



**Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!**

# Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

January 2003

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXVII Number 11

## President's Message

Well 2002 is over and in the books and the Holidays are behind us.... Well now there is what is in front of us, and that is a great year of soaring and a great contest scheduled. The South West Classic is coming fast and we have a great group going down to represent us. I am looking forward to seeing how we will fair both individually and as a group this year. I am still going to put on practice days each weekend that weather allows I will be E mailing everybody when....but, Really any weekend day that is ok to fly I will be out there at the Sod Farm or in Boulder. I have a new Icon now and I am ready to get some flying in and I am really looking forward to the new year...

### Renewal Reminder

**It's time to renew your memberships. Renew with the application in this newsletter, or online at <http://www.jmccconsulting.com/rmsa>**

**Only ONE newsletter left if you don't renew!!**

We will need help for several national level events this year including (we hope) the USA F3J Team Trials, With any luck we will be having them here in Denver. If we do, we will need to have as much help as we can get, so let Mark Howard know if you are interested in helping with any of the events. See the contest calendar for specific dates.

Happy New year to all.

*Dr. Dan Williams* See you at the flying field...Stay warm till then...

### Next Meeting:

**Date/Time:** January 7, 2002 – 7:00 PM

**Location:** Broomfield Advanced Chiropractic  
26 Garden Ctr  
Broomfield CO 80020-7012

**Program:** SWAP SHOP – Show/Tell – Bring stuff to sell or trade!

## RMSA Banquet

The banquet was a great affair! We had the most people that have attended a banquet in many years. Everything went very smoothly with everyone having great food and a great time. Dr. Dan did a great job coordinating the awards and the raffle. This year the donations were a little low from the hobby shops, but a number of members donated items from their private collections and made the raffle a great success.

We had some special awards that were given out prior to the flying awards. After some investigation on the internet, it appears that club member Art Ries is the oldest flyer still competing in soaring competitions. We presented Art with a nice plaque commemorating that achievement. In addition, I was presented with a nice plaque thanking me for my efforts as newsletter editor, scorekeeper and webmaster. Thanks everyone – it's nice to be appreciated. Now I gotta work on getting an actual flying plaque...

You can see all the gory details of the standings in later in this newsletter, but the highlights are that Art Ries won Novice class, Mike Verzuh got the Monkey Lamp for winning Sportsman class, and Skip Miller again got another plate on the perpetual trophy for winning the Masters class.

Every year the competition gets closer and closer. One of these days someone will dethrone the king – Skip Miller.

If you missed the banquet this year you should surely put it on your calendar for next year – fun was had by all who attended!

*Jim Monaco*

## For Sale

1. **Zumma** - with HS 85bb servos less batt and receiver. **\$425**

Contact Dr. Dan Williams [drdandc@juno.com](mailto:drdandc@juno.com)

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2. **Sears Model 7254/954 Ski Shell Roof Top Carrier**  
90"long X 21"wide X 12"high. Similar design to the Yakima/Thule Ski shells.  
Hinged lid, Lockable hasps, Excellent condition. Plenty room for large models.  
Taking up room in my Garage--\$75  
Jeff Burg  
(303)627-9895 Hm  
(303)292-2653 X382 Wk  
(303)506-5538 Cel  
JAB6658@aol.com  
[JefBurg@na.cokecce.com](mailto:JefBurg@na.cokecce.com)

3. **Multiplex Hummel**, cabin free flight design for electric with speed 400, gearbox, receiver,battery,servos. Charge, put your crystal into rx and fly. Yellow and violet transparent covering. Sounds a bit like a 4 stroke! \$200 complete.  
Tom Gressman 303-744-3535 X1101

## E-Soaring Lenny Keer

### ***F5J competition:***

Well, the 2002 competition season has come to a close, and the final F5J scores are posted below. We had 15 pilots involved in the series of F5J contests that we ran this year, with some flying in both classes. Thanks to everyone that came out.

For 2003 we're going to have a slightly different format. We will have one formal 2-day F5J contest on July 26th and 27th. We should see very good attendance for this contest, including a number of pilots from out of state. In addition, we're going to run several informal 1-day F5J contests. These will be just for fun, with no entry fee or awards. They will offer an excellent opportunity to test your F5J setups against the competition in a contest situation.

The F5J rules for 2003 will be pretty much unchanged. The FAI has recently recognized the use of nickel metal hydride cells for competition, and the "official" CASL rules are expected to allow them for 2003 also, so we'll do the same here. There are several new Nimh cells starting to show up that look like they may be good replacements for the common 600AE nicad cell used for SP400's. Now is the time to start thinking about putting together an electric sailplane and joining the fun in the coming year. There are a number of good options available and I'd be glad to help anybody in selecting an appropriate model and/or power system.

Mark the F5J contest dates on your calendar and come out and join us. The big F5J contest in Phoenix next year should be on October 26th and 27th 2003, so you may want to mark that in your calendar too.

Season results are posted later in the newsletter

Lenny Keer [Lenny970@AOL.com](mailto:Lenny970@AOL.com)

## Stylus Procedures

Every now and then the Stylus misbehaves and goes into what is often called "Japanese Mode". Normally this requires return to Airtronics to be reset. Tom Hoopes (aka Stylus Boy) has provided us with the appropriate procedure for resetting the transmitter. It is quite a long process – so read and understand the instructions before you attempt it. In addition he has provided a procedure for checking the internal lithium battery. This month I will be publishing the battery test procedure, and next month I will publish the entire transmitter reset procedure.

Jim

## Checking Fitness of Stylus Internal Lithium Battery

1. Turn off the radio and remove the nicad battery.
2. Remove the front of the transmitter case surrounding the LCD display. There are a total of (4) screws. Two of the screws are located on the bottom of the transmitter case and the other two are located on the upper right and left hand corners of the LCD display bezel. The front screws are chrome plated Allen screws and require a metric Allen key (2.5mm).
3. Lay the transmitter on its back so that the sticks are pointing straight up.
4. **VERY CAREFULLY** lift the LCD/bezel assembly about ½” away from the transmitter case and slide the assembly toward you just until the lithium coin cell battery, mounted on the main circuit board (about the size of a quarter) is exposed. Do not move the LCD/bezel assembly any further than absolutely necessary. There is a delicate wiring harness and a ribbon cable that attach the LCD/bezel assembly to the main circuit board.
5. With a digital VOM (Volt-Ohm-Meter) set to read DC volts, touch one probe to the exposed surface of the battery (positive side) and touch the other probe to ground (any of the very small plated through holes above the silk-screened SANWA logo are connected to ground). **DO NOT LET THE PROBES TOUCH EACH OTHER WHILE TESTING THE BATTERY**, as a brief short will seriously degrade the life of the battery.
6. If the battery voltage is 2.95 or higher, the battery is fine and does not need to be replaced. The lithium battery should normally last at least five years.
7. The battery configuration is not a common size; therefore it is difficult to find. The battery should be purchased from Airtronics. Their part number is 798A30025A. Further if you do not have the equipment or soldering skills, it is recommended that you send your Stylus in to Airtronics and have them replace the battery. They will also perform the necessary initialization and re-calibration.
8. Re-assemble the Stylus following steps #1 - #4 in reverse.
9. If you have replaced the battery, you must perform the initialization and re-calibration procedure as detailed in the “Stylus Initialization and Re-Calibration Procedure”.

## Winch Availability

We have a lot of new members that are not aware that launch equipment is available to them. We have a set of winchmasters that keep and maintain the winch equipment. Any member may contact any winchmaster and arrange to use the club launch equipment. Call any of the winchmasters listed on the last page of the newsletter and arrange to borrow and return the equipment. Remember the equipment must be returned to the winchmaster or arrangements must be made to get the equipment to and from all contests.



## 2002 HLG Standings

Name	July	June	August	Sept.	Total (best 3)	Place
John Kappus	1000	1000	995		2995	1
Joseph Newcomb	908	658	1000	774	2682	2
Jim Newcomb		796	747	849	2392	3
Jack Zika	586	652	822		2060	4
Shannon Bingham			869	1000	1869	5
Skip Miller	909		929		1838	6
Lenny Keer			752		752	7
Jon Padilla			699		699	8

## 2002 F5J Results

2002 SP400 Class	March	May	June	September	National	Best 3
Lenny Keer	1000	1000	1000	1000		3000
Ali Ghaffari	970	847	904			2721
Bob Pederson	960	936	729			2625
Shannon Bingham		745	571		631	1947
Jim Monaco	832	711				1543
Jim Barr	718		817			1535
Jeff Burg	693	841				1534
Steve Suntken				431	691	1122
Jack Dech	945					945
Leon Kinkaid		877				877
Bryan Dannettell			808			808
Mark Howard		602				602
Bob Johnston		448				448
Gary Hill				388		388
Ryan O'Hara	99					99

2002 Open Class	March	May	June	September	National	Best 3
Lenny Keer	990	819	1000		1000	3809
Shannon Bingham			861	1000	1000	2861
Ali Ghaffari	678	757	675			2110
Mark Howard	1000	1000				2000
Jim Monaco	929	982				1911
Jeff Burg	634	476				1110
Jack Dech	390					390
Gary Hill				386		386
Leon Kinkaid		100				100

# Rocky Mountain Soaring Association - 2003

RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

**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? Yes

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 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: \$ 7.50 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!

**REMEMBER TO SIGN THE FIELD RULES!!!**

Please send to: RMSA  
% Bob Rice  
1123 S. Oakland St.  
Aurora, CO 80012

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOARING ASSOCIATION FIELD RULES

1. The sod farm operations take precedence over **ALL** activities. We use the field at the convenience of the owner.
2. All members will follow **ALL** instructions from **ANY** sod farm personnel without question.
3. When sod farm operations are occurring during a flying session it is **OUR** responsibility to ensure that we will not interfere with operations. If it is unclear as to what is happening or where they intend to mow or work try to talk to workers or management and always move equipment or vacate the premises if necessary. Some workers do not speak very good English – in that case you must make every effort to avoid conflict or interference with operations.
4. Park only in the designated parking area on the southwest corner of the field. Do not park on grass, dirt or roads.
5. Avoid setting up on newly seeded areas or young grassy areas. The nice grassy areas are better to land on anyway!
6. Establish a frequency control pole and tag system! Frequency control is to be in effect at all times!! All members will post their frequency control tags on the pole and if there are conflicts, please exercise safety sense as well as share the flight time.
7. Parking and pit areas should be as condensed as possible for the safety of launch and landing.
8. Establish flight line areas for winch launch, high start launch, and hand launch that are separate for the sake of launch, flight & landing safety.
9. Flying over the parking/pit areas at less than 30 feet is prohibited. Doing so in competition WILL result in a zero flight score and during R/R flying a disciplinary action by the club.
10. No aerobatics or speed runs over the parking/pit/Launch/Landing zones.
11. Do not launch if a plane is circling in a launch zone: vacate the launch zone as soon as possible if someone is waiting to launch.
12. When entering a thermal occupied by other aircraft, enter in the same direction as the first aircraft
13. Landing aircraft have the right of way!
14. In the event of no mechanical retriever, please shag your own chute/line for the flight
15. Please share the usage of club equipment so that all have equal flight time.
16. Please be courteous and helpful to your fellow flyers as well as informative to all guests/spectators. Enjoy yourself and others!!
17. Absolutely no debris or trash is to be left on the field! Please take it home with you for disposal.
18. Make sure that your plane and electronics are airworthy before each flight. Exercise good safety sense in your flight
19. The aircraft will have an identification name/address or AMA number on or in the model in case of loss.
20. Please tag your winch/high start spikes or stakes with fluorescent tape so they are easily spotted on the field by all concerned.
21. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages will be consumed, prior to or during participation in any model event on the flying field.

I understand and will comply with all RMSA field rules:

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Signature

## 2003 RMSA Contest/Event Calendar

Date	Event	CD	Notes
Jan 7	RMSA Meeting		
<i>Feb 1-2</i>	<i>SWC</i>		<i>Phoenix SouthWest Classic</i>
Feb 4	RMSA Meeting		
Mar 2	Pro-Am	Jim Monaco	Sixth annual Pro-Am
Mar 4	RMSA Meeting		
Mar 9	Open*	Bob Pederson	March Blowout
Apr 1	RMSA Meeting		
Apr 6	Open*	Jim Barr	Spring Thermals
Apr 27	F5J!	Lenny Keer	
May 4	Open*	Don Ingram/Bob Johnston	Spring Fling
May 6	RMSA Meeting		
May 18	HLG**	John Kappus	
<a href="#">May 24, 25</a>	<i>Spring Soaring Festival*</i>	<i>Mark Howard</i>	<i>Special National Event– click date for more info</i>
May 31	F5J!	Lenny Keer	
<i>June 1-2</i>	<i>IHLG</i>		
June 1	Open**	Bob Moffett	Summer Fun
June 3	RMSA Meeting		
June 7&8	F5B!	Lenny Keer	National Level Contest
June 22	HLG**	Jim Newcomb	
<a href="#">June 28-29</a>	<i>F3J in the Rockies*</i>	<i>Mark Howard</i>	<i>Two Day National Event – click date for more info</i>
July 1	RMSA Meeting		
July 13	Open*	Jim Monaco	Firecracker Open
July 20	HLG**	Dr. Dan	
<a href="#">July 26/27</a>	F5J	Lenny Keer	Electric event – click date for more info
Aug 3	F5J!	Shannon Bingham	
Aug 5	RMSA Meeting		
Aug 10	Open*	Bob Johnston/Don Ingram	Hotter than Snot
Aug 24	HLG**	John Kappus	
Aug 30-Sept 1	F3J Team Selections		TENTATIVE
Sept 2	RMSA Meeting		
Sept 7	Open*	Bob Rice	AKA: Colorado Challenge Cup
Sept 21	HLG**	John Kappus	
<i>Oct 4-5</i>	<i>VISALIA</i>		
Oct 7	RMSA Meeting		
Oct 12	Open*	Shannon Bingham	Falling Leaves Open
<i>Oct 26-27</i>	<i>F5J</i>		<i>Phoenix National Competition</i>
Nov 4	RMSA Meeting		
Nov 9	Open*	Jim Monaco	Last Chance Thermals
Dec 7	Awards Banquet		

\*Club Open points contest

\*\*Club HLG points contest

! Field will be open to sport flying, but frequency control will be in use and contest participants have frequency priority

Italics indicates non-RMSA events



## 2002 Board Members

<b>President:</b>	<b>Dr. Danny Williams</b>	<b>(303) 903-2291</b>	<b><a href="mailto:drdandc@juno.com">drdandc@juno.com</a></b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Mark Howard</b>	<b>(303) 278-7519</b>	<b><a href="mailto:Mhoward@spaceimaging.com">Mhoward@spaceimaging.com</a></b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Bob Rice</b>	<b>(303) 745-5269</b>	<b><a href="mailto:bob.rice@tobin.com">bob.rice@tobin.com</a></b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>John Pearson</b>	<b>(303) 306-6800</b>	<b><a href="mailto:JTP1006@earthlink.net">JTP1006@earthlink.net</a></b>
<b>Past President:</b>	<b>Shannon Bingham</b>	<b>(303) 877-7557</b>	<b><a href="mailto:binghams@boulder.earthnet.net">binghams@boulder.earthnet.net</a></b>

### Member Support

<http://rmsa.homestead.com>

Chief

Instructor:	Jack Zika	(303) 279-1549	(303) 505-9488 (Pager)
Instructor:	Mark Howard	(303) 278-7519	<a href="mailto:Mhoward@spaceimaging.com">Mhoward@spaceimaging.com</a>
F3B/F3J:	Mark Howard	(303) 278-7519	<a href="mailto:Mhoward@spaceimaging.com">Mhoward@spaceimaging.com</a>
Librarian:	Tracy Cochran	(303) 934-8838	<a href="mailto:Tcochran@idcomm.com">Tcochran@idcomm.com</a>
Newsletter:	Jim Monaco	(303) 464-9895	<a href="mailto:JimMonaco@earthlink.net">JimMonaco@earthlink.net</a>

### Winch Masters

Chuck Stasek	(303) 530-9373	<a href="mailto:RCSoarer2002@earthlink.net">RCSoarer2002@earthlink.net</a>
Bob Johnston	(303) 678-5597	
Mike Verzuh	(970) 532-0638	<a href="mailto:mike.e.verzuh@seagate.com">mike.e.verzuh@seagate.com</a>
Gary Lewan	(303) 277-1375	
Dr. Dan Williams	(303) 439-7777	<a href="mailto:drdandc@juno.com">drdandc@juno.com</a>
Phil Jones	(720) 488-2854	<a href="mailto:philip.jones@galileo.com">philip.jones@galileo.com</a>



### Directions to Field

Take I-76 to exit 16. Turn left and follow the frontage road to the stoplight and turn east onto 120<sup>th</sup> eastbound towards the airport. 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

*Forwarding Address Requested*

First Class Mail