



# Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

May 2008

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXXII Number 5

## President's Message      Mike Verzuh

Wow isn't living in Colorado great for soaring! It looks like winter days are fewer and being replaced by summer days. We still have a chance of snow and wind, but the soaring is really great with cool nights and warm days. I hope everyone is able to get out and enjoy the conditions.

From a club perspective, our first Mentor Day is coming up on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Don Ingram and Tom Gressman are going to host it. Please get out and support Tom and Don. This is your chance to give back to new flyers that really need our help. This is on a Saturday so please come on out and give them some support. Then the following day we have the May Open contest scheduled.

We have pulled the May Open forward in the Month to miss the all important Mother's day weekend on the 11th. We will have a brief club meeting just prior to the contest. The May contest is F3J with winches format. We had a very successfully April Intro to F3J contest (more to come on that in the contest report), so I hope all those who attended April will attend May. This is really a great man-on-man format that has a challenge for all levels of flyer. You don't need to be an expert to enjoy this format, so come on out. The weather looks like we are in a good pattern with a front coming through late Thursday in Friday.

Things are also getting geared up for the Hand Launch contest season (first one is next month) John Kappus leads the Hand Launch series for RMSA and does a great job with the contest formats. It is really a great way to hone your thermal skills. Also this year we are one of the stops on the "Blue Skies HL Series", and it would be great to have a strong club turnout for the 2-day event August 23-24. (See page 4) These early contests are a great tune-up!

That is all for now. I hope to see everyone this Sunday.

Regards,  
*RMSA President*

*Mike Verzuh*

**Next Meeting: Misc.**

**Date/Time                      May 4th Prior to Competition**

**Location:                        Sod Farm**

## SATURDAY MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> Mentor Day Don Ingram & Tom Gressman

Need help with that new sailplane? Want assistance and advice from an expert? Wondering how to launch with a hi-start, winch or safely with your electric power system? Questions on the setup of your plane? Want some flying tips?

Once a month throughout the summer RMSA will host a mentor day. Bring your new glider or electric sailplane to the club field on mentor day. We will have a winch set up and a club trainer available to fly with one of our expert pilots.

Location: Scienturfic Sod Farm (East Field), 120th and Tower road. Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

## SUNDAY MAY 4<sup>th</sup> F3J winch Contest CD Danny Williams

**REGISTRATION** 8:15 AM Masters \$10.00 Sportsman/Novice \$5.00  
**PILOTS MEETING** 8:45 AM  
**FIRST FLIGHT** 9:00 AM

**TASKS** F3J with winches

**Landing:** AMA landing tapes.

**Battery Masters** - Please be sure to have your batteries at the field by 8:15 AM charged & "topped-up"

## SATURDAY/SUNDAY MAY 24/25 F3J in the ROCKIES Jim Monaco

### Saturday

Starting Time: 9:00 AM first flight

Lunch provided at 12:30pm

Ending Time: No round starts after 4:30pm

### Sunday

Preliminary rounds until 1:00pm

Lunch provided at 1:00pm

Flyoffs at 2:00pm

We will fly 4 flyoff rounds on Sunday, weather permitting.

There are still a few slots available on teams. Let me know if you want to get on a team. This is going to be a great event this year with most of the US team here as well as rumor of the Canadian team. We currently have 8 teams signed up for the event. I think we have enough volunteers with Tony running the scoring and Steve and Hal running the flight line. If you are not flying you may want to come out and see some of the top pilots in the country doing their stuff...

**Jim Monaco**

## April Contest Report Mike Verzuh

The weather gods have been kind to us so far this spring, and our April contest was no exception. The day started out very cool, but warmed up quickly. We had light wind from the predicted direction (what's up with that?), and a great turn out.

This contest was setup as an Intro to F3J format, and by all accounts was a great success. The format gave assistance to those new or returning to F3J and still kept the level of competition on par for the experienced club members. There were a couple of simple changes made. The first was to space the winches 18 paces apart rather than 15. There were no issues with the speaker system and launch/landing safety was definitely increased. This is a change we should consider for all F3J with winches events. Second we created a mini-team, which paired a mentor and mentee together for the mentee's flights. The mentor could still choose whomever he wanted for a

caller during his flights, but the mentee had a consistent, experience caller throughout the contest. The only issue we had was sometimes the mentor would be on the list for chute retrieval and had to arrange for someone to get his line.

The conditions were beautiful, but still challenging. We got those very interesting small thermals that go up like banshees, then drop out and pop up somewhere else. The sink in between the lift was crushing. There were a couple of flights were guys ended up with only 2-3 minutes. As usual someone in every group got their 10 minutes, and some big hits resulted. Only our top two guys flew clean and got all their times for each round of the day.

Our top dogs were Cody Remington 1<sup>st</sup>, Phil (welcome back) Jones 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jim Monaco 3<sup>rd</sup> in Masters. In Sportsman Hal Remington did a great job to capture 1<sup>st</sup>. Hal finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall (way to go Hal), and Gary Slocum took 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## RESULTS

### **April Open Contest**

**Contest Date: 4/6/08**

Class	Name	Place by Class	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	Raw Total	Rounds Flown	Total	Norm by Class	Norm by Contest	Place by Contest
<b>M</b>	<b>Masters</b>											
M	Cody Remington	1	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	4000.00	4	4000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1
M	Phil Jones	2	985.17	1000.00	983.32	982.52	3951.01	4	3951.01	987.75	987.75	2
M	Jim Monaco	3	1000.00	788.87	989.01	999.32	3777.20	4	3777.20	944.30	944.30	3
M	Mike Verzuh	4	997.94	755.18	996.54	1000.00	3749.65	4	3749.65	937.41	937.41	4
M	Tom Gressman	5	992.60	762.52	1000.00	994.51	3749.63	4	3749.63	937.41	937.41	5
M	Shannon Bingham	6	981.91	515.95	1000.00	1000.00	3497.86	4	3497.86	874.46	874.46	7
M	Robert Pederson	7	866.51	990.36	657.48	864.57	3378.92	4	3378.92	844.73	844.73	8
M	Dr. Danny Williams	8	1000.00	502.66	720.18	973.49	3196.33	4	3196.33	799.08	799.08	9
M	Chris Keller	9	788.75	599.85	796.17	524.75	2709.51	4	2709.51	677.38	677.38	11
M	Bruce Martin	10	634.15	1000.00	749.00	182.05	2565.20	4	2565.20	641.30	641.30	12
<b>S</b>	<b>Sportsman</b>											
S	Hal Remington	1	989.17	976.15	787.52	991.07	3743.91	4	3743.91	1000.00	935.98	6
S	Gary Slocum	2	706.60	580.44	954.15	533.92	2775.11	4	2775.11	741.23	693.78	10
S	Steve Suntken	3	933.44	761.91	522.46		2217.81	3	2217.81	592.38	554.45	13
<b>N</b>	<b>Novice</b>											

## **Potpourri**

### **STOLEN EQUIPMENT**

I had a theft in my garage last night. I lost two Stylus radios with the Glider card and batteries in them. One is on ch 52 and the other had red anodised sticks. ( was a back up and do not remember the ch I think 35) Also lost two Duratrax Evader Pro RC cars with Futaba radios and Intelipeak chargers. Keep your eyes open in the hobby shops if you happen to see something that looks close. Also a TOMTOM go 910 gaps.

By a miracle I had a third back up in the house, but I need a Stylus glider card and a module 52. I was also lucky they left the planes alone as well.

### **Bruce Martin**

## **For Sale**

### **12V Winch, Ford Longshaft with Real Ball Bearings**

**\$600.00**

Ready to Use, Comes with 1000 ft of new line, parachute, turnaround, ground spikes, foot pedal, etc.....

Easy to transport and set-up winch frame design with wheels

Includes an Emergency Cut-off switch. Motor timing is easily adjustable for launching style.

**Jon Padilla 303-847-2300**

# Blue Skies Hand Launch Glider Challenge

## Arizona

Southern Arizona Glider and Electric  
April 5-6, Tucson

## Texas

Soaring League of North Texas  
May, 17-18, Dallas

## Colorado

Rocky Mountain Soaring Association  
August 23-24, Denver

## New Mexico

Albuquerque Soaring Association  
July 13-14, Moriarty

2008

I DON'T CARE WHAT THE OTHER'S  
THINK! I'M GONNA SIT HERE UNTIL I GET  
"GOOD" AIR BEFORE I WINCH UP!



ZIKA

HOLD MY CALLS STELLA, I'M THERMALING  
FOR THE NEXT THREE HOURS!



ZIKA

# Rocky Mountain Soaring Association - 2007

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  
\$ 7.50 Junior - under 17  
\$ 35.00 Senior - individual 17 and over  
\$ 40.00 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 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:

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Signature

## 2008 RMSA Contest/Event Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Description
Sun Mar 9	March Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Steve Suntken
Sun Mar 9	March Club Meeting	Sod Farm	Concurrent with contest
Tue Apr 1	April Club Meeting	TBD	
Sun Apr 6	April Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Mike Verzuh–Intro. to F3J
Sat May 3	Mentor Day	Sod Farm	Don Ingram and Tom Gressman
Sun May 4	May Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Dr. Dan - F3J with Winches
Sun May 4	May Club Meeting	Sod Farm	Concurrent with contest
Sat May 24	F3J in the Rockies	Sod Farm	CD - Jim Monaco
Sun May 25	F3J in the Rockies	Sod Farm	CD - Jim Monaco
Tue Jun 3	June Club Meeting	TBD	
Sat Jun 7			
Sun Jun 8	IHLG	Poway (San Diego) CA	International HL
Sat Jun 7	Mentor Day	Sod Farm	CD - Don Ingram and ?
Sun Jun 8	June Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Bob Pederson
Fri Jun 27			
Sun Jul 6	F3J World Championships	Adapazari, Turkey	GO Cody and Jim
Sat Jun 28	June Handlaunch Contest	Sod Farm	CD - John Kappus
Sat Jul 12	Mentor Day	Sod Farm	CD - Jim DeGroot and ?
Sun Jul 13	July Club Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Bruce Martin
Sun Jul 13	July Club Meeting	Sod Farm	Concurrent with contest
Sat Jul 26	July Handlaunch Contest	Sod Farm	CD - John Kappus
Sun Jul 27			
Sun Aug 3	NATS	Muncie\, IN	US Nationals
Sun Aug 3	Mentor Day - Handlaunch	Sod Farm	CD - John Kappus
Mon Aug 4	August Club Meeting	TBD	
Sun Aug 10	August Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Jim Monaco
Sat/Sun Aug 23/24	Colorado Blue Skies HL Contest	Sod Farm	CD - John Kappus and D&G Jensen
Tue Sep 2	September Club Meeting	TBD	
Sun Sep 7	Colorado Challenge Cup	Sod Farm	This is also the Sept. Open Contest
Sun Sep 14			
Sun Sep 21	F5B Electric World Champ.	Ukraine	GO LENNY!
Thu Sep 18			
Sun Sep 21	World Soaring Masters	Muncie\, IN	
Sun Sep 28	September Handlaunch	Sod Farm	CD - John Kappus
Sat Oct 4			
Sun Oct 5	Visalia	Visalia\, CA	
Tue Oct 7	October Club Meeting	TBD	
Sun Oct 12	October Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Dr. Dan
Sun Nov 9	November Club Meeting	Sod Farm	Concurrent with contest
Sun Nov 9	November Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Gary Slocum
Sun Dec 7	RMSA Awards Banquet	?Cinzettis?	



**President:** Mike Verzuh  
**Vice President:** Steve Suntken  
**Secretary:** Bob Rice  
**Treasurer:** John Pearson  
**Past President:** Jim Monaco

**2007 Board Members**

**970 532 0638** <mailto:mike@verzuh.com>  
**303 477 6184** <mailto:flyingdogtwo@cs.com>  
**303 745 5629** <mailto:briceflyer@comcast.net>  
**303 306 6800** <mailto:JTP1006@earthlink.net>  
**303 464 9895** <mailto:JimMonaco@earthlink.net>

**Member Support**

<http://www.rmsadenver.com>

**Chief:**  
**Instructor:** Mike Verzuh (970) 532-0638 (303) 505-9488 (Pager)  
**Librarian:** Tracy Cochran (303) 934-8838 [Tcochran@idcomm.com](mailto:Tcochran@idcomm.com)  
**Newsletter:** Tony O'Hara (303) 948-2576 [tonyoco@peoplepc.com](mailto:tonyoco@peoplepc.com)

**Winch Master**

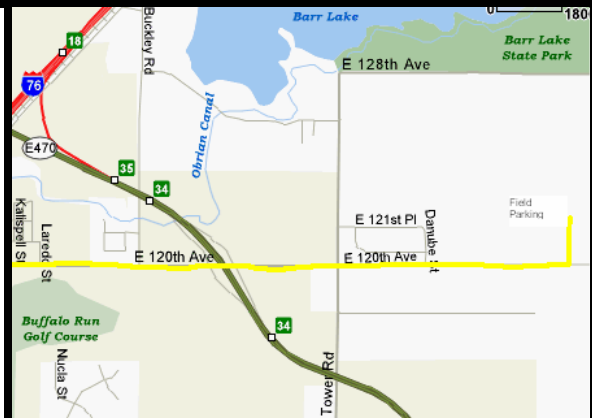
Mike Verzuh (970) 532-0638 <mailto:mike@verzuh.com>

**Battery Masters**

Bob Lewan  
 Skip Miller  
 Joseph Newcomb  
 Cody Remington  
 Dr. Dan Williams  
 Steve Suntken

**For Winch Use:**

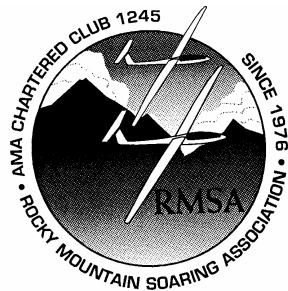
If you are interested in using a club winch please contact Mike for the first time, and I will insure you have all the details for trailer access. Also if you are a new member and have not had a winch operation and safety briefing we will coordinate that.



**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. Take 120th east of Tower Rd about 3/4 miles. We fly on the North side of 120th which is the SE quadrant 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*