



Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

June 2017

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XLI Number 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 2017

Bruce Martin

President message.

Hello all and welcome to the prime soaring season. Hope this year holds something for everyone. If you have not renewed your membership please do so soon. This will be the last newsletter you will get until you renew it. Please send payment to:

Rocky Mountain Soaring Association c/o Bill Beamer 814 Jacques Way Erie CO 80516

You can also send into paypal. Link is at:

<http://www.rmsadenver.com/MembershipApp.html>

A congratulations is in order to Jim Monaco, John Lovins and Lenny Keer. They pulled off a massive new contest in Vegas for F3J and F5J on April 21st thru the 24th. It was an extremely well attended contest with 60 people registered for the J event and 58 for the electric event. It is a massive undertaking to put on a contest of this size especially in a remote location. Except for mother nature being a finicky woman it went off without a hitch. Also, thanks to Reid Roberts for driving down to the contest and hauling all the gear that was needed.

RMSA was well represented in the J contest with Blayne, Jim, Stoil, John L and Jon P taking first in the team scoring and Myself, Lenny, David, Reid and Skip taking 5th out of a total of 12 teams. In individual standings Blayne finished 5th, Skip 8th and Jon P 11th. When you consider this was flown against the top pilots in the US this was a solid showing.

For the electric event Jon P took 8th and Lenny Keer took 9th. It was a great event for an up and coming new event for our sailplanes. With the setup being so much easier than a j event it is sure to get more popular. Thanks again to Lenny to helping CD and set up this event.

This coming weekend we have F3J in the Rockies coming. Friday is a practice day so you can fly that day at the club field but Saturday and Sunday the field will be closed for the contest. If you have never seen an F3J contest before come out and watch. It is a lot of fun to see the battles and decisions the pilots have to make. I am sure we could also put you to work watching the launch line for early releases and the landing zone for ones that are late.

Continued on next page...

The schedule on the website is up to date so please check it for up and coming contests and events. <http://www.rmsadenver.com/Schedule.html> After F3J in the Rockies the next open contest is June 10th and F3K event is June 27th.

Hope your build season went well and everyone is ready for flying a lot this summer. If there is any learning topic you would like to do a meeting or training session on please let me know and I will try and get it set up. We have a lot of expertise in the club that everyone can benefit from.

I will try and get the newsletter out more regularly and keep everyone updated on what's going on.

See you at the field,

Bruce Martin

AEROTOW Event RMSA Club Site – Sod Farm June 24-25

We're having the first aerotow event in a long, long time at the club field June 24 and 25.

I attended the Mickey Sullivan event in Kansas last fall and it was a hoot. We're doing this really low key. I'm bringing a tug, and I'm sure there will be more. I have a 3.5 meter Discus and a Monocoupe for towing. BTW – if you'd like to bring out an electric or winch-launched sailplane, I'm planning on setting up an area for that activity as well.



Mark



May 2017 DLG Contest -- Sam Pendleton

On May 6th, we got 9 DLG pilots together at the sod farm to try out the air on an 80 degree day. Since the week before had brought snow, we all were really looking forward to a hot day and the attendant thermals that show up on hot days.

We all made assumptions about what we would expect on this first Saturday in May. We assembled, we setup gear, we made some test flights. Reid found it intolerable that we actually start the pilot's meeting when we said we would. So, in a compromise, we decided to start 3 minutes late.

We started the androids and worked on the best 3, three minute of 6 flights. For 9:00 in the morning, it was surprising that there were thermals to be found. Several found enough air to get three minute flights.

Round two brought the All Up Last Down task. We have a really cool group that always cheer for the guy that manages to be the last plane flying. The encouragement and camaraderie is something truly remarkable. Anyway, there was air to be had, but the conditions were starting to put up a fight.

For round three we flew the 5x2. There was good air to be had and several were able to make it work for them.

In round four, our Colorado air began to show what it was capable of inflicting on glider pilots. Total times were in the mid 6 minutes for two flight groups. The third group, Jon J, Bodie and Jim DeGroot were able to really get after it and get some good times. But, this was just the setup for poker.

Round five – poker... Now, keep in mind, it's a beautiful day. Temperature is more than 80 degrees. Any self respecting glider pilot would look at this situation and say "I can post 2 minutes"... Well, Colorado air schooled us all. Nobody was able to use all of their available nominations. Max total flight time for the round went to Jon J, with 6 minutes. During most of the round, the air was just dead. There was nobody to follow, because there were in much trouble as you were. It was a tough round, but as far as a competition round, it approached perfection. It equally punished everybody. Perhaps the surprising thing about this round was that all heats were punished equally. Nobody got a break. Those that flew this round, will remember this it for a long time.

For round six we flew the 3x200 task. Unlike round 5, some variability returned. Some heats got some air to work with, others did not. We struggled in this round with the equipment, as the batteries in the androids were starting to die. We managed to get all heats flown, just in time to call it a contest.

It turned out to be a great way to start the summer contest season. It was a great way spend the day (considering that it had snowed the week before).

A few words to my fellow flyers. (Steve Suntken)

Anyone who knew me in the earlier years also knew my constant companion and co-pilot..Freedom. It saddens me to say.. she passed away May 12th due to a combination of



illness and old age. Things she loved in life were : snow, bicycle rides, squirrels, tennis balls....but above all.... "Flying". Did not matter what form of flying I was doing that day. Be it at the field.. flat land sailing or mountain sloping, there was not a day she wasn't at my side, ready to give advice to me (and others..haha), on how well we'd launched or landed. As an added bonus, when slope'n, Freedom made sure I'd never loose a plane. If one (plane) went down outta site, off she went. I'd just give it

some time, wiggle my sticks and wait for the barking to begin. Never failed. One particular year, Freedom and I were slope'n west side of Lookout. Wind and lift just died. I had to fly out further and further, trying to catch something. I was even using opera glasses just trying to keep track of the plane. Well, long story-short, I landed out well over Clear Creek and highway 6. What seemed like some 100 yards up the neighboring mountain. In some God-forsaken-valley. Following my search method and about three hours later, I had my plane in



hand. It was noted, one other year I spent 360 days going to the field. Freedom never missed a day either and loved it. Didn't matter if it was a gaggle of 20 planes, she always knew which one was mine. Just the sheer mention of going flying, she'd start her routine of barking, running in circles and sitting by the door until we'd head out. I'm positive she knew everyone in the club. Always ready to greet the regulars at the field with her sideways, head down waggle. She was definitely one of a kind and will truly be missed.



Thanks again to Lenny, Jon L. & Jim for giving Freedom the time and patience to pursue her passion. Thanks also, to Mark for letting me say a few words and for the patch. Which will be laid at her grave as an honorary RMSA member.



RMSA EVENT SCHEDULE – 2017 --<http://www.rmsadenver.com/Schedule.html>

Saturday, May 27

F3J in the Rockies

Sunday, May 28

F3J in the Rockies

Saturday, June 10

Open Contest

Saturday, June 17

F3K

Saturday, June 24

Aero Tow Fun Fly

Sunday, June 25

Aero Tow Fun Fly

Saturday, July 8

F3K

Sunday, July 9

Open Contest

Thursday, July 27

US Nationals

Friday, July 28

US Nationals

Saturday, July 29

US Nationals

Sunday, July 30

US Nationals

Saturday, August 12

Open Contest

Sunday, August 13

F3K

Saturday, September 2, 2017

Open Contest

Saturday, September 9, 2017

F3K

Saturday, September 16, 2017

F3J Team Selections

Sunday, September 17, 2017

F3J Team Selections

Monday, September 18, 2017

F3J Team Selections

Saturday, September 30, 2017

F5J National Contest

Sunday, October 1, 2017

F5J National Contest

Saturday, October 7, 2017

Blue Skies F3K

Sunday, October 8, 2017

Blue Skies F3K

Sunday, October 15, 2017

Open Contest

Saturday, November 4, 2017

F3K

Sunday, November 5, 2017

Open Contest

Saturday, December 9, 2017

RMSA Banquet



Rocky Mountain Soaring Association - 2017

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
% Mark Howard
19015 W 62nd Ave
Golden, Co. 80403

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:	Bob Pederson	970-532-3437	e-mail to: bpedersn@colomail.com
Vice President:	Jim Monaco	303-906-6965	e-mail to: jim@monacocasa.com
Secretary:	Mark Howard	720-273-2208	e-mail to: howard4113@msn.com
Treasurer:	Mark Howard	720-273-2208	e-mail to: howard4113@msn.com
Past President:	Jim Monaco	303-906-6965	e-mail to: jim@monacocasa.com

Member Support

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

Chief

Instructor:

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

Scorekeeper & Jim Monaco 303-906-6965 jim@monacocasa.com

Web master

Librarian: Tracy Cochran 303-934-8838 Tcochran@idcomm.com

Newsletter: Mark Howard 720-273-2208 howard4113@msn.com

Winch Master

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

Battery Masters

Skip Miller

Mike Verzuh

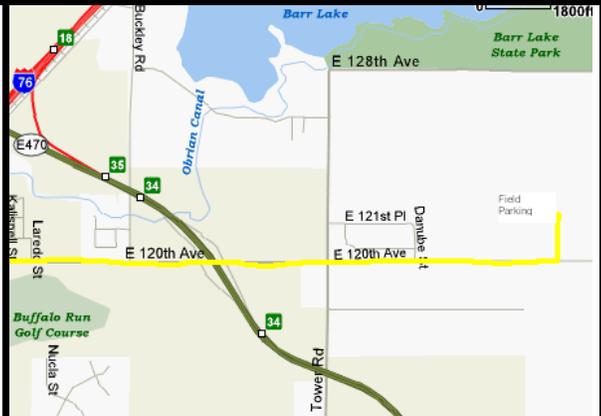
Cody Remington

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

First Class Mail

Forwarding Address Requested