



Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

February 2011

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXXV Number 2

President's Message

Jim Monaco

It's hard to believe by looking at the thermometer, but the first big event of 2011 is coming up quickly. The SWC is coming up Feb 19-20 and we have about 14 people going down. I am also running the third annual F3J in the Desert contest on Thursday and Friday before the SWC. Amazingly we filled the maximum capacity for the field up in 48 hours – 66 pilots. F3J is gaining traction and RMSA is leading the way. Many members contributed to getting Blayne outfitted with a trailer hitch and he will cart the club trailer around to the big F3J events coming up: F3J in the Desert, AMA NATS and the Team Selections. We had a bunch of folks pitch in to get the trailer ready with special note going to John Lovins who volunteered his shop for the refurb. John also installed a removable pipe shelf system for the plane bags that is awesome.

A new innovation at F3J in the Desert – I have developed a web based scoring system that will eliminate scorecards. The system allows pilots to enter their scores on any phone that can get to an internet web page. Pilots also have access to the real-time scores and standings as well as the flight matrix. The scorekeeper simply verifies inputs for sanity and then authorizes the computation of round scores when all the data has been entered. We are really excited to see how this goes. If you are interested in the system, send me an email and I'll give you a link to play with.

We have a few proposed changes to the contest program and rules. These changes were discussed and proposed at the last club meeting. Please review the below markups and provide me with any comments. We will vote on the acceptance of the proposed changes in March.

CONTEST DIRECTORS and PILOT GUIDELINES - 2011

Red type indicates changes implemented in 2011.

The intent of the following rules and regulations is to enhance the enjoyment of sailplane contesting for all participants by clarifying the general guidelines that will be used for all contests. **Those items below that use "shall" terminology indicates rules that MUST be adhered to. All other items are guidelines where the CD has inherent flexibility in implementation.**

1. The CD is a certified agent of RMSA and is charged with carrying out the rules and regulations in a fair and equitable manner. The CD is in charge of all operations and is the "final authority."
2. Each CD will establish a staff of personnel to adequately run the contest in a professional manner; CD, asst. CD, line officer, winch master, safety officer, scorer, etc. as necessary, and those positions will be

filled well in advance of the contest date. The CD will arrange for all necessary contest equipment to be at the field for his contest.

3. The CD **shall** prepare an announcement of the monthly contest that will be published in the Thermals and should include all pertinent details.
4. AMA/RMSA rules and regulations will be reviewed at the contest pilots' meeting.
5. The CD will give informational data to not only pilots, but also to the timers and the rest of his staff so all participants are aware of the areas of responsibility and to ensure any safety procedures are known and adhered to.
6. Spring, summer, and fall starting times for contests should be adjusted to the season; as many rounds should be flown as possible! The CD will propose to use 6 rounds as a minimum for the contest. Posted times as published in the newsletter, for registration, pilots meeting, 1st flight, etc. will be adhered to. A contest completion criteria shall be announced at the pilots meeting specifying either a specific number of rounds, or a time after which another round will not be started.
7. **Changes to the date of a scheduled contest are discouraged. Valid reasons for changing the date of a contest are:**
 - o **Conflicts with other soaring events**
 - o **Weather**
 - o **Insufficient participants**
 - o **Other contingencies as approved by the board**

Other than weather and participant postponements, all schedule changes must occur more than 30 days prior to the event and be approved by the board. The announcement of all schedule changes must be made via email, website updates and newsletter announcements.

8. ~~With the exception of HLG and F3B,~~ The **preferred** AMA/RMSA contest format is "Man on Man". ~~The CD may also choose "Designated Flight Order" or "Open Winch" format at his discretion. When "Designated Flight Order" is used, a random winch launch order will be initiated—the pilot will be expected to fly as called or opt to move to the end of the flight order and then must fly when called the second time.~~ Man on man format will use a totally random draw, including Novice, Sportsman and Master.
9. Master and Sportsmen **shall** be allowed one pop-off per contest. Novices **shall** be allowed one pop-off per round. Pop-offs must be declared immediately (within 10 seconds), Equipment failures are not considered pop-offs and **shall not be limited**. ~~For Man on Man competitions~~ Once declared pop-offs **shall** be handled as described in item 11. ~~For Designated Flight Order the pilot goes to the end of the flight order.~~
10. In the event of an equipment failure or an allowable pop-off, the pilot **shall** be given a full reflight, even if it occurs on an F3J with winches reflight. The CD or line judge should examine the matrix and inform the pilots prior to launch of the proper handling of an allowable pop-off. However, even if this is not done, the pilots should make no assumptions about the reflight status of the group and should continue to fly appropriately until notified (or not) of a group reflight. There is no reflight allowed for assuming the group will be reflown and not flying appropriately if it is not.
11. Reflights **shall** be rescheduled to a following group if possible (to speed contests, the CD may, at his discretion, allow a novice class pilot to relaunch in the same flight group). The entire group will be relaunched in the event of 2 or more launch failures OR a single launch failure on the last group of a round OR if there are no following slots for a pilot to be rescheduled OR if the current group would be reduced to less than 3 pilots.
12. ONLY the CD or his designated line judge **shall** call a group down.
13. One-day club contests **shall** not have throughout rounds
14. The CD will not tolerate the evidence of poor sportsmanlike conduct and/or the interference of another's flight. Any and all infractions of AMA/RMSA contest rules will be met with appropriate disciplinary

action. AMA Contest Rules Book will be the guideline. All participants will be expected to cooperate fully with the CD.

15. The CD shall write an overview of the contest to be published in Thermals and see that it is given to the editor in time for the next publication.
16. The CD shall establish and post the flight and shag order for each flight in the round.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOARING ASSOCIATION CONTEST PROGRAM

Effective January 2011

Red type indicates changes added in 2011

PURPOSE

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 for all skill levels. At the beginning of each year, the Board of Directors normally schedules nine regular monthly contests to be counted toward Open class season points. The Board or individual contest directors may from time to time also request or schedule additional specialty contests. All AMA/RMSA sanctioned Open class unrestricted contests will count toward season point totals and awards. In order for an open class contest to count for season points it must have at least 6 pilots, with at least 5 of them being Masters Class. If an insufficient number of pilots are determined the contest must be rescheduled. If the original CD cannot accommodate the new date, the board shall be given the responsibility to find an alternate CD. If no alternate CD can be determined, the board will cancel the contest. The contest must have at least 3 rounds.

RMSA also schedules at least 9 contests for Discus Launch Glider class for DLG season championship points. A contest must consist of a minimum of 4 rounds, and must consist of at least 4 pilots. Tasks for the contest must be drawn from the official FAI F3K task list. A CD may draw upon any of those tasks to fill out the contest's rounds. The contests will follow official F3K rules for all aspects, unless otherwise stated by the CD at the pilots' meeting. F3K rules will also be followed with respect to throughout rounds.

RMSA may also conduct season awards programs for other classes of events such as 2-Meter and Rudder/Elevator/Spoiler classes as determined by the Board of Directors at the beginning of each season. Specialty contests, fun flies, etc. are 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 and is a counting event regardless of the club holding the event.

F3J in the Rockies is considered a national event and may be counted as a national contest.

To encourage AMA members to participate in national level competitions, any national contest spanning two or more days with 30 or more contestants may be counted towards season total points.

Contests must be of a class compatible with the RMSA class they will be counted against, e.g. Open Thermal Duration (including F3J and F3B) for the RMSA Open class, or DLG for the RMSA DLG title.

NO MORE THAN ONE NON-RMSA CONTEST CAN BE COUNTED TOWARDS SEASON POINTS TOTALS!!

CLASSES

Novice New members with limited flying 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.

Master Member having advanced through contest achievement from other classes.

New Member Classification

At AMA/RMSA contests, all members are expected to identify themselves as novice, sportsman or masters pilots based on the above guidelines. New members should elect to place themselves in the Sportsman class if they are accomplished RC pilots (power or glider) or have had significant 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.

Reclassification

Members may petition the board for consideration of changing classification either up or down based on extenuating circumstances. The board will examine the merits of the petition and make a recommendation based on fairness to the member and other competitors.

Scoring

All club contests will be normalized to 1000 points. For single day contests that have a preliminary and final stages, only the normalized preliminary scores will be used for contest season points. Two day F3J contests that are to be counted will use the club approved algorithm for computing the final normalized scores. This algorithm is calculated as follows:

All pilots that do not make the finals receive their normalized preliminary scores.

Normalized scores for the pilots that make the finals shall be calculated as follows:

The preliminary normalized score of the last pilot to make the fly offs shall be recorded as “base”

The scores for the finals (FS) shall be calculated as a normalized percentage – the winning pilot gets a 1 and the rest of the pilots receive their percentage of his score. For example – if a pilot received only half of the score of the winning pilot they would receive “.50”.

The available points (AP) shall be calculated as $1000 - \text{Base}$

Pilot finals points (FP) shall be calculated as $\text{FS} * \text{AP}$

Contest score for club points shall be calculated as $\text{FP} + \text{Base}$ for each pilot

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.

STANDINGS

Normalized scores from each contest will be used to develop advancement points and annual awards. Annual awards shall be given at least through third place in each class. Only the six best Open contests are counted towards annual Open points. ~~For Handlaunch only the best 3 contests are counted.~~ In addition only one of the special noted contests may be counted toward the six best.

For Discus Launched class year-end standings will be calculated using each pilot's scores from the official club contests. One "major" non-club contest score may be substituted for a club contest score. A pilot's final season score is determined by adding up their scores for all club contests, and his 1 requested substitution. If the club flies 4 or fewer contests, all scores are used. If 5 to 8 contests are flown, one contest is thrown out. If 9 or more contests are flown, two contests are thrown out.

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 inside and outside of RMSA. Points for the club champion trophy shall be computed from the total of the normalized, documented scores from all RMSA normally scheduled contests entered during the year by that competitor. Normalized points from outside contests must be documented, 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. In the event of a tie for any standings, co-champions will be declared.

There is no contest announcement for February.

There is no meeting scheduled for February.

Jim Monaco

Solution Architect

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FOR SALE

Nothing this month

POTPOURRI

Nothing this month

Renewal Reminder

It's time to renew your memberships for 2011. Renew with the application in this newsletter, (below)

Or on-line at <http://www.rmsadenver.com>

RMSA 2011 Calendar

[\(click for online version that may be more current\)](#)

| Date | Event | Location | Description |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Thu Jan 13 | RMSA Meeting | Broomfield Public Library | 2011 Schedule |
| Sat Jan 22 | Trailer/Winch Day | 7257 West 116th Place - Broomfield 80020 | Trailer and Winch Repair Day |
| Tue Feb 1 | RMSA Meeting | To Be Announced | Club Meeting |
| Thu Feb 17 - Fri Feb 18 | F3J in the Desert | Queen Creek AZ | CD-Phil Renaud |
| Sat Feb 19 | Southwest Classic | Queen Creek AZ | CD-Chico |
| Tue Mar 1 | RMSA Meeting | To Be Announced | Club Meeting |
| Sun Mar 6 | RMSA Pro/AM | Club Field | CD-Jim Monaco |
| Sun Mar 13 | RMSA DLG | Club Field | CD-Dave Jensen |
| Sat Mar 19 | RMSA Open Contest | Club Field | CD-Blayne Chastain |
| Tue Apr 5 | RMSA Meeting | To be Announced | Club Meeting |
| Sun Apr 10 | RMSA Open Contest | Club Field | CD-Mike Verzuh |
| Sat Apr 16 | RMSA DLG | Club Field | CD-Dave Jensen |
| Fri Apr 29 - Sun May 1 | International HLG | San Diego CA | |
| Tue May 3 | RMSA Meeting | To be Announced | Club Meeting |
| Sat May 7 | RMSA Open Contest | Club Field | CD-Jon Padilla F3J w/winch |
| Sun May 15 | RMSA DLG | Club Field | CD-Dave Jensen |
| Sat May 28 - Sun May 29 | F3J in the Rockies | Sod Farm | CD-Jim Monaco |
| Tue Jun 7 | RMSA Meeting | To be Announced | Club Meeting |
| Sat Jun 11 | RMSA Open Contest | Club Field | CD-Cody Remington F3J w/winch |
| Sat Jun 18 | RMSA DLG | Club Field | CD-Dave Jensen |
| Tue Jul 5 | RMSA Meeting | To be Announced | Club Meeting |
| Mon Jul 11 - Sun Jul 17 | SOARING NATS | Muncie IN | |
| Sun Jul 17 | RMSA DLG | Club Field | CD-Dave Jensen |
| Sun Jul 24 | RMSA Open Contest | Club Field | CD-Mark Howard |
| Tue Aug 2 | RMSA Meeting | To be Announced | Club Meeting |
| Sat Aug 6 - Sun Aug 7 | Blue Skies of Colorado DLG | Club Field | CD-Dave Jensen |
| Sun Aug 14 | RMSA Open Contest | Club Field | CD-Bob Lewan F3J w/winch |
| Fri Sep 2 - Sun Sep 4 | US F3J Team Selections | Chicago? | Tentative |
| Sun Sep 4 | RMSA DLG | Club Field | CD-Dave Jensen |
| Tue Sep 6 | RMSA Meeting | To be Announced | Club Meeting |
| Sun Sep 18 | Colorado Challenge Cup Open | RMSA Club Field | CD-Jim Monaco |
| Tue Oct 4 | RMSA Meeting | To be Announced | Club Meeting |
| Sun Oct 9 | RMSA Open Contest | Club Field | CD-Bruce Martin |
| Sat Oct 15 | RMSA DLG | Club Field | CD-Dave Jensen |
| Tue Nov 1 | RMSA Meeting | To be Announced | Club Meeting |
| Sat Nov 5 | RMSA Open Contest | Club Field | CD-John Lovins |
| Sat Nov 12 | RMSA DLG | Club Field | CD-Dave Jensen |
| Sun Dec 4 | RMSA Awards Banquet | To be Announced | Jim Monaco - Coordinator |

Rocky Mountain Soaring Association - 2011

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

1860 S. Vrain St

Denver CO 80219

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 has 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



President: Jim Monaco
Vice President: Mike Verzuh
Secretary: Bob Rice
Treasurer: Mark Howard
Past President: Bruce Martin

303-464-9895 mail to: jimmonaco@earthlink.net
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720-581-3099 mail to: briceflyer@q.com
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303 963 5019 mail to: rbrucemartin@aol.com

Member Support

Web Site <http://www.rmsadenver.com>

Chief
 Instructor: Mike Verzuh 970-532-0638 303-505-9488 (Pager)
 Field Manager Steve Sunken 303-477-6184 flyingdogtwo@comcast.net
 Scorekeeper & Jim Monaco 303-464-9895 jimmonaco@earthlink.net
 Web master
 Librarian: Tracy Cochran 303-934-8838 Tcochran@idcomm.com
 Newsletter: Tony O'Hara 303-948-2576 tonyoco@q.com

Winch Master

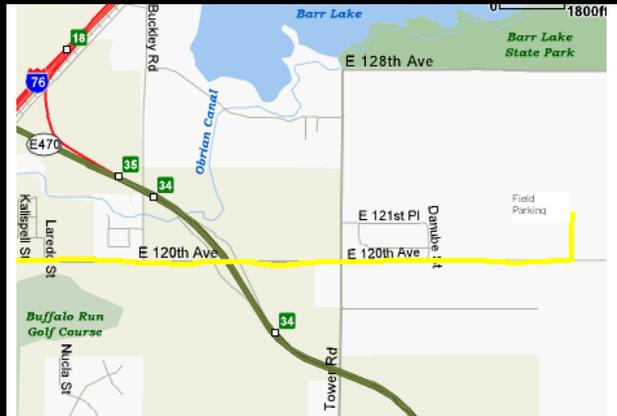
Steve Suntkin 303-477-6184 flyingdogtwo@cs.com

Battery Masters

Bob Lewan
 Skip Miller
 Mike Verzuh
 Cody Remington
 Dr. Dan Williams
 Steve Suntken
 Bruce Martin

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 120th eastbound towards the airport. Take 120th 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

Forwarding Address Requested

First Class Mail