



Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

June 1998

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXII Number 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha! From the Kona coast of Hawaii – then we are off to Maui and finally Kauaii. No, I didn't bring anything to fly – designed that way on my part. The only things I have observed are those native to the islands - frigate birds and their bro in the air – mantarays and their bro under the sea. Hobbyshops for our sport are like hens teeth and those involved in the guiding of gliders are even more clandestine. We in RMSA are sometimes wont to gripe and grumble over the slightest mundane issues. In reality, when one gets beyond his own neighborhood – the grass is not greener in most places. We in RMSA are truly blessed! We have a cadre of devoted people who keep the ship afloat and steered in the right direction for the greatest benefit to all the 70-75

total membership who have a love for flight – be it budding or rabid – R&R or contest interests! Hope the open contest went well! I'll be back in time to CD the HLG contest at the end of the month.

If you are interested in upgrading your skill levels – why not get in touch with our Bob Douglas and get into the LSF (League of Silent Flight) program; it's well worth the effort! See "LSF News" in this newsletter for more information!

Time for a Kona coffee refill and more R&R for me and mine – until then:

Mahalo! Jack Zika

Next Meeting

Date/Time: June 2, 1998 7:00 PM

Location: Newgate Apts.
10400 W. 44th Ave.
Wheatridge, Co.

*Steps to meeting room are behind
the building near the pool.*



JUNSOAR – June 7, 1998 – CD Phil Weigle (303) 341-9256

Registration: 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM
Pilot's Meeting: 9:00 AM
First Round: 9:30 AM
General Entry Fee: \$5.00
Junior Entry Fee: \$3.00

Current (1998) AMA membership is required and must be shown.

Awards: To 5th overall plus top Sportsman and Novice

Tasks: T-3 Precision Duration – six rounds or more
Landing Option L4 – 25 foot radius circle
Flight Order – Man On Man

Flight Qualification: Sailplane must land on sod portion of field for flight to count

- RMSA pop-off rule will be in force
- All other AMA rules will apply

**Come on out and have an enjoyable
day of soaring competition!**



June 21, 1998 - Fathers Day Family BBQ and Fun Fly – Bob Douglas

Come enjoy the day with fun, food and flying... We'll have TD, and bungie, and foamie and electric and HLG. If it don't guzzle gas – then bring it and fly it!

There will be specialty events and contests like “blind” flying – no looking until landing – your timer has to coach ya through the flight! or how about inverted TD? or maybe some limbo??? Bring the basher and the good stuff...

We'll be flying 10:00Am to 3:00 PM or ...

See ya there

June 28, 1998 HL Contest – CD Lenny Keer

Entry Fee: \$5.00

Registration: 8:30

Pilot's Meeting: 9:00

Current (1998) AMA membership is required and must be shown.

Please be registered and have planes assembled by Pilot's Meeting

Tasks to be announced at the pilot's meeting.

May Thermals '98 Report

Ahh - a beautiful day... The only trepidation is the weather reports forecasting 20-30mph winds... When I arrived at the field Bob Pederson was there waiting. The winds were light out of the south – BUT the sprinkler was in our launch zone – although it was off. We decided to set up on the north side of the field, and that meant a long walk from the road with the launch equipment. It took quite a while to set up, and just as we had the pilot's meeting the sprinkler came on and began it's relentless march toward us. Skip volunteered to drive over to the office and see if we could have the sprinkler shut off for a few hours. The manager said sure the water could be shut off, but he needed to leave the wheels moving to reposition the sprinkler for the next day. Bummer...

So we started the contest – flying “man on man” international duration. With 4 winch retriever combinations I was afraid we couldn't man all the

equipment to launch 4 at a time, so I decided we would launch 2x2. Bad decision... with a few launch problems and some popoffs we had large discrepancies in launch times that effectively negated the man on man concept. We continued this for 2 rounds until the sprinklers go close – then we all helped to break down and reset back in our normal east side location.

The wind was still cooperating with light winds out of the south so we continued – but actually launched 4 fliers at a time. Sometimes this meant a retriever operator would do 2 retrieves, but generally it worked out. We got 2 more rounds in before the wind picked up big-time. For the 5th round the wind was howling. This caused a bunch of bad launches, tangles, and broken airplanes. Halfway through the 5th round I canceled the rest of the round and called the final results based on the first 4 rounds.

In the Novice class, 14 year old Marc Monaco took top honors flying John Pearson's old Sagitta. Unfortunately the nose broke on landing in the 4th round and will need some repairs. I think a fiberglass replacement is in order.



A new member, Shannon Bingham, did a great job taking second place. Just a few points behind was Gary Lewan.

Charlie Miller and Bob Lewan moved up from Novice class this contest due to their aircraft type (non-RES) and proved that they were still competitive after stepping up by taking 1st and 3rd place respectively. Bob Rice put in a great performance taking 2nd place and ensuring his jump to Masters for the next contest. So long –Bob...

Masters class was a close race as always, but when the dust cleared – Dusty Miller took 1st place edging out his dad, Skip, by 17 points. A flipped plane on landing cost Skip the contest – ya gotta keep it right side up... Mark Howard took 3rd place just 32 points behind Skip. This

was a close one to the bloody end... Congratulations Dusty! Complete results and club standings are on the next few pages.

All in all a good contest. It was painful being the guinea pig CD for the first MOM contest with all the equipment running, but I think it was working OK in the end. In order to make MOM work best we need all the fliers to be able to run the retrievers, so if you haven't already learned – it's time... Thanks for all the help from the members in running the contest, fun is what it is all about...
Thermals, **Jim Monaco**

May Thermals Pictures

Thanks to Mark Howard for some pictures from the contest!



Bob Rice launching his Saphire



Jim Barr heading to the Launch area with his Genesis



Lounging around the pits!



Looks like Keer getting ready to boot Pedersen's Micropro that will cramp Bob's style!!



May Thermals Contest Results

ID	Class	Name	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	Total	Norm by Contest	Norm by Class
N Novice									
11	N	Marc Monaco	857.54	738.16	345.60	802.78	2,744.09	709.22	1,000.00
3	N	Shannon Bingham	926.52	453.05	883.37	291.20	2,554.13	660.12	930.78
2	N	Gary Lewan	1,000.00	318.02	149.14	1,000.00	2,467.16	637.64	899.08
S Sportsman									
12	S	Charlie Miller	1,000.00	826.77	852.15	1,000.00	3,678.92	950.83	1,000.00
13	S	Bob Rice	840.26	729.81	990.46	974.48	3,535.01	913.63	960.88
14	S	Bob Lewan	854.75	825.09	1,000.00	433.41	3,113.25	804.63	846.24
10	S	Jim Monaco	753.99	616.80	799.24	809.74	2,979.77	770.13	809.96
7	S	Bob Douglas	779.55	651.81	904.00	580.14	2,915.50	753.52	792.49
M Masters									
9	M	Dusty Miller	869.18	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	3,869.18	1,000.00	1,000.00
8	M	Skip Miller	1,000.00	1,000.00	852.15	1,000.00	3,852.15	995.60	995.60
1	M	Mark Howard	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	821.51	3,821.51	987.68	987.68
6	M	Lenny Keer	993.35	1,000.00	993.70	819.22	3,806.27	983.74	983.74
15	M	Bob Pederson	940.92	591.55	1,000.00		2,532.47	654.52	654.52
WITHDRAWN									
4		Jim Barr	912.47	100.71			1,013.18	261.86	#N/A
5		Mac Arthur							

SpringFling Report

What a great day we ended up with after the snow-out the previous weekend. Nine of us flew six rounds of "Man on Man" in groups of three. For a change we lucked out, and didn't have any frequency conflicts. Jack Zika was campaigning for the first time with the Maple Leaf. This is one impressive sailplane. The competition was very close all day.

At the end of three rounds Jeff Burg was in first place, Dusty Miller was second and Lenny Keer held down third place. The thermals seemed to increase in strength as we got into the final three rounds, however they were spread out more, so that if you picked the wrong direction to search in you were on the ground in twenty seconds!

The highlight of the day was the last round of three throws in a ten minute window to get a ten minute flight, last throw is the one that counts. Lenny Keer, Jack Zika and myself launched within twenty seconds of each other into the strongest thermal of the day. By the time we had been up for three minutes, we were at the limits of visibility for these 60 inch soarers. As the ten minute mark got closer, all of us were trying everything we could to get down. I put the climax on it's back and started making wide circles, going up all the time! To my left I could hear Jack Zika making some sort of strangling sound as his Maple Leaf, while in a flat spin, was getting smaller and smaller. We finally decided that the only way out of this "Barn Lifter" was a spiral dive out of it, hoping that the wings would stay in one piece. Fortunately, we all made it back safely, but I firmly believe that a 1.5 meter speed record was set!

When all the dust settled, Jeff Burg topped us all flying his three year old Illusion. Congratulations Jeff!

SpringFling Results

Place	Name	Score	Plane
1 st	Jeff Burg	5974	Illusion
2 nd	Phil Weigle	5478	Climax
3 rd	Lenny Keer	5186	Monarch "C"
4 th	Dusty Miller	4941	Monarch "C"
5 th	Charles Miller	4868	Monarch "D"
6 th	Jack Zika	4672	Maple Leaf
7 th	Jimm Barr	4242	Illusion
8 th	Bob Lewan	3855	Monarch "C"
9 th	Bill Beggs	3245	Monarch "D"

Club Standings



-- MASTERS --	Mar	Apr	May	PPSS	Other	Best 6	Place	97 Points/ Wins	98 Points/ Wins	Total Points/ Wins
Howard Mark	801	991	988			2780	1			
Keer Lenny	1000	637	984			2621	2			
Pederson Bob	654	801	655			2110	3			
Miller Skip		1000	996			1996	4			
Miller Dusty		850	1000			1850	5			
Sheldon Matt	777	926				1703	6			
Zika Jack	637	975				1612	7			
Barr Jim	567	766	262			1595	8			
Padilla John	899					899	9			
Weigle Phil	759					759	10			
Pearson John						0	11			

SPORTSMAN ---										
-										
Douglas Bob	977	1000	792			2769	1	11/1	5/1	16/2
Monaco Jim	1000	809	810			2619	2	7/0	4/1	11/1
Rice Bob	428	878	960			2266	3	18/3	2/0	22/3
Miller Charlie			1000			1000	4	10/3	0/0	3/1
Port Don	917					917	5	10/3	1/0	11/3
Lewan Bob			846			846	6	10/3	0/0	1/0

NOVICE ----										
Monaco Marc	700	748	1000			2448	1		2/0	5/1
Lewan Gary	615	860	899			2374	2	6/1	2/0	9/1
Miller Charles	866	1000				1866	3		5/1	5/1
Lewan Robert	482	695				1177	4	6/2		6/2
O'Hearn Mike	1000					1000	5	4/1	3/1	7/2
Bingham Shannon			931			931	6			2/0
Mac Arthur	327	495				822	7	9/1		9/1
Beggs Bill	246					246	8			
Lichstein Gib		207				207	9			
Grau Terry						0	10	5/0		5/0
West David						0	10	3/1		3/1
Curtis Matt						0	10			
Kentner Matt						0	10			
Delponte Gino						0	10			
Butler Jim						0	10			



Treasurer's Report

LSF News

The League of Silent Flight has adopted a new policy regarding the procedure for attaining vouchers for Level I tasks.

Previously an aspirant for membership in the LSF had to submit a statement of intent to the LSF to receive a voucher for working towards his or her Level I tasks. This entailed a wait of 2 to 3 weeks for the necessary paperwork to wend its way to the Recording Secretary for LSF and for a voucher to be returned to the aspirant. When told of the wait, many aspirants would "put it on the back burner" and many potential LSF members were lost because of the process.

The current LSF Board has streamlined the process and now local LSF Club Representatives (me) will have "Statement of Intent" letters AND Level I vouchers on hand.

The \$2.00 processing fee is still required and will be forwarded to LSF Headquarters along with the aspirants letter.

Upon successful completion of the required tasks, the aspirant sends the voucher to LSF for validation and the LSF will assign the new member a LSF number and return a new Level II voucher.

Hopefully I will have the new paperwork by the time you read this so look me up at the field or call me if you would like to become a member of the League of Silent Flight.

Bob Douglas
RMSA LSF Representative
933-6993

Contest Rules Confirmation Proposal

In my capacity as club scorekeeper I am responsible for the proper maintenance of the yearly standings. Recently, I had been asked by a club member if they were still allowed to count non-RMSA contests towards the yearly point standings. Since I did not recall a specific discussion of removing that provision, I responded that I believed that it was and would look it up in the rules. After much research through previous newsletters and conversations with members, I have come to the following conclusions about the state of the rules:

1) The provision to allow outside contests was approved by member vote in March of 1995.

- 2) The provision to restrict novice class to RES ships was approved by member vote in March of 1996.
- 3) I was unable to find a complete list of contest rules prior to January 1997 (I only went back to 1994)
- 4) In January 1997 a complete list of contest rules was published "RMSA Contest Format" - with items 1 and 2 missing
- 5) No documentation in the newsletters reports of a discussion, or approval of the removal of those previously approved provisions.
- 6) Discussions with members - including the current contest committee members - indicates no specific discussions of removing those provisions occurred for the 1998 season.
- 7) Only vague recollections indicate any discussions that prompted the removal of the provisions in 1997.
- 8) Bylaws indicate that no vote is necessary for the board or it's designees to set policy including contest rules.
- 9) Vote is only necessary in the event there is a specific objection from an active club member.
- 10) Several members have objected to the removal of these provisions.

Based on the above facts, I make a motion that the club membership re-confirm, by member vote, each of the provisions of the "RMSA Contest Format" as were implicitly in place as of the 1996 season. Each numbered provision shall be voted on individually to determine consensus in the establishment of the 1998 contest guidelines.

Since it is difficult to determine the changes to a document without carefully comparing the words of both versions, and to ensure that the membership is fully aware of any contest format changes, I make a motion that future changes to the "RMSA Contest Format" document be published in the newsletter with specific descriptions of each change including deletions along with the complete "RMSA Contest Format" document.

I would expect that each numbered item in the RMSA Contest Format document be voted on individually at the meeting. For clarity the pre-1996 version should be referred to as the "pre-1996" and the currently published version should be referred to as "1998". If you vote for the "pre-1996" you would be voting to NOT accept the changes. If you vote for the "1998" you would be voting to accept the rules as they are currently published. Included on the following pages is a composite of the previous and current rules. Note that this is based on changes to the "pre-1996" version. The underscored words were additions or changes made in 1996. The strike-thrus were deletions that were made in 1996. Also included are the original texts of both versions labeled "pre-1996" and "1998"

I believe that these actions should provide an agreed to basis for the conduct and scorekeeping for RMSA contests and should minimize any confusion as to the validity of any of the rules. Please show up and vote for the rules you believe should govern YOUR contests. I personally do not care which way it turns out - I simply want clear rules to keep score by! Thanks - **Jim Monaco**



ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOARING ASSOCIATION CONTEST PROGRAM CHANGES

PURPOSE

1. To help all members of AMA/RMSA develop flying skills by competing against an equally skilled group of pilots in the thermal duration, F3B, F3J events in the varied disciplines of HLG, 2M, standard, and open class.
2. To allow advancement to a higher level skill group - - novice to sportsman to master.
3. To challenge all members to develop their design, building and flying skills.
1. ~~To help members develop flying skills by competing against an equally skilled group.~~
2. ~~To allow advancement to a higher level skill group.~~
3. ~~To challenge all members to develop their design, building, and flying skills.~~

RMSA CONTESTS

RMSA usually schedules at least one contest per month, March through November. Tasks are chosen to provide variety and challenge ~~from~~ for all skill levels. At the beginning of each year, the Board of Directors normally obtains AMA sanctions for nine regular monthly contests to be counted toward season points. The Board or individual contest directors may from time to time also request or schedule additional specialty contests, ~~which by vote, may be counted in season points.~~ All AMNRMSA sanctioned contests will count toward season point totals and awards. Specialty contests, fun flies, etc. are non- sanctioned and thus non-point events.

NON-RMSA CONTESTS

The Colorado Challenge Cup is normally held in July and sanctioned by the club holding the cup for the year.

The following National contests may also be counted for points;

~~AMA-NATS—any AMA-officially-recognized class~~

~~F3B Team Trials~~

~~Viasalia Fall Festival~~

~~World Soaring Jamboree~~

~~Texas National Tournament~~

~~Mid-South Soaring Championships~~

~~Tangerine Soaring Championships~~

~~Masters of Soaring.~~

~~Any National Contest spanning two or more days with 30 or more contestants.~~

~~ONE Pikes Peak Soaring Society contest may also be used for season points.~~

NO MORE THAN TWO NON-RMSA CONTESTS CAN BE COUNTED TOWARDS SEASON POINTS TOTALS!!

CLASSES

Novice New members with no contest experience. ~~Novice pilots are limited to Rudder-Elevator-Spoiler sailplanes. Pilots flying full-house sailplanes are automatically promoted to Sportsman.~~

Sportsman Members with contest experience ~~and have advanced by contest points~~ having advanced to this position by the RMSA class point system.

Master Member having advanced through contest achievement from other classes.

New Member/Contest Visitor Classification

At AMA/RMSA contests, all members are expected to identify themselves as novice, sportsman, master pilot based on the above guidelines. New members to RMSA may elect to place themselves in sportsman class if they have had prior contest experience of a very positive nature as a novice pilot. ~~New members may elect to place themselves in the Sportsman class if they have had prior contest experience. The Novice class is intended to encourage new flyers to enter the club contests. New members with vast contest experience may petition the Board to be placed directly into the Master class.~~

ADVANCEMENT

Class points are given as follows;

1st place in class = 3 points

2nd place in class = 2 points

3rd place in class = 1 point

Advancement to the next class requires the following:

1. Novice to Sportsman = 12 points and 1 class win or 3 class wins.
2. Sportsman to Master = 21 points and 2 class wins or 4 class wins.

In all cases there must be at least three competitors in your class to be counted towards advancement points. No class points are carried forward at advancement, however class points are carried forward to the next contest year.

3. There shall be 8 open class and one 2-meter contests for championship points (best 6 of 9) March thru October. Four HLG contests.



STANDINGS

Normalized scores from each contest will be used to develop advancement points and annual awards. Annual awards shall be given through third place in each class. Only the six best contests may be counted towards annual awards. ~~In addition only two of the special noted contests may be counted toward the six best (including one contest hosted by the Pikes Peak Soaring Society).~~

~~The RMSA club champion shall be recognized as a true champion pilot, showing both skills as a pilot and the willingness to compete against his peers outside of RMSA points for the club champion trophy shall be computed from the total of the normalized, documented scores form all AMA sanctioned contests entered during the year by that competitor. Normalized points must be documented, signed by the contest director, and submitted to the club scorekeeper prior to November 15 for that contest year. Annual awards shall be given in the class where the pilot spent most of the year. Example: If the pilot advances from Sportsman to Master by virtue of contest points during mid year, he/she will be eligible for an award only in the class where he/she spent the majority of that year's club contests. Out of town and non RMSA contests shall not be counted toward advancement points. The RMSA club champion will be recognized as a true champion pilot competing against his peers in the 6 best AMA/RMSA sanctioned contests entered during the year by that competitor. The club scorekeeper will certify all point totals. Annual awards will be given in the class where the pilot spent most of the year.~~

Rules "Pre-1996"

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1998 Contest/Event Calendar

Date	Type	CD	Notes
Jan 6	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
Feb 3	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
March 3	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
March 8	RES	Bob Douglas	Restricted to Rudder/Elevator/Spoiler controls only
March 15	Open*	Mark Howard	
April 7	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
April 19	Open*	Jim Barr	
April 26	HL**	Phil Weigle	Points towards club HL championship
May 5	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
May 17	Open*	Jim Monaco	
May 31	HL**	Phil Weigle	Points towards club HL championship
June 2	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
June 7	Open*	Phil Weigle	
June 21	FunFly	Bob Douglas	Fathers Day Family BBQ and Fun Fly
June 28	HL**	Lenny Keer	Points towards club HL championship
July 7	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
July 12	Open*	Bob Rice	
July 26	HL**	Jack Zika	Points towards club HL championship
August 4	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
August 9	Open*	Jim Monaco	
August 16	LSF Tasks	Bob Douglas	LSF Tasks and Fun Fly
August 23	2 Meter *	Mark Howard	Restricted to 2 meter models
Sept 1	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
Sept 13	Colorado Challenge Cup*	Matt Sheldon	Open Class
October 6	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
October 11	Open	Bob Rice	
October 25	Fun Fly	Bob Douglas	
November 3	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
November 8	RES	John Pearson	Restricted to Rudder/Elevator/Spoiler controls only.
December 1	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
December 6	Awards Banquet		Annual RMSA Family Banquet with Awards – location TBD

* Indicates contest included in club Open Championship points

** Indicates contest included in club HLG Championship points

Shaded events are historical



1998 Board Members

President: Jack Zika (303) 279-1549 (303) 505-9488 (Pager)
VicePresident: Mike O'Hearn (303) 693-6925 mjohearn@ccgate.hac.com
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Directions to Field

Take I-76 to exit 17. Take 120th East to Tower Rd. Left on Tower Rd to sharp right curve onto 128th. Directly on the right is a dirt road thru the sod farm. We generally fly from the dirt road in the center of the farm.



Rocky Mountain Soaring Association
1123 S. Oakland St
Aurora CO 80012

Forwarding Address Requested

First Class Mail