



Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

February 2014

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXXVIII Number 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim Monaco

Well – the weather has not really cooperated over the last month. There were a couple of unusually good days, followed by long periods of crap weather. The GPS (Grumpy Pilot Syndrome) is setting in. Several of us are looking forward to the annual jaunt to Phoenix for F3J in the Desert and Southwest Classic. We are hoping for nice warm weather as break in this longish winter... Thanks again to John Lovins for volunteering to drive the trailer with all our stuff – this would be many times harder without that support!!! I run the F3JD event every year and it continues to grow. This year I filled the original pilot limit up in 5 hours... I expanded the lanes by 1 and the teams by 1 to accommodate all the wait list people. There are now 71 pilots registered. We are outgrowing the venue...

You should also know that Mike Verzuh has been instrumental in forming a new USA F3J Championship Series. The intent is to further the development and participation of F3J in the USA. There are 7 events currently participating across the USA. Pilots use the totals from their best 3 events in the series to compete for the championship. It is hoped that as the series grows there will ultimately be cash prize awards for the top pilots. There is a board of directors responsible for forming the basis of the series and organizing everything around it. The board consists of:

- Stefano Constantini – Chairman
- Mike Verzuh
- Jim Monaco
- Daryl Perkins
- Mike Smith

F3J in the Desert in Phoenix is the inaugural event! The other currently scheduled events are:

- F3J in the Deep South – Houston
- F3J in the Rockies – Denver
- F3J at the Nats – Muncie
- F3J in New Mexico – Albuquerque
- F3J in Seattle – Seattle
- F3J Series Finale – ESL – Virginia

You can find more information about the events from www.f3jusa.com and www.f3xevents.com.

We had a very good meeting for our annual kickoff and scheduling meeting in January. It was well attended with lots of good discussion. There were several items that resulted from that meeting that were placed before the board for action. Here is a list of the items and the results:

- **RMSA Schedule.**

The schedule has been set and approved. The updated schedule is on the RMSA website. Please direct any changes or additions to my attention.

- **Purchase of digital clock for F3K events/**

Much discussion of this item occurred. In the final result the board disapproved this expenditure for the present, but would reconsider with information that addresses the board's concern. The board believes that the system intended for purchase has not been developed enough to ensure reliable

usage during events. If and when the system becomes truly reliable and useable the board will reconsider this decision and approve such purchase. There was some discussion that the clock also needed to support F3J events, but there is no development in process for that to happen so that will not be a consideration for the board in reconsidering the purchase.

- **Creation and Purchase of a perpetual DLG trophy equivalent to the Unlimited trophy.** This was approved. The DLG coordinators will determine and order the appropriate award and be reimbursed by the club. No specific dollar amount was allocated – it is expected that the award will be “reasonable”.

- **DLG Club Dues**

There was discussion that a significant portion of the club operating budget is allocated towards items that are not used by DLG members and they felt it was unfair for the dues from DLG members be used towards TD expenses. As a result it was proposed and approved to reduce the DLG club membership dues to \$15. The website has been updated to reflect this new membership class.

- **Contest Fees**

It was proposed and approved that contest fees be returned to their normal rates as collected prior to the last year and qualified as follows: It is expected that attendees of more than one contest per year that live in Colorado be required to be club members. The first contest for new members is free. After that normal contest rates apply. Juniors (under 18) would be exempted from contest fees.

- **Reimbursement of U-Haul trailer rental fees.**

- It was requested that the club reimburse trailer rental fees when a trailer is rented to haul club member gear to distant events when the club trailer is in use by another part of the club.

The board decided to consider this on an as-required basis, not a blanket authorization. If this is a need for some reason the requestor needs to ask the board in advance for such reimbursement authorization and provide the reason for the request and the dates that conflict with club trailer usage.

- **Trailer Insurance.**

As some of you know we recently had a break-in of the trailer. The good news is that they seemed to only be looking for tools. They left all of the equipment in the trailer alone except for a few items: 1) the transit used to lay out the J fields, 2) the 2 tool boxes. These contained only a few hand tools of minimal value. For us the bigger loss is one of the boxes contained spare parts for the winches. We lost some solenoids, belts, arms, wires switches etc. We will need to replace these items. 3) Softside tool box. I'm sure they thought this was tools, but it actually contained speakers for the sound system. These also need to be replaced. Fortunately I had taken the computers and the actual sound system home to work on them over the winter so those were not taken either.

From a cost perspective we were VERY lucky. It would be very expensive to replace all the winches if someone decided to take them. Likewise if someone stole the trailer it would be very bad news...

As a result I am looking at the cost of insurance to cover the following:

The trailer itself and the equipment inside for loss from theft, vandalism or fire

The trailer and contents when used to transport member planes and equipment

I will provide detailed information to the club considering coverage and cost for consideration at a future meeting.

There is an outstanding proposal to be presented, discussed and voted on AT THE CLUB MEETING that will provide a new club champion Class/Award. In general this Award is intended to provide incentive and recognition for cross discipline soaring accomplishment. It will require participation in at least 2, possibly 3, different soaring events and encourages participation in both club DLG and club open events as well as national level events. If you want to be a part of the discussion and the voting electorate, then you will need to be at the meeting. In accordance with the club by-laws there is a quorum if there are at least 8 club members present. Please show up and participate in your club's future...

I look forward to seeing each of you there...

THERMALS – Jim Monaco

SOD FARM UPDATE by John Lovins

There are going to be a couple of changes at the sod farm this year. Right now they are rebuilding the sprinkler with new pipe and will be extending it out to its normal position. That means very soon we will be parking in the traditional spots by the access road, not out on the field as we have been doing. It's VERY important to not make any tracks in soft ground or good grass. A sod farm employee was recently fired for doing that.

Also the bird hunters are active now so please respect them and stay to the south side. Barriers are up to restrict access, and will be removed in the spring as always.

As to where we will be flying, they will be cutting in the SE corner this spring and reworking the outside ring that has not been used for a couple of years. When the time comes I'm told we will move to the NE corner. For now stay in the SE corner and obey any request from sod farm employees. Ill keep you updated.

Maintaining access to this great field is everyone's responsibility by respecting the sod farms wishes. If you have any questions or problems please contact me so we can resolve them quickly without creating a problem for them. We want to continue to be a pleasant distraction for them, not a PITA.

Thanks,
John Lovins
[303-929-9883](tel:303-929-9883)

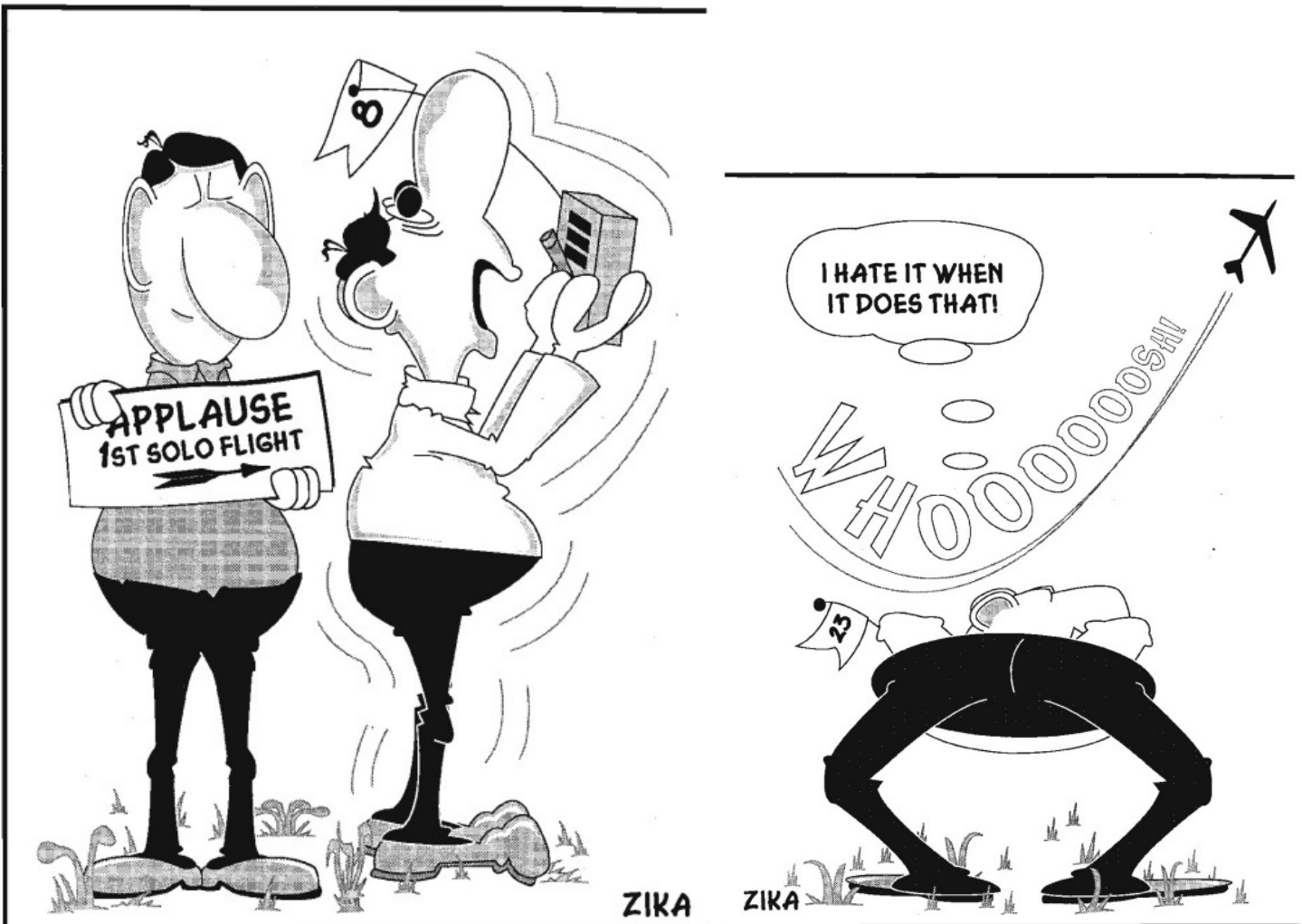
POTTPORI

None

FOR SALE

None

ZIKA ART



Membership Renewal Reminder

It's time to renew your RMSA memberships for 2014.

Renew with the application in this newsletter

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

RMSA 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[\(click for online version that may be more current\)](#) Note:-*Italicized entries are changes from original*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
Thu Feb 20 - Fri Feb 21	F3J in the Desert	Queen Creek, AZ	First F3J Championship Series event
Sat Feb 22 - Sun Feb 23	Southwest Classic	Queen Creek, AZ	
Sun Mar 9	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	CD Jim Smith
Sun Mar 16	DLG Contest	To be Announced	CD Bob Pedersen
Sat Mar 29 - Sun Mar 30	F3J in the Deep South	Houston TX	F3J Championship Series
Sat Apr 12	DLG Contest	To be Announced	CD John Jonke
Sun Apr 13	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	CD John Lovins
Sat May 3 - Sun May 4	IHLG	Poway, CA	IHLG
Sat May 10	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	CD Blayne Chastain
Sat May 17 - Mon May 19	Blue Skys Colorado DLG	To be Announced	CD Kelsey Jensen
Sat May 24 - Sun May 25	F3J in the Rockies	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	CD Jim Monaco
Sun Jun 8	DLG Contest	To be Announced	CD Dave Runyon
Sat Jun 14 - Sun Jun 15	Blue Skys Utah	Utah	
Sun Jun 22	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	CD Mike Verzuh
Sat Jul 12	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	CD TBD
Sat Jul 19	DLG Contest	To be Announced	CD Sam Pendleton
Sat Jul 26 - Fri Aug 1	AMA NATS	Muncie, IN	2/26-27-F3K and 2M 7/30-31 UNL 8/1-2 F3J and ALES
Sun Aug 10	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	CD TBD
Sat Aug 16 - Sun Aug 17	F3J New Mexico	Albuquerque, NM	F3J in New Mexico
Sat Aug 16	DLG Contest	To be Announced	CD Dave Runyon
Fri Aug 29 - Mon Sep 1	US F3K TS	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	CD Dave Runyon – tentative-pending Bid Award
Sat Sep 6 - Sun Sep 7	F3J in Seattle	Seattle	CD TBD - TENTATIVE DATE
Sun Sep 14	Open Contest - Challenge Cup	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	Challenge Cup - CD Jim Monaco
Sun Sep 21	DLG Contest	To be Announced	CD Dave Runyon
Sat Oct 4	VISALIA Fall Fest	Visalia, CA	Fall Fest TD
Sat Oct 11	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	CD Blayne Chastain
Sun Oct 12	DLG Contest	To be Announced	CD Dave Runyon
Sat Oct 18 - Sun Oct 19	F3J in Virginia	Virginia	F3J Championship Series
Sun Nov 9	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field - 120th Ave	CD TBD
Sun Nov 16	DLG Contest	To be Announced	CD Dave Runyon
Sun Dec 7	Banquet	To be Announced	Jim Monaco

Rocky Mountain Soaring Association - 2014

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: Bob Pederson
Secretary: Bob Rice
Treasurer: Mark Howard
Past President: Jim Smith

303-818-7576 e-mail to: jim@monacocasa.com
303-929-9883 e-mail to: bpedersn@colomail.com
720-581-3099 e-mail to: briceflyer@q.com
720-273-2208 e-mail to: howard4113@msn.com
303-929-9883 e-mail to: gjs.smith@comcast.net

Member Support

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

Chief

Instructor:

Field Manager Steve Sunken 303-477-6184 flyingdogtwo@comcast.net

Scorekeeper & Jim Monaco 303-464-9895 jim@monacocasa.com

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

Skip Miller

Mike Verzuh

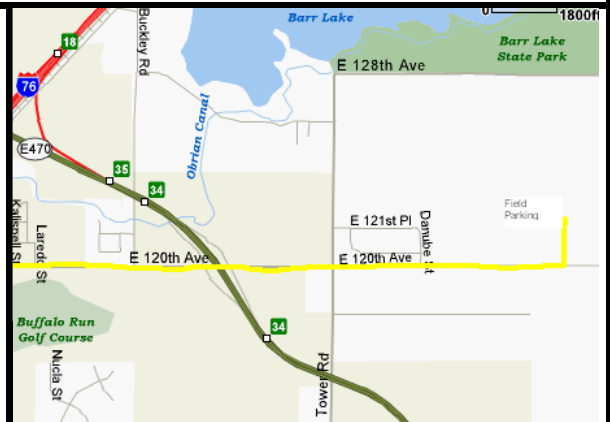
Cody Remington

John Lovins

Jim Rogers

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
1860 S Vrain St
Denver CO 80219

Forwarding Address Requested

First Class Mail