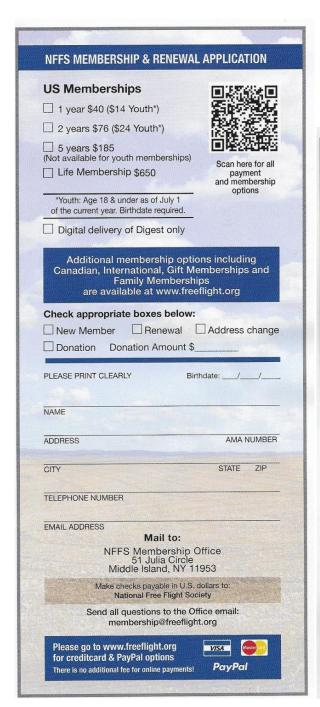


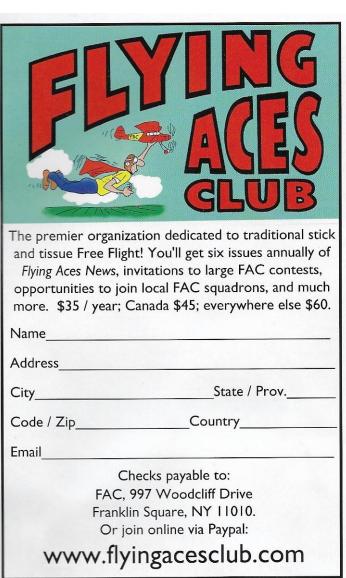
Photos by Dohrman Crawford and editor. Drifter, parts unknown

2024 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name		AMA #	
Address		City, State, Zip	
Other Family Members and AMA #			
Telephone	Email_		

\$20.00/year for each adult in family, no charge for all 18 years or under. Send check payable to TTOMA to James "Diamond Jim" Martin/3901 Bays Ferry Trail/Marietta, GA 30062/jhnmartin1963@gmail.com /404-632-7226





2024

CHATTAHOOCHEE CHALLENGE

June 29-30

Saturday 8:00 - 5:00

Low Point Bonus FAC Scale*#

Guillows Scale

Jimmy Allen/2 Bit Plus 1 combined1

P - 30 No-Cal

Embryo*1

Blue Ridge Special NBM WW II Mass Launch (11:00) Golden Age Mass Launch (1:00)

Fiction Flyer Mass Launch (3:00)

Sunday 8:00 - 3:00

Low Bonus Point Peanut Scale*#

Jet Catapult Scale

Dime Scale*
Simplified Scale

CLG

Embryo NBM*1 Phantom Flash1

WW I Mass Launch (11:00) Combined Racers (1:00)

- * Judging will be done on Sat. morning from 9:00-12:00.
- # Planes can only have 15 bonus points or less.
- ¹ 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 with a max of 120 sec. 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.

- A. CLG has a 90 sec. max.
- B. Low Bonus Point FAC scale and Low Bonus Point Peanut Scale is the best flight out of three.
- C. 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.
- D. Guillows Scale Planes can be modified so that plastic parts are not used. Any modification needs to maintain the scale outline.
- E. All fly offs will be a one round mass launch.

AWARDS: The award ceremony will be 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 Road, Whitesburg, GA 30185

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

Gary Morton (gmorton1@comcast.net)





Kudzu Squadron 13

Kudzu Classic May 18 – 19, 2024 Raeford, N. C.

Saturday, May 18

FAC Mass Launch

WWI Navy Scale Pat Daily Memorial @ Mod Civil / Mod Mil Comb

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

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 19

FAC Mass Launch

WWII Air Racers Comb. GA Multi-wing / GA Monoplane Comb.

FAC Judged / Timed

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

Other

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

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