

CLOUD CLIMBERS
of S. E. LOUISIANA

Hot Air

Edited by:

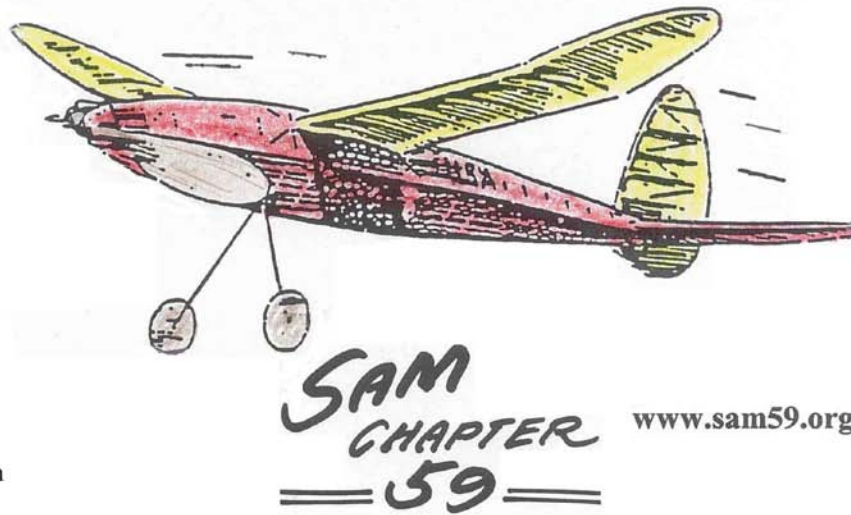
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November December 2009

The 2009 PFFT Gathering of the Turkeys Meet

Bob Junk was one of the founding fathers of the Pensacola Free Flight Team, or PFFT, and he came all the way from Oklahoma, where he now lives, to fly with us, and tell stories and other lies. He was one of three who received the newly-minted Cat-Ass-Trophy Award this weekend, for using his new gassie as a post hole digger. I found him under the registration tent, and learned that the first Turkey event was in 1975. The name derived from a sarcastic remark made by a some west coast club members who were beaten by the Pensacola Club at the 1974 AMA Nats in Lake Charles, LA. The remark was something to the effect "We can't believe that a bunch of turkeys from Pensacola could beat us." Henceforth, the October meet, which had been held for many years prior to that under another name, became "The Gathering of the Turkeys."

Some years later in the late 1980's, your editor became tired of providing comic relief for the R/C clubs in the New Orleans area, who seemed to have the only flying fields down here "in de South". So one weekend on a whim, I drove to Pensacola and signed up to fly rubber FF with Bob Junk under the tent. "New Orleans, eh?" he said. "There's a whole bunch of rubber fliers here, right from your area. I put them down there at the end of the flight line, so they wouldn't hurt anyone." And so, for me, it started.

Now let's move on to today. The 2009 Gathering of the Turkeys is back at U.S. Navy Site 8A, a helicopter training field. It is located about a mile south of Interstate 10, just across the Alabama/Florida state line. It is all nice soft thick grass and bordered by woods and housing. It is a two-minute field on a windy day, and a retrieval system is always a good idea. But this October weekend the winds were light, and often dead calm, Saturday and Sunday. Monday was a little breezy, and care was needed to stay on the field.

The contest director was President and FAC Staffelfuehrer George White, assisted in registration by the charming Joyce White, and Lou Cumpston. Also, Paul Grabski and Lou did all the scale judging on Friday night, so really, George didn't do all that much except set the meet up and get the word out. More than a few must have stayed home because of dismal weather reports, but we 36 who did show up and fly experienced nothing short of a FF flyer's dream - sunny days, light or no wind, and lush, green Navy grass.

Gene Smith came from Stillwater, Oklahoma, and won firsts in 7 events: AMA 1/2 A Gas, 1/4 A and A NOS Gas, FAC Dime Scale and Peanut, Thompson/Greve Race combined, and Embryo. From Broken Arrow in the same state, Bob Hanford won 4 events: two with his Satellite 450 gas job. They both went home with an armload of quality balsa, which CD George had shipped from a secret site known only as "Area 52". They weren't the only ones who came a distance. Mike Moskow journeyed from Severna Park, Maryland to win Small Rubber Stick with his Korda C, and garner a second with his Jim Williams Mulvihill. This model was flown by three of the top four Mulvihill fliers, by the way. Mike is better known for flying his Don Garafalo's Heaven Bound in Large Rubber Stick events all over the country. But he only managed a fifth place here in Florida. Louisiana's Scott Cannon took the win with his Lanzo Duplex stick version.

Veteran Gene Wicks drove down from Normal, Illinois to win two Nostalgia events, 1/2 A and B/C Gas combined, both using T-Birds. Our good friend Ron Fritz and wife drove down from Michigan to fly his Sparky, but did not place. Ed Hardin came from Tennessee to get a second place in Large Rubber Stick, and smiling Al Pardue traveled with his wife from Alabama to take a second in Gollywock, a fourth in Mulvihill, and a fifth in small fuselage. It was really a thrill for me to see so many great fliers travel so far to compete, and have a lot of fun at the same time.

A large part of the contest consisted of ten Flying Aces individual events plus WW I and WW II mass launches. Many people bemoan the demise of free flight, lack of young fliers, too few flying fields, and so on. But the Flying Aces Club is doing just fine, and growing, thank you. The PFFT has many enthusiastic members who fly these events, and the Turkey attracts the likes of Stew Meyers and Dan Driscoll of the DC Maxcutters, as well as Texans Rich Adams and Mike Midkiff, the latter rumored to also be from North of the Mason Dixon Line. (The proper thing for ex-Yankees to say is, "I wasn't born in the South, but I got here as quick as I could!")

Scale events mean judging, and there were four tables groaning with free flight scale models Friday night at the Pensacola Microtel Inn. Paul Grabski and Lou Cumpston spent several hours going over the large assortment of FAC Scale models as well as Peanuts and jet catapult scale models.

Best to me in the show that evening were the exquisite peanut scale models of Stew Meyers, George White's Fokker D-VII in Hermann Goering white livery, and the Fokker Dr. 1 and deHavilland DH-4 by Rich Adams.

Saturday dawned bright and clear, with not a hint of the rain predicted. Mike Midkiff flew his Sea Hornet in FAC Rubber scale to a win, followed within 3 points by George white and his Goering D-VII, and Richard Adams flew his immaculate Curtiss Jenny to third place. The wind was light and variable all day.

Sunday's main FAC event was the WW I Mass Launch. Mike Midkiff stayed up longest with his Albatross D3, followed by the three Fokker D-VII's of George White, Richard Adams and Paul Grabski. The WW II Mass Launch was held on Monday, and won by Gene Smith and his Fiat G55, followed closely by Mike Midkiff and his P-51 Mustang. FAC Peanut Scale, also on Monday, was won by Gene Smith and his amazing Grumman F7F fighter.

I have since traded pictures with many who were there, and everyone agreed it was one of the best Turkey meets ever.

2009 Gathering of the Turkeys — Results

Event	AMA 1/2A Gas			Event	AMA C/D Gas		
Place	(AMA Power)	Model	Time	Place	(AMA Power)	Model	Time
1	Gene Smith	Maverick	696	1	Bob Hanford	Hoosier Hotshot	324
2	Gene Wicks	T-Bird	683	2	Tom Bell	Jaysbird	228
3	Bob Hanford	Pilfered Pearl	587	Event	1/4A NOS Gas		
4	Tom Bell	Quiksilver	328	Place	(NFFS Power)	Model	Time
5	Graham Selick	Kiwi	314	1	Gene Smith	Hot Head	354
6	Willy Bell	Zero	139	2	Gene Wicks	T-Bird	312
Event	NOS A Gas			3	Bob Hanford	T-Bird	207
Place	NFFS Power	Model	Time	4	Doug Petty	Strato Streak	198
1	Gene Smith	Lucky Lindy	466	Event	AMA 1/2 A Classic Gas		
2	Bob Hanford	Lucky Lindy	460	Place	(AMA Power)	Model	Time
Event	A/B Classic Gas			1	Graham Selick	Original	424
Place	(AMA Power)	Model	Time	2	Bob Hanford	Pilfered Pearl	317
1	Bob Hanford	Satellite 450	360	3	Gene Smith	Maverick	284
2	Gene Smith	Pilfered Pearl	317	Event	NOS 1/2 A Gas		
3	Tom Bell	Marvel	316	Place	(NFFS)	Model	Time
Event	AMA A/B Gas			1	Gene Wicks	T-Bird	356
Place	(AMA Power)	Model	Time	2	Bob Hanford	Jays Bird	325
1	Bob Hanford	Satellite 450	600	3	Graham Selick	Ramrod 250	320
2	Graham Selick	Mini Pearl	240	4	Gene Smith	Zero	310
3	Tom Bell	Sloworm	214	5	Tom Bell	Jays Bird	240
Event	C/D Classic Gas			6	Charley Shepherd	Zeke	67
Place	(AMA Power)	Model	Time	Event	NOS B/C Gas		
1	Bob Hanford	Hossier Hotshot	590	Place	(NFFS)	Model	Time
Event	Early NOS 1/2A Gas			1	Gene Wicks	T-Bird	840
Place	(NFFS)	Model	Time	2	Gene Smith	Ramrod	803
1	Bob Hanford	Ambition	256	3	Bob Hanford	Hoosier Hotshot	420
Event	Large Stick Rubber			Event	OT B/C Gas Pylon/Cabin		
Place	(SAM)	Model	Time	Place	(Sam)	Model	Time
1	Scott Cannon	Lanzo Duplex Stick	870	1	Scott Cannon	Alert	41
2	Ed Hardin	Smith Mulvihill	664	Event	Mulvihill		
3	Richard Adams	Smith Mulvihill	505	Place	(AMA)	Model	Time
4	Bob Erpelding	Housier Hi-Flier	345	1	Ed Hardin	Jim Williams	540
5	Mike Moskow	Heaven Bound	216	2	Mike Moskow	Jim Williams	503
6	Al Pardue	Lanzo Stick	153	3	George White	Senator	360
Event	Small Fuselage Rubber			4	Al Pardue	Jim Williams	327
Place	(SAM)	Model	Place	Event	Moffett		
1	Scott Cannon	Double Feature	498	Place	(AMA)	Model	Time
2	Dan Driscoll	Jr. Commercial	401	1	Jim Bethea	Joe Williams	583
3	Stew Meyers	Flyabout	386	2	Ed Hardin	Joe Williams	353
4	Jerry Klingaman	Altimeter	347	3	Doug Petty	Original Design	240
	Al Pardue	Double Feature	289	Event	Small Stick Rubber		
6	Carl Bakay	Wren	236	Place	(SAM)	Model	Place
7	Bob Erpelding	Box Car	97	1	Mike Moskow	Korda C	540
8	Ed Hardin	Double Feature	93	2	Al Pardue	Gollywock	364
Event	Large Fuselage Rubber			3	Chris Woody	Gollywock	334
Place	(SAM)	Model	Place	4	Scott Cannon	Casano	323
1	Ed Hardin	Korda DT	347	5	Doug Petty	Gollywock	120
Event	P-30			Event	Hand Launch Glider		
Place	(AMA)	Model	Time	Place	AMA	Model	Time
1	Gary Morton	Modified Marie	476	1	Gary Morton	Dyno-Mite	283
2	Jack Coyle	Majestyk	453	2	Jeff Dunlap	Maxine 36	208
3	Stew Meyers	Tail Firster	329	3	Paul Grabski	Turn-Up	181
4	Gene Smith	Sweet P30	323	Event	Catapult Launch Glider		
5	Dan Driscoll	Thermal Bagger	302	Place	(AMA)	Model	Time
6	Al Pardue	Potent P30	271	1	Paul Grabski	Lil Mat	145
7	Mike Tyre	Majestyk	267	2	Jeff Dunlap	Pickle Special	85
8	Charlie King	Souper 30	265	Event	FAC OT/SAM Commercial Rubber		
9	Charlie Shepherd	Original Design	151	Place		Model	Time
Event	Classic Towline Glider			1	Jack Coyle	Miss Canada	335
Place	(NFFS)	Model	Time	2	Miss Canada	Miss Canada	248
1	Paul Grabski	Foxyy	206				

2009 Gathering of the Turkeys — Results

Event	FAC Two-Bit Rubber			Event	E-36		
Place	Model	Time	Place	(NFFS)	Model	Time	
1	Paul Grabski	King Harry	306	1	Graham Selick	Sparks	349
2	Stew Meyers	F. A. Moth	278	Event Thompson/Greve Race Mass Launch			
3	George White	Skokie	266	Place (FAC) Model			
4	Dan Driscoll	Jr. Commercial	208	1	Gene Smith	Smoothie	
5	Carl Bakay	F.A. Moth	148	2	George White	Cessna CR3	
Event World War I Mass Launch				3	Olie Benton	Chambermaid	
Place (FAC) Model				4	Bob Gourdon	Chambermaid	
1	Mike Midkiff	Albatross D3		5	Paul Grabski	Marcoux Bromberg	
2	George White	Fokker D7		Event FAC Rubber Scale			
3	Richard Adams	Fokker D7		Place (FAC) Model Score			
4	Paul Grabski	Fokker D7		1	Mike Midkiff	Sea Hornet	145
5	Olie Benton	Dornier		2	George White	Fokker D7	141
5	Stew Meyers	Bristol Scout		3	Richard Adams	Curtiss Jenny	133
Event FAC Dime Scale				4	Olie Benton	Mauboissin	112
Place Model Score				5	Charlie Shepherd	Piper PA16	97
1	Gene Smith	Fiat G55	290	6	Bob Gourdon	Fairchild 24	75
2	Mike Midkiff	Fairchild PT19	266	7	Paul Grabski	Marcoux Bromberg	61
3	Stew Meyers	Beech D17	220	8	Stew Meyers	Sopwith Camel	60
4	George White	Beech D17	206	Event Embryo			
5	Gary Morton	Fairchild PT19	200	Place (FAC) Model Score			
6	Olie Benton	Beech D17	174	1	Gene Smith	Go Devil	369
7	Charlie King	Rearwin Cloudster	138	2	Gary Morton	Prairie Bird	327
8	Charlie Shepherd	Rearwin Sportster	107	3	Richard Adams	Debut	318
Event World War II Mass Launch				4	Dan Driscoll	Future Nit	312
Place (FAC) Model				5	Charlie Shepherd	MicroX Hornet	228
1	Gene Smith	Fiat G55		6	Stew Meyers	Asymbryo	192
2	Mike Midkiff	P-51		7	Paul Grabski	Debut	156
3	Olie Benton	Barracuda		Event FAC Jet Catapult Scale			
4	Rich Adams	Seawolf		Place Model Score			
5	George White	P39		1	Paul Grabski	Mig15	102
6	Paul Grabski	Ki61		2	Bob Gourdon	A6A	83
7	Charlie King	Brewster Buffalo		4	Gary Morton	F89-D	67
8	Gary Morton	Ki61		5	Jack Coyle	A6A	53
9	Stew Meyers	Mig3		Event FAC Golden Age Civil			
10	Charlie Shepherd	SNJ		Place Model Score			
Event FAC Peanut Scale				1	Olie Benton	Falke Dornier	198
Place Model Score				2	Gene Smith	Corben Super Ace	168
1	Gene Smith	Grumman F7F	129	3	Richard Adams	Cessna C34	97
2	George White	Lemberger	101	4	Charlie King	Brewster Buffalo	48
3	Gary Morton	Lacey M10	99	Event FAC Power Scale			
4	Charlie King	Nesmith Cougar	80	Place Model Score			
				1	Mike Midkiff	Besson MB411	195
				2	Richard Adams	SE5	186
				3	Stew Meyers	SE5	185

A TALE OF ONE WOMAN'S VIEW OF FREEFLIGHT MODELERS

Not all women view freeflight in the same light. Years ago, a local, dedicated modeler took a lady friend (just a buddy--no romantic relationship) out to our site 8A to fly one of his endurance birds. His bird left the field, so he jumped in the car and took off after it. The woman was left sitting in the middle of the field in a folding chair in a dress, would you believe (I think it was Sunday after church). He got tangled up off the field in barbed wire and an electric fence. A drenching storm of solid water passed over the middle of the field while he was headed back. Too late. When he reached the launch site, she was still sitting in the chair completely drenched in her dress with most everything showing through.

Later, someone with whom she did have a romantic relationship proposed marriage. She told her friends that she only asked him one question: "Do you build freeflight model airplanes?" He said "No." That was the right answer. They got married.



Paul Grabski & Lou Compston Judging Scale



Carl Bakay and His Heeb Wren and Mouth Open



Jim Bethea and New (?) Moffett. Won First Place!



Scott Cannon and Alert Ignition OT, First Place



Al Pardue's Double Feature Placed Fifth



Bob Gourdon's Fairchild 24 Placed 6th in FAC Rubber Scale



Mike Midkiff's P-51 Got a Second in WWII Mass Launch



Rich Adams and Seawolf Placed Fourth in WWII Mass Launch



Ed Hardin Won Mulvihill



Ollie Benton and Dornier, Fifth in Mass Launch



Paul 's Marcoux Bromberg Racer was 5th in Thompson/Greve and 7th in FAC Scale



Rich Adams Incredible Fokker Dr. I Triplane

EMMETT ADKINS PASSES ON

A friend since 2003 that we could always count on to be at the flying field with models in the air, Emmett Adkins, caught his last thermal on 1 September, 2009. Emmett served as a board member of the PFFT for several years, and was always ready to expound the virtues of the University of Tennessee football team!! Emmett served in the U.S. Army and survived the brutal battles in the frozen north of Korea during that war. After the Korean War he had a successful 28 year career as an accountant for the Ford Motor Company

He started building and flying rubber model airplanes while in his teens, and when he married Kay, he insisted that he have space in their tiny apartment to build models. After a number of years, as he ran out of buddies to fly with, he became corrupted into the game of golf. Only when he moved to Mobile did he get back into the model game with the PFFT and he did so with a bang. He seemed to be able to crank out an old-time rubber model every week.

Even as arthritis and continual heart problems slowed him down, he would come out and fly, even if his flying required his beautiful wife's help. We all miss him, and your friendly editor will miss having no one to harass for having the "wrong" color orange "T" on his hat with, since mine is in the burnt orange of Texas.

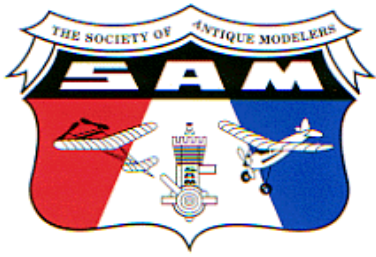
- George White, reprinted from the PFFT *Thermalier*

2009 EVENT CALENDAR

Dec 29,30,31 FMA hosts the **King Orange International**, Palm Bay Florida. sponsored by the Florida Modeler's Association, Palm Bay, FL. AAA AMA Cat III Contest, NFFS National Cup, America's Cup Contest
CD Joe Clawson, 401 Almansa St NE, Palm Bay, FL 32907, claw3132@msn.com .

SAM 59 members fly most weekends when the weather is agreeable at the Simpson Sod Farm, just North of Folsom, LA. 8 am til 4 pm. No gas RC. AMA license required. Newbies and visitors welcome.

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F.A.C. GULFHAWKS
SQUADRON #68