



The THUMB PRINT
Thermal Thumbers Of Metro Atlanta

www.thermalthumbers.com
David Mills Editor
 (404) 509-4209
 davidmillsatl@gmail.com






July-August, 2022

HEADS UP

Welcome to the fourth issue of the year, a little later than usual, but the content doesn't suffer. It's just chock full of goodies. First up is the report on the Thumbs experience at this year's Muncie Nats. The latest news follows on some of the things club members were up to since the last issue. We're very happy to bring the word of our upcoming annual banquet this winter, details to follow. We close with the two contest reports from this August and September.

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

RENEWAL NAG

If you haven't renewed yet, now's your chance to re-up on the cheap. Yes, our usual one-half membership offer is in effect until the end of the year. So, if you're overcome by guilt, send James Martin a check, signed on the line that is dotted, and mail it to the address indicated. The membership form follows. The nagging for 2022 will hereby end. The nagging for 2023 will begin in the next issue. Thank you for your support.

THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

As you can see below, much opportunity for fun and fellowship remains in 2022. Note the revised dates for the next two indoor contests at Christ Chapel. (Thanks again to Doug DeMasie for his ardent footwork on our behalf.) Only two outdoor dates remain as yet, so don't neglect your temptations to participate. We close our outdoor season with our traditional November Turkey Shoot, hosted by Gary Baughman. The next flyer will broadcast the needed details. Do yourself a big favor and glue some sticks together and show up somewhere to fly it with us. The game's afoot.

- Sept. 24: Indoor Contest. Christ Chapel, Macon, GA
- Oct. 1: Indoor Contest. Christ Chapel, Macon, GA.
- Oct. 1-2: October Hurricane Classic, Raeford, NC (see flyer hereinafter)
- Oct. 16: Last Fling Till Spring. Outdoor Contest. NG Turf. Whitesburg, GA
- Nov. 6: Turkey Shoot. Outdoor Contest. NG Turf. Whitesburg, GA
- Nov. 11: Indoor Contest. Christ Chapel, Macon, GA.
- Jan. 10-12: Outdoor Contest. King Orange International, Palm Bay, FL

THUMBS ON THE MARCH: MUNCIE OUTDOOR NATS

A number of our locals made the 2022 edition of the Nats, though less than last year. This reduction was along the lines of the overall attendance, which most present attributed probably rightly to the absurd gas prices. Was it not ever thus, a wise man once wrote. Still, a good time was had by all. The local posse



Nats photos by Frank Perkins, collage by David Barfield

included your editor, Dohrman Crawford, Graham Selick, Frank Perkins, Graham Webster, Dean McGinnis and the entirety of the Finns.

Most of us did OK and won a trophy or two. The Finns did much better, father, mother and offspring. Their mahogany haul was too bountiful to mention here, so go to the AMA's website and click onto NatsNews for a full accounting.

Socially, it was as good as in years past. The official functions were great. Both the banquet and cookout and raffle were a real hoot, the latter soiree offering the best in memory, a literal mountain of prizes, giveaways, brauts, side dishes and cold snacks to be had. Overall, we did OK on all counts. The only downer was the 12 Street Café has a new owner and wasn't serving supper yet, only breakfast and lunch because that shift's staff wasn't all hired yet. Next year it should be fine for après flying repasts. .

Weather-wise, it was a blessing. The temps were a godsend. The hottest day hovered over 85 degrees for a while, but the rest of the week was low eighties down to high seventies. Perfect. The nighttime temps were much cooler. One night got down to 62 degrees, all week a real treat to the campers. Camp David was a bit lean in population this year with only Dohrman and your trusty editor to brave the lovely elements. (At five dollars, American, per night camping fee, the advantage over the hotels/motels in the area can't be beat.)

THUMBS ON THE WEB

Not too long ago I was NatsNews editor for many years. In the course of that one of the photos I took made its way to the NFFS homepage. You might recall it, the head on shot of Dohrman Crawford launching his Jabberwock. A very good action photo, if I do say so myself.

Well, at the recent Chattahoochee Challenge Dohrman Crawford took a shot of David Barfield launching his Fokker DVIII, a first rate photo and model. You might recall it from the last newsletter. I forwarded it to NFFS webmaster Alan Petersen and recommended it for addition to the NFFS homepage's header photo scroll. He gave it his due consideration and added it! Thank you, sir.

THUMBS AT THE BENCH

The Thumbs stay busy at the workbench. Two such busy soul provided the follows photos. The first is from Jim Conery, a Curtiss of some sort I'd guess. He mentioned he's had it done for some time, but hasn't spawned the *cajones* for test flights. Really, Jim? If there's one thing we've learned a long time ago, it's if you can build it, you can certainly fix it.

Our man Dohrman Crawford forwarded his brand new "Maxout" Embryo from the Josh Finn stable. We know it'll fly; they all do. No doubt about that because it has red wings, and we all know those fly better. Give that prop a look for the next blurb. Well done, the both of you.



THUMBS AT THE LEADING EDGE

Dohrman forwarded a couple of shots of his new prop-forming jig and the resulting prop. The jig is a new addition to the great product line of Volare/Shorty's Basement. It must work just fine if his prop is

any indication. Ergo, I'd wager that jig is a smart purchase. One thing about it caught my eye. The prop's platform and general layout is identical to those carved by the late, great John Blair, resounding praise for sure. George Bredehoff's website is worth some browsing. .



THUMBS AT THE BENCH: SAME CHURCH, DIFFERENT PEW

We were very pleased to have a visitor to our September contest, Eugene Rush, from Fayetteville. He's a RC flier who dabbles in Free Flight and showed up to see the club in action. (He's since joined, BTW.) He's an interesting dude with a number of cool interests, one of which is plastic modeling. He forwarded the following photos taken at the last IPMS Show. As you can see, he's pretty good and should be cranking out some great Free Flight models shortly. Also, Josh Finn and I are very excited because he's also an amateur astronomy nut with a lot of impressive gear, and I for one am suffering from some serious aperture envy.



ANNUAL BANQUET? YES, WE'RE HAVING ANOTHER ONE!

One of the truly bothersome aspects of the dreaded pandemic is our having to forego our annual banquet. The last one was 2020, if memory serves. All of us look forward to it all year long, as do our wives, girlfriends, mistresses and life partners, the latter, if you're more exotically affiliated. An effort has been underway to renew our annual soiree, led principally by Dohrman Crawford. It hasn't been easy, however, and as we all know, success is where preparation meets opportunity.

This writer prides himself on knowing where everything is in our sprawling metro area and how to get there. Rarely am I this shocked to be so unaware of a nugget like the following. My fellow Thumbs, let me introduce the Lost Corners Preserve and their event Cottage in Sandy Springs. (Google this immediately, it's amazing.) There, nestled on a 24-acre scenic nature preserve with hiking paths and exhibits galore, is a great facility for events such as ours. Open to the public, it's been around for ages, and it only costs twenty-five dollars, American, per hour?! It's located at the intersection of Brandon Mill Road and Dalrymple/Riverside Drive, smack dab in the middle of the Sandy Springs suburbs. They don't have in-house chefs and staff, so clients cater their meals, and at this juncture, we're thinking City BBQ. The Preserve hosts weddings, family reunions, corporate and other functions, so our needs are easy to be met. Their website gives a fuller presentation, but the following photos shows the stately manor and the

two rooms inside that can well serve as the banquet and show-and-tell rooms. All this sounds and looks great. Well done, Dohrman! The final date for the banquet will be made shortly, so stay tuned.



A YOUNG MAN IN THE RECORD BOOKS

Young Caleb Finn made his mark in the record books recently by setting new Junior records in E-36 and A and B Electric. He didn't just ski downhill, either. He posted five maxes and a partial. Let's let Josh tell the full story:

"With the rules change in 2022, making the first fly-off in E-36 go straight to a 5-second motor run, all the records got reset, so this provided an opportunity for Caleb to go after the Junior record with no real pressure. Apparently the Junior records for Electric A and B got reset somewhere along the way, too, so they're all open. We went to the September TTOMA Sunday contests in Whitesburg on a day with decent lift and winds in the 10 mph range. I gave my "Sunstreak" to Caleb to try out since his "Top Banana" is a bit dicey on trim. His first two launches were a bit flat, but the "Sunstreak" is very gentle in its trim, and it pulled away very nicely. The climb is decently fast, usually 80-90 m in 5 seconds, so on a 9-second climb he just had to stay out of bad air. Hope called air for him on all flights, and he was in buoyant air on all but the last flight (fly-off #3). On the 5th flight the model pulled to the left and only got to half its usual altitude for a 5-second motor run. However it was in massive lift and just kept going up, hitting dangerously high altitude by 2 minutes and landing just short of the buildings at the edge of the field. We disappointing, Caleb was super excited with having made it that far. Since the flight procedure and motor runs/maxes are the same for all three of the found afterwards that the back of the fuselage must have cracked during retrieval from the first fly-off. This was repaired, and the flight pattern returned to normal on the 3rd fly-off, but unfortunately, the air was not what we had thought, and it sank like a rock. While that was aforementioned classes, he got three records out of the deal. Pretty awesome flying, and he has a new favorite airplane. Good thing I built myself a new E-36 this year!"



BOY HOWDY

You never know who you're going to meet at the Nats. At the first of many flying site HQs of one day, Frank and I set in our usual way and begin getting some trimming flights in. Well, guess who pulls up beside us? Well, you might recognize the fellow in the adjoining photo. Yes, Alexander Andruikov, perhaps the best Wakefield flier and designer who ever put a foot on dirt. We chatted briefly, which was a treat. I can tell you this. He smiles a lot, doesn't say much but seems very alert, and spent much of the time after our chat intently watching the weather and model flying nearby. A change of HQ soon had him and everyone else scampering off.

As fate would have it, I had another chance to watch him up close later in the week. He made the Wakefield fly-offs, and right before the final flight the next morning I happened to drive by and pulled over to watch the master at work. What happened was unexpected. Alex and the other fellow were the only two left, and they started winding. Both loaded their models and got set to launch. The other guy didn't wait too long and launched, and it didn't look promising. Alex started to slowly adding ratchet turns into his motor and waited for better air. He waited and finally added one too many ratchet turns and blew his motor. It exploded like a rifle shot. Unflustered, he removed his old motor, wound another one and reloaded it into his model, the seconds ticking away. Like before, he occasionally added a few ratchet turns, waiting for signs of lift. Well, guess what happened? His second motor exploded with only seconds to spare. He calmly removed his motor, slowly dropped his model onto the ground and raised his arms to signal a proper sportsman's acknowledgement of fate.

I don't think the other guy maxed. Looking back, it was rather heartening to us other mere mortals. Even the world's best can screw up. There's a big lesson in that somewhere.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Dohrman Crawford provided the adjoining photo to the Muncie Police Department at the recent AMA Nats, and MPD requests the public's help in eradicating public urination in Delaware County, IN.

Can you identify this man? MPD seeks this offender's name and likely whereabouts in connection with their anti-public urination campaign. It's easy to assist MPD in this regard. Just use their confidential helpline, 1-WEN-OSE-EPEE (1-936-673-3733) and get involved. MPD thanks you in advance.



NEW LAMPS FOR OLD

Since we're having a club banquet next year, we're awarded trophies for various achievements in Free Flight wonderfulness, as is our wont. Ergo, if you have any of the old club's mahogany sitting around, do what you can to get it into my or David Barfield's hands. We need to update them for the deserving. Many thanks in advance.

VANDALS, A CALL TO ARMS

I read somewhere recently the Michael's stores were no longer selling Design Master floral spray. I was running some errands the other day and stepped into a couple of them. As foretold, no Design Master in

the familiar rattle can was to be seen, unfortunate for the Free Flight modeler because it's very useful to us. But, not to worry, a quick web cruise indicated it can be ordered from the Michael's website and other big boxes like the Amazon megalith.

I'll order mine from Michael's. Evil oligarch Bezos has enough money already, and I'm not forgiving him for paying only twelve dollars, American, in Federal income taxes last year. Look it up, if you don't believe me. Class struggle takes many forms, and like the brick-and-mortar stores, the Michael's website has a vandal section!

A FURTHER RECKONING

We've added the results from two more contests, and the new summation follows. The new totals testify that we're a busy club, plying our craft indoors and outdoors, but we're done by any means. We've two more indoor contests at Christ Church in Macon, plus two outdoor contests at NG Turf in Whitesburg. So, if you want to up your totals for Fame and Glory, show up somewhere with a model airplane and fly it. The game's afoot.

Dohrman Crawford	63	David Fletcher	10
Doug DeMasie	49	Bill Gowen	10
David Mills	48	Jim Altenbern	8
James Martin	46	Gary Morton	6
Jim Conery	29	Joe Ryan	3
Jimmy Jordan	17	Dan Crews	3
David Barfield	15	Nick Ray	3
Frank Perkins	13	Lee Russell	1
Dan Crews	13	Dean McGinnis	1
Ed Hardin	10		

NEXT ISSUE

Look for something is about a month. The main feature will be the Turkey Shoot flyer for the big, season-ending outdoor contest on November 6. It's always a hoot. Look for further details on our annual banquet and further indoor dates. Be there or be square, and besides, we'll talk about you. And once again, I beseech the multitudes for contributions in the way of articles, photos, plans, rants or raves! Don't make me work too hard. Ciao, y'all!

LAST HALF 2022 TTOMA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ AMA# _____

Address _____ State and Zip Code _____

Other Family Members and AMA # _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

\$10.00/year for adults and other adult family members in same household. Only good through 12/31/2022. 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](mailto:jhnmartin1963@gmail.com)



Carolina Area Free Flight
Association



**Kudzu Flying
Corps**

FAC Squadron 13

**October Hurricane 2022 Free Flight Contest
Raeford, N. C. October 1 - 2, 2022**

Saturday, October 1

FAC Combined Racers Mass Launch
FAC Embryo (ROG)
FAC Peanut
FAC Phantom Flash (ROG)
FAC WW 1 Mass Launch
FAC 2 Bit+1 (ROG)
AMA E-36
AMA Hand Held Catapult
AMA P-30
Non-Scale Flying Horde Mass Launch #

Sunday, October 2

FAC Blue Ridge Special
FAC Dime Scale
FAC Jet Catapult
FAC No-Cal
FAC Simplified Scale
FAC WW 2 Mass Launch
NFFS E-20
SAM Twin Pusher Mass Launch
Scale Flying Horde Mass Launch ##

Saturday Non-Scale Flying Horde Mass Launch

Any non-scale rubber powered model airplane of 26 inch wing span or less. Last one down wins. A "for fun" event. No FAC kanone.

Sunday Scale Flying Hoard Mass Launch

Any scale rubber powered model airplane of 26 inch wing span or less. Last one down wins. A "for fun" event. No FAC kanone.

Motorized chase vehicles allowed on roadways only

**Water and soft drinks provided
On field comfort facility**

Contacts: Contest Director: **John Diebolt** jdiebolt@mindspring.com 919 467-1025

CAFFA Secretary: **Jimmy Jordan** jjordan18@ec.rr.com

Entry Fee: \$10.00 (Juniors Free) Covers 2 days of flying

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

AUGUST INDOOR CONTEST REPORT

CD Nick Ray reports about a half dozen fliers showed up at Christ Church in Macon and flew a bunch of unofficial flights early in the day. However, around mid-afternoon the HVAC switched on and got the air stirred up. Not to fault the church because it was probably on automatic and wasn't programmed off for us. Regardless, the air was pretty much messed up, and that put a damper on flying. Things round down after that, and everybody went home. Stuff happens, and we look forward to flying at Christ Church next time.

SIZZLE WHILE YOU FIZZLE CONTEST REPORT

The day started beautifully and ten stalwart Thumbs gathered on the sod farm flying field to launch balsa, tissue, rubber, wire, occasional composite and even some electric creations aloft in hopes of fame and glory. All that and there was still time to sit in shade tents, eat lunches, time flights for others, make long retrieval walks, tell tall tales, solve world problems, make plans for how we would be more prepared for the next event, and share building secrets and techniques. It's difficult to concentrate on such things while feasting on the most heavenly snicker doodle's provided by Doug and Debbie DeMasie! Cookies are not safe around the Thumbs, and we all do appreciate them! The event of the month was SCAT Jet and a number of contestants flew a variety of models. As winner of the monthly event, Dohrm Crawford received his entry fee returned. As I left the field, Jim Altenbern was heading out to search for his wayward BRS which may have been the only lost model of the day.

In conclusion, the only thought I have is more flyers at contests would equal more events flown which would equal more flights scored which equals more fun for all. Come on down and fly! CD Jim Conery reporting.

"Live free or die, death is not the worse evil", Gen. John Stark, New Hampshire.

SCat Jet

Dorhm Crawford P-80 81
Doug DeMasie F-86 54
Jim Conery Vampire 11

FAC No-Cal Scale

Doug DeMasie Folkert Racer 28

P-30

Jim Altenbern Square Eagle 341
James Martin U-Crawl 211

FAC Old Time Rubber

James Martin Sparky 294

E-20

Frank Perkins DIY E20 3.0 268
Jim Altenbern 209
Doug DeMasie 149

FAC Simplified Scale

James Martin Buster 103

F1G

David Mills Coupe de Brie 101

FAC Embryo

Jim Conery Max-Out 218
Gary Morton Prairie Bird 183

F1B

David Mills Loose Ends 65

Catapult Glider

Doug DeMasie 201

Moffett

David Mills Mof-It Mk 2bis 142



August scenes, NG Turf, photos by Frank Perkins, collage by David Barfield



September scenes, NG Turf, photos by Frank Perkins, collage by David Barfield

SUMMER SWAN SONG CONTEST REPORT

Sunday morning was overcast and drizzly. I didn't expect too many flyers to show up. Well. I was wrong!!! We had 11 flyers register for the event. The skies opened up after lunch and a great day for flying emerged. We also had several Junior fliers out there. Caleb Finn set 3 records in E-36 Junior category. Congrats to Caleb. Dohrm Crawford won the BRS Old Goat Smackdown. Way to go, Dohrm. A special "thank you" to Debbie DeMasie for the delicious cookies. For those who didn't make it, you missed a good time. CD Lee Russell, reporting. Here are the times:

Goat Smackdown/BRS

Dohrm Crawford 260
 Doug DeMasie 244
 Joe Ryan 240
 James Martin 143
 David Barfield 66

P-30

David Mills 75

Catapult Glider

Frank Perkins 188
 Jim Altenbern 26

E-36

Caleb Finn 120 120 120 120 120 78*

SCat Jet

Doug Demasie F-86 54
 Dohrman Crawford Canberra 42

Coupe/F1G

David Mills 189

Moffett

David Mills 62

*new national records pending

NFFS MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL APPLICATION	<p>Mail to: NFFS Membership Office 51 Julia Circle Middle Island, NY 11953</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Make checks payable to National Free Flight Society</p> <p>Dues include a mandatory \$0.50 per year for NFFS membership.</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Youth: Age 18 & under as of July 1 of the current year</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you desire <i>Digest</i> delivery via email. This saves valuable funds on printing/ mailing, and you receive your <i>Digest</i> about 3 weeks sooner. As a bonus, the <i>eDigest</i> contains exclusive additional content in each issue.</p> <p>Canadian Memberships (all ages) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years \$98.00 (printed <i>Digest</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year \$50.00 (printed <i>Digest</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years \$58.00 (<i>eDigest</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years \$30.00 (<i>eDigest</i>)</p> <p>Non-US/Non-Canadian Residents (all ages) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years \$58.00 (<i>eDigest</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year \$30.00 (<i>eDigest</i>)</p> <p>Life Membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00</p>
To help reduce expenses maintaining NFFS records, PLEASE renew for at least two years. Thank you!	
<p>Check appropriate boxes below:</p> <p>New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Address Change <input type="checkbox"/> Donation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Amount: \$ _____ Current expiration date: Mo./Yr.: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____ AMA#: _____</p> <p>City, State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____ Email: _____</p> <p>Send all renewals, address changes, applications, and membership questions to the Membership Office, email: <membership@freeflight.org>.</p>	
Please go to www.freeflight.org for credit card renewals.	

