



Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

February 2004

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXVIII Number 2

President's Message

Well the South West Classic is in a week or so (from when I am typing this) and we have a good number of flyers heading down not as many as last year's fiasco. So we will bring news how this year's event went soon.

We had a great winch day at Charlie's shop and many thanks to Charlie letting us his place on a great day for flying. Everyone did a great job and everyone was busy doing something. We now have the winch frames done and Jim has dropped them off to get the powder coating done. Now we will have to seclude a assembly day to put them all together and test and adjust them we will also be re-stringing them when we do this so we will need help once again and it would be nice to see some new faces there to help out...hint hint....

Another thing to address is that we still need CD to step up and run a few of our contests. Remember that you get the next years dues paid for if you CD a contest this year. There will be a few changes to the contest schedule because I have to move the Spring Soaring Festival to another month because We moved the F3J in the Rockeys so we can support the USA team by holding our contest so that they can have a tune up contest before the Worlds. This will make it a fun event to be at with all the heavy hitters there. Speaking of the Spring Soaring Festival when I do get a new date I am going to need help running the contest. We will need someone to be the winch/launch director a Landing Coordinator and Scoring and like last year as many club and non club members to step up and help us pull this one off.

Renewal Reminder

It's time to renew your memberships. Renew with the application in this newsletter, or online at <http://www.jmccconsulting.com/rmsa> You will be receiving membership cards this year after you have renewed your membership!!

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004!

Well the soaring season has started for 2004 and so far it look like it will be a great year and I look forward to flying with you all at one time or another and meeting all of our new members.

Dr. Dan Williams

Next Meeting:

Date/Time: February 3, 2004 – 7:00 PM

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

Program: General Club Business

CD Meeting

The Annual CD meeting was held and the new schedule was put in place. The new schedule is in the back of this newsletter and on the website. We had a shortage of CDs and as such we currently have 4 contests that have no CD assigned. We need those of you that are CDs to volunteer for one contest so we can fully staff the contest season.

During the meeting we had a long discussion about the value of AMA sanctions for our club contests. In reading all of the available information the primary benefits are:

1. Coordination of events between clubs so there are no conflicts for dates.
2. Publication in the AMA magazine
3. Ensuring that the event is run by AMA CDs and
4. Ensuring that all participants are insured (by virtue of requiring AMA membership)
5. CDs get a 50% reduction in their AMA membership fee

Unlike many clubs – we have at least one competition every month and sometimes more. This results in the expenditure of over \$200 for sanction fees. The general consensus was that:

1. The coordination of events is not important to us for our club contests since we already coordinate our schedule with PPSS, the only other sailplane club in the area.
2. Publication in the AMA magazine provides little benefit, we have seen no more than 1 or 2 people attend a contest as a result of the announcement in the magazine. In addition, we publish our schedule on the web and can announce the events on RCSE for those out of town people interested in contests in Colorado.
3. We will continue to require AMA membership for all contest participants. This will provide the same insurance benefits as a normal sanctioned contest. In addition we pay a yearly fee to the AMA for site insurance to protect the landowner.

As a result of this, we intend to have a discussion of not sanctioning our normal club contests at the next meeting. We will still sanction our two large events where we invite non-members to come and fly.

In addition, there was also discussion about encouraging CD participation by offering a free RMSA membership for the following year to those members that CD a club contest. Since the contests are not sanctioned, any current member deemed qualified by the current officers can run a contest. This is much like the way we have done HL and electric contests in the past.

Discussion and voting on these items will occur at the next meeting.

Jim

RMSA Winch Rebuild

We held a winch build day and it was a fantastic success. We had a number of members show up and all were put to good use. Great thanks go out to Charlie Miller who volunteered the use of his businesses auto repair bays for the work. It wound up being a great place for the job. Charlie's employees had a welding bench set up, some work benches and vice's available and free access to some needed tools. This was a terrific help. I brought a bucket of steel parts and drills and grinders, Bob Vixie brought a small drill press, Mike Verzuh brought a grinder and a metal chop saw, and Dr. Dan brought a welder. At 9:00Am we were there and ready to go. The first task was to make a Jig to weld the frames together. Mark Howard and Mike Verzuh did a great job setting up and welding the jig together. With that done the next step was to cut all the metal pieces to size. Mike Verzuh and Don Ingram did most of the cutting. While that was going on Jim Barr and Bob Vixie were busy drilling and cleaning up the pre-cut handle pieces. After the pieces were cut to size, Jim Barr and Don Ingram cleaned up all the cuts and gave them to Bob Vixie who drilled pilot holes for the axles, then I drilled the axle holes to their final size. This two step process was necessary because Bob's drill press didn't have quite the horsepower to drill the big ½" holes.

With the frame pieces cut and drilled, Mike Verzuh and Mark Howard began welding the frames together. Bob Vixie drilled the required holes in the motor mount plates, while Don Ingram and Jim Barr worked on cleaning up the welds. Dr. Dan was delayed in traffic, but when he did arrive, it was a great time to give Mark Howard a rest and begin on the final welding tasks. Dr. Dan and Lenny Keer did the rest of the welding of the motor plates and reinforcing cross members, while I cleaned up the welds. At about 3:15 we finished up and had 8 nice new winch frames, ready to go to be powder coated.

I loaded up the car with the frames and headed home. About ½ way home I remembered some steps we forgot... DOH. We still needed to weld on the brake belt hold-down and the retaining ring for the handle pins. We also needed to drill the holes for the hold down stakes. Fortunately I still had my neighbors mig welder in the garage so Sunday AM I was out intending to spend an hour or so finishing the welding. As I was cleaning up from welding, one of my son's friends arrived and asked what I was doing, and after I

explained I was preparing the frames for powder coating, he explained that the wire brushing we had done was not good enough. The splatter from the welding was still all over but was now shiny. He explained that those nubs needed to be scraped off, otherwise they would quickly flake off and ruin the powder coating. So I spent the rest of the day with a wood chisel and the wire brushes on my drills cleaning up the frames. They are now ready to be powder coated!!

When the frames return from powder coating, we will schedule a winch assembly day where we will disassemble the old winches and assemble the new ones. The old frames are then available for anyone to take. The only restriction is that you MUST be there to take them. We do not have any place to store the old frames – so they will go to the junkyard or trash immediately.

Many thanks go out to the crew that put the winches together: Charlie Miller, Mike Verzuh, Mark Howard, Bob Vixie, Lenny Keer, Danny Williams, Jim Barr, and Don Ingram with Wayne Hollenbeck running a critical errand for us. Everybody worked great together, a real team effort!

Thanks – Jim

PS Thanks to Bob Vixie for the following pictures...



Jim Monaco cleaning up some welds



Mike Verzuh working on a new brake for the 6th winch



Dr. Dan and Lenny doing some welding



Bob Vixie at the drill press



Charlie Miller taking a break in the office



Mark Howard washing his hands of everything



Don Ingram and Jim Monaco countersinking holes

Rocky Mountain Soaring Association - 2004

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
 C/O 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 areas 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. You **MUST** tag your winch/high start spikes or stakes with fluorescent tape so they are easily spotted on the field by all concerned. Members may be fined \$10 for each stake or nail not so marked. Previous damage to sod farm equipment from spikes left in the ground have made this rule **EXTREMELY** important.
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:

Signature

2004 RMSA Contest/Event Calendar

Date	Type	CD	Name/Notes
<i>January 25</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Bob Avery</i>	<i>Fun Fly</i>
February 3	RMSA Meeting		
February 7-8			<i>SWC - Phoenix</i>
<i>February 22</i>	<i>RES (PPSS)</i>	<i>Chris Keller</i>	<i>Snow Fly</i>
March 2	RMSA Meeting		
March 7	Pro/Am	Jim Monaco	
March 14	Open*	??	
<i>March 21</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>John Read</i>	<i>March Madness</i>
April 6	RMSA Meeting		
April 18	Open*	Don Ingram	Spring Fling
<i>April 25</i>	<i>RES (PPSS)</i>	<i>Joel Zellmer</i>	<i>Humps and Bumps</i>
May 4	RMSA Meeting		
<i>May 8</i>	<i>Electric (PPSS)</i>	<i>Jack Dech</i>	<i>Watts O' Fun</i>
May 16	Open*	Bob Moffett	Summer Fun
<i>May 23</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Chris Keller</i>	<i>May Fly</i>
June 1	RMSA Meeting		
June 13	Open*	???	
June 4-5			<i>IHLG - Torrey Pines</i>
June 19-20	F3J in the Rockies*	Mark Howard	Tentative schedule
<i>June 20</i>	<i>RE (PPSS) !</i>	<i>Dave Kurth</i>	<i>Memorial</i>
June 26	HLG**	John Kappus	
June 27	Scale Fest	Lenny Keer	Scale Fun Fly
July 6	RMSA Meeting		
July 11	Open*	Jim Monaco	Sparks Flying Open
July 18	HLG**	John Kappus	
July 24-31			<i>Soaring NATS - Muncie ID</i>
<i>July 25</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Bob Avery</i>	<i>Height O' the Season</i>
August 2-8			<u>F3J World Championships - Red Deer Canada</u>
August 3	RMSA Meeting		
August 7-8	Spring Soaring Festival*	Dr. Danny Williams	Spring Soaring Festival (Sat Aug 7 will count as the club monthly contest) Tentative
<i>August 14</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Austin Cleis</i>	<i>Howling Coyote (night fly)</i>
<i>August 22</i>	<i>RES (PPSS)</i>	<i>Greg Tarca</i>	<i>Dog Daze</i>
August 29	HLG**	John Kappus	
September 7	RMSA Meeting		
September 12	Open*	Bob Rice	Colorado Challenge Cup
<i>September 26</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Gus Gustafson</i>	<i>Soar Bash</i>
October 2-3			<i>Visalia Fall Fest</i>
<i>October 3</i>	<i>HLG (PPSS)</i>	<i>Bob Vixie</i>	<i>Fall Fling</i>
October 5	RMSA Meeting		
October 10	Open*	???	
<i>October 24</i>	<i>RES (PPSS)</i>	<i>Dave Meyers</i>	<i>Witches Brew</i>
November 2	RMSA Meeting		
November 7	Open*	???	
<i>November 21</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>John Read</i>	<i>Turkey Shoot</i>
December 5	RMSA Banquet		

*Club Open points contest (Best 6 Scores)

**Club HLG points contest (Best 3 of 4 including the PPSS HLG event)

! Planes will be limited to rudder and elevator controls, but the wing span limitation has been lifted.

Italics indicates PPSS events held at their location



2004 Board Members

President:	Dr. Danny Williams	(303) 903-2291	drdandc@juno.com
Vice President:	Mark Howard	(303) 278-7519	Mhoward@spaceimaging.com
Secretary:	Bob Rice	(303) 745-5629	bob.rice@tobin.com
Treasurer:	John Pearson	(303) 306-6800	JTP1006@earthlink.net
Past President:	Shannon Bingham	(303) 877-7557	binghams@boulder.earthnet.net

Member Support

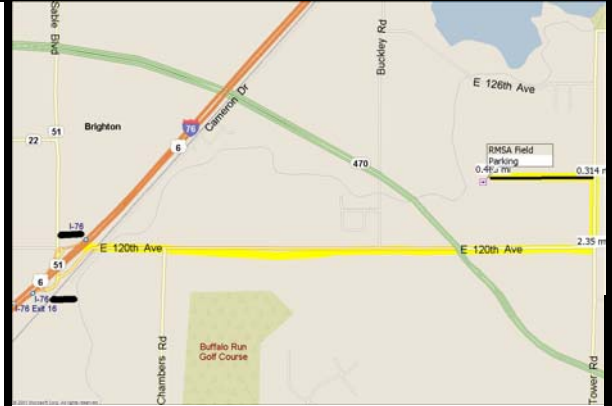
<http://www.rmsadenver.com>

Chief

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

Winch Master

Mike Verzuh (970) 532-0638 mike.e.verzuh@seagate.com



Directions to Field

Take I-76 to exit 16. Turn left and follow the frontage road to the stoplight and turn east onto 120th eastbound towards the airport. Take 120th East to Tower Rd. Turn left (North) on Tower. Look for a left turn onto a dirt access road on the North side of the sod farm. We are on the Northwest 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