



# Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association



November 1998

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXII Number 11

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall flying has been touch and go with the weather; the good weather days more than making up for the lousy ones. Bob Rice's contest was fairly well attended on a sunny and breezy day. Just completed was Jim Monaco's first annual Pro-Am contest. This contest format pitted two man teams comprising a Masters level pilot with a novice. Each timed for the other with the intent of the novice benefitting from the Masters instruction and experience. It was a fun experience that blended low level competition with casual, fun flying.

With the 1998 season winding down, several year end activities require attention. First off, is the annual RMSA Awards Banquet. This year's event will be held on December 6, from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm at the "Old Country Restaurant", same place as last year. Cost for the Sunday brunch is \$12.48 per person; this includes tip and tax. The "Old Country" is located at: 134 Union Blvd. in Lakewood. If you plan to attend, please get your checks into John Pearson by November 27th so that we may get an accurate head count for the restaurant in advance. In addition to presentation of the award plaques for each of the competitive classes, we will be raffling off a number of prizes.

Second, plans and preparations for the 1999 contest season need to commence. Thanks to all those individuals who contributed to the conductance of the 1998 contest season. Your efforts and willingness to contribute to the clubs activities are welcomed and much appreciated. It is hoped that many of you will volunteer your CD services

again. In the coming weeks, I will be arranging a combined contest/CD meeting with the goal of reviewing the contest rules, modifying them if appropriate, and scheduling the 1999 contest season. I hope that some of the membership will consider taking the AMA CD test to become a contest director and volunteer to CD one of next year's contests.

Third, the time has come to improve the operation and performance of the club winches. The least that will be done over the December-January time frame is to have the winch motors rebuilt. Arrangements will be made to have this done. Thought needs to be applied to the platform architecture. As they are now, the club winches are bulky beasts that consume a lot of volume in a car, truck or van. Perhaps a simpler, more economical means of mounting the motor/line spool assembly can be implemented. And while we're at it, the line spool brake mechanisms merit some re-work. Winch keepers must inspect their equipment thoroughly prior to each use. At the Pro-Am contest, a turnaround was placed that was lacking one of the two bolts that anchored it to the ground. This was an unsafe device that may have caused a crash during launch. Thanks to Mark Howard for noticing it and replacing with another. During the period when the motors are being rebuilt, I suggest having the winch and retriever batteries load tested to weed out the marginal batteries from the robust and replacing them with new ones.

The board welcomes all suggestions for the continued improvement of the club and its activities. Please attend the club meetings and bring up any thought, ideas, or suggestions that you think bear discussion.

**Mike O'Hearn**

## Fall RES Contest – November 8, 1998 CD - TBD

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

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

**Tasks:** To be Announced

**Scoring:** To be Announced

- **NO** flying prior to the setup of winches and retrievers
- Everyone limited to RES sailplanes

### Challenge Cup Pictures

Charlie Miller graciously sent me some pictures he took during the Challenge Cup. Due to space limitations I was unable to include them in the last issue. I hope you enjoy them... Jim



*Jim Barr's Sailare - Almost big enough to get in...*



*A variety of planes in the pits...*



*Another view of the pits...*

## Last Chance Thermals Report

First, I would like to thank the 15 glider guiders who brave a rather poor weather forecast to fly. With the wind blowing rather hard from the SE and a forecast of 15-30 MPH from the NW, the field was setup in a SE direction (no retrievers because of the wind). As seem to be the habit around here, the wind forecast never came true. With many pilots playing the "What do I have to do to beat so and so?" game, we got the first of six rounds under way. Round 1, simple duration, was a nice tune-up with almost everyone making their time and only landing

separating the scores. The next two rounds of triathlon proved much more difficult with no one making the ten minutes. The final three rounds of International Duration also proved to be a challenge. Congratulations to Mike O'Hearn (Novice), Bob Lewan (Sportsman), and Skip Miller (Master) for their wins. A special thanks to Glenn at Action Hobbies for donating the 2nd place gift certificates, Thanks Glenn. I would like to thank everyone, we had a good time.

**Bob Rice**

## Last Chance Thermals Results

Class	Name	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5	RD 6	Total	Norm by Contest	Norm by Class
<b>N</b>	<b>Novice</b>									
N	Mike O'Hearn	765.31	521.15	287.67	310.76	523.35	870.69	3,278.92	546.49	1,000.00
N	Greg Merkle	685.57	266.95	363.76	414.58	563.19	294.12	2,588.17	431.36	789.33
N	Gene Oxenrider	985.47	61.39	46.25	95.62			1,188.72	198.12	362.53
<b>S</b>	<b>Sportsman</b>									
S	Bob Lewan	1,000.00	1,000.00	823.69	998.00	737.56	748.76	5,308.00	884.67	1,000.00
S	Jim Monaco	1,000.00	513.73	1,000.00	1,000.00	838.87	836.25	5,188.85	864.81	977.55
S	Charlie Miller	989.95	697.74	871.53	622.92	991.76	378.05	4,551.94	758.66	857.56
S	Gary Lewan	872.09	678.65	110.36	427.98	366.52	256.20	2,711.81	451.97	510.89
S	Mac Arthur	484.54	541.46	415.73	374.49	621.26	256.20	2,693.67	448.94	507.47
<b>M</b>	<b>Masters</b>									
M	Skip Miller	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	6,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
M	Lenny Keer	994.90	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	5,994.90	999.15	999.15
M	Mark Howard	974.87	1,000.00	724.56	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	5,699.44	949.91	949.91
M	Dusty Miller	1,000.00	714.04	1,000.00	836.65	904.98	1,000.00	5,455.67	909.28	909.28
M	Jack Zika	489.69	748.31	568.82	690.00	1,000.00	802.85	4,299.67	716.61	716.61
M	John Pearson	872.09	254.24	183.04	724.28	539.45	477.64	3,050.75	508.46	508.46
M	Bob Rice	765.31	247.17	251.71	286.00	333.89	20.69	1,904.77	317.46	317.46

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual RMSA PRO/AM

Well, the 1<sup>st</sup> and hopefully annual RMSA PRO/AM is over and I would say it was a great event. I had been wanting to try this event for some time, so Bob Douglas suggested that I use the fall funfly to give it a go and it turned out quite well. We had 10 flyers show up for the whole day, with several others wandering in and out as well. I intended this to be a low-key event, providing lots of flying for everyone, a lot of mentoring for our less skilled pilots, and an opportunity for our skilled pilots to have fun flying and helping out the club. It seems to have worked.

The morning dawned cool and overcast, and stayed that way until about 1:00 when the sun popped through and started the thermals brewing. Everyone pitched in and we had 2 winches set up for the predicted wind and held one back in case the wind shifted, which it did. Mark Howard then set up the 3<sup>rd</sup> winch about 180 degrees and we were able to generally launch into the wind. One more winch change to the east, with the help of Rick Stillman, and we were pretty set. We moved the landing zones around a bit for safety, but everyone went with the flow and there were no problems.

Barbara Keer did the honors of randomly selecting the teams with the final matchings:

1. Jim Monaco and Rick Stillman for Team Monaco
2. Mark Howard and Marc Monaco for Team Howard
3. Lenny Keer and Mac Arthur for Team Keer
4. Charlie Miller and Greg Merkle for Team Miller
5. Matt Sheldon and Mike O'Hearn for Team Sheldon

With marginal weather, we had a 5 minute first round where the Pro could fly but 1 scoring flight, while the Am could make as many flights as possible within the 50 minute window to get the best flight.

The other 4 rounds were 6 minutes each and each flyer got 1 attempt to record an official score. To ensure plenty of flying, after recording an official score, any flyer could funfly all they wanted within the restrictions of frequency control and all scoring flights had priority at the winches. This worked out great and a lot of flying was done. We packed it in after 5 rounds by group consensus at 2:30, but everyone flew more flights than that during the day!

In the end Team Keer led the pack with Lenny doing a great job of coaching Mac to an excellent performance. Marc Monaco had a radio failure in the first round and lost his Spirit and was relegated to flying the beat-up TG-3 foamie for the rest of the contest, making Mark Howards coaching job that much tougher.

I received a lot of positive feedback on the contest from those that attended, including the Pros. One person suggested doing this 2 or 3 times during the year... That is probably a bit much, but I think we will definitely put it on the calendar for early spring and use it as a tune-up for the contest season and to encourage our newer members to come out to fly the contests... Thanks to all our Sportsman and Masters flyers that came out - this kind of activity is not possible without your support and I and the novice flyers appreciate it greatly.

**Thermals - Jim**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual RMSA PRO/AM Results

Name	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5	Total
<b>Team Keer</b>						<b>3341</b>
Lenny Keer	385.00	450.00	445.00	458.00	460.00	2198
Mac Arthur	213.00	229.00	250.00	287.00	164.00	1143
<b>Team Miller</b>						<b>3014</b>
Charlie Miller	293.00	430.00	356.00	410.00	417.00	1906
Greg Merkle	253.00	43.00	165.00	251.00	396.00	1108
<b>Team Sheldon</b>						<b>2954</b>
Mike O'Hearn	366.00	430.00	309.00	209.00	327.00	1641
Matt Sheldon	238.00	313.00	276.00	264.00	222.00	1313
<b>Team Howard</b>						<b>2946</b>
Mark Howard	392.00	288.00	453.00	459.00	460.00	2052
Marc Monaco	226.00	105.00	183.00	108.00	272.00	894
<b>Team Monaco</b>						<b>2565</b>
Jim Monaco	219.00	179.00	365.00	363.00	302.00	1428
Rick Stillman	254.00	135.00	150.00	254.00	344.00	1137

## Treasurer's Report

Checking	\$ 562.76
Savings	\$ 663.35
Cash	\$ 193.76
Total	\$1419.87

**John Pearson**

## October Meeting Minutes

**Officers Present:** Jack Zika, Bob Rice, Mike O'Hearn  
**Guests:** Kevin Boarsard

**Old Business:** Colorado Wildlife notice at sod farm - ignore. If anyone questions you, be courteous and refer them to Don S.

**New Business:** Things to do in the next month.

1. Set up contest committee.
2. CD assignments for 1999
3. Award Banquet Location (Jim Barr)
4. Compile year end scoring after October contest.
5. Order Annual plaques to 5th place in masters, 3rd in Sportmans & Novice, HLG champ.

**Election of Officers for 1999:**

President - OPEN  
Vice President - Mike O'Hearn  
Secretary - Bob Rice  
Treasurer - John Pearson

Jim Monaco has agreed to continue as newsletter editor.

**Upcoming Contests:** Open contest on Oct 11. Bob Rice CD. Simple Duration, Triathlon, and International Duration. AMA 25' Landing. Pro/Am on Oct 25. Jim Monaco CD.

**Show & Tell:** Phil DeLong picked up 67 mags from the 40'S. Brought in one from each year. George Blair - New german models. Mark Howard discussed Nite Ops lighting. Mike O'Hearn & Bob Douglas show the locator from the last newsletter.

**Raffle:** Mike O'Hearn - knife  
Gene Oxenrider - Forceps  
Dwight C - Knife  
Jim Monaco - Glue Injector  
Gene Oxenrider - Pin Vise  
Gene Ocenrider - Protractor

Meeting Closed at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted

**Bob Rice, RMSA Secretary**

## RENEWAL TIME

It's that time of the year again. Dues for 1999 are now due. Please fill in all the information requested on the application form enclosed. The club needs to updated everything to ensure complete and correct records. Please renew before years end.

**Bob**

## Banquet Reservations

This year's event will be held on December 6, from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm at the "Old Country Restaurant", same place as last year. Cost for the Sunday brunch is \$12.48 per person; this includes tip and tax. The "Old Country" is located at: 134 Union Blvd. in Lakewood.

Please send a copy of this form with your check to:

**John Pearson, RMSA Treasurer**  
7777 E. Yale  
L103  
Denver, CO

Number Attending	x Cost	= Total
	<b>\$12.48</b>	= \$ <b>enclosed</b>



# Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSER \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete the following information for our records:**

Family Memberships - Please make and complete a copy for EACH flying family member!

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Need name badge? **No** Novice Sportsman M  
aster

Address (if new member or incorrect on label) Year Joined RMSA: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

AMA #: \_\_\_\_\_ AMA Contest Director? Yes No

AMA Class Open Youth Family Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

LSF #: \_\_\_\_\_ LSF LEVEL: \_\_\_\_ NSS #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

RMSA Membership Class Senior Only Senior W/Family Associate Family  
(Note - Senior W/Family receive THERMALS - other Family members check Family Box)

Non-Flying Family members: \_\_\_\_\_

RMSA Competition Class Novice Sportsman Master

RMSA Offices Held \_\_\_\_\_

----- MODELS OWNED -----				
PLANE	SPAN	COLOR (Top,Bott.,Fuse)	CLASS (Open,HLG,Std..)	FREQUENCY


Interests: Sports Flying T/D contests HLG Contests NSS Soar-ins F3J  
F3B X-C contests Slope contests Other \_\_\_\_\_

Past Achievements: \_\_\_\_\_

- Dues: \$ 5.00 New Member Initiation Fee  
 \$ 5.00 Junior - under 17  
 \$ 25.00 Senior - individual 17 and over  
 \$ 30.00 Family - any number (same address)  
 \$ 8.00 Associate (newsletter only)  
 Make checks payable to RMSA

Comments and suggestions are ENCOURAGED! Please include these with your form!  
 Please send to: RMSA  
 c/o Bob Rice  
 1123 S. Oakland St.  
 Aurora, CO 80012



## 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 / Jim Monaco	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual PRO/AM
November 3	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
November 8	RES	Bob Douglas	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:**  
**Vice President:** Mike O'Hearn (303) 693-6925 mjohearn@ccgate.hac.com  
**Secretary:** Bob Rice (303) 745-5269 bobr@tobindatag.com  
**Treasurer:** John Pearson (303) 306-6800 jp7120@aol.com  
**Past President:** Jack Zika (303) 279-1549 (303) 505-9488(Pager)

**Member Support**

[www.tobindatag.com/rmsa](http://www.tobindatag.com/rmsa)

Chief  
 Instructor: Jack Zika (303) 279-1549 (303) 505-9488 (Pager)  
 Instructor: Mark Howard (303) 278-7519 [Markho@tobindatag.com](mailto:Markho@tobindatag.com)  
 F3B/F3J: Mark Howard (303) 278-7519 [Markho@tobindatag.com](mailto:Markho@tobindatag.com)  
 Librarian: Tracy Cochran (303) 934-8838 [Tcochran@idcomm.com](mailto:Tcochran@idcomm.com)  
 Newsletter: Jim Monaco (303) 464-9895 [jimmonaco@us.ibm.com](mailto:jimmonaco@us.ibm.com)

**Winch Masters**

Bob Rice (303) 745-5629 [bobr@tobindatag.com](mailto:bobr@tobindatag.com)  
 Mike O'Hearn (303) 693-6925 [mjohearn@ccgate.hac.com](mailto:mjohearn@ccgate.hac.com)  
 Shannon Bingham [binghams@boulder.earth.net.com](mailto:binghams@boulder.earth.net.com)  
 Gary Lewan (303) 277-1375



**Directions to Field**

Take I-76 to exit 17. Take 120<sup>th</sup> East to Tower Rd. Continue straight through traffic light and look for the sod sprinkler on the left. We are on the southwest corner of that part of the sod farm.  
*Flying for RMSA members and accompanied guests only.*



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

**First Class Mail**

*Forwarding Address Requested*