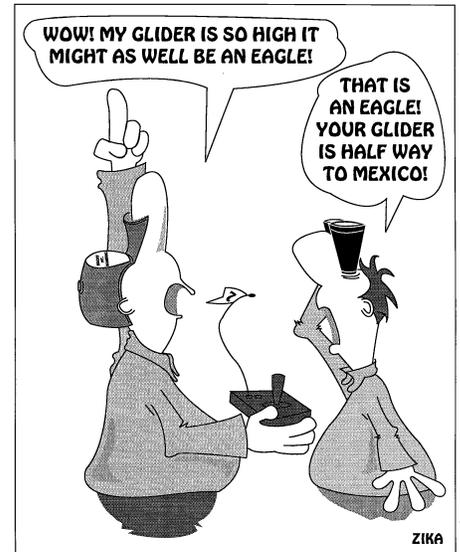




Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association



January 1998

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXII Number 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The annual banquet was attended by 29 RMSA "glider guiders" and the food and socializing was great! We even had a guest - Douglas Boyd of "Real Balls" the ball bearing end-plate manufacturer for your Ford long shaft winch motor. If you are interested in upgrading your winch, please see me for the information. The banquet saw many smiles for those who won a placing in the year end point totals. Very nice plaques were awarded - 1st through 5th place in novice, sportsman and expert divisions, plus 1st place in hand launch.

Skip Miller surprised us by presenting a \$100 check to RMSA to be presented to the RMSA person who is able to sponsor the most new applicants to our club in 1998. Skip owns "Wood Logic," a Boulder based company and the Christmas feeling most certainly was exhibited first hand by his most generous gift/challenge! So,

members, let's see who can get the most new members by next December banquet time - the \$100 is just waiting for you. It's a win for you and a win for RMSA! We have application forms and all you have to do is sign that form as a sponsor and you will be credited for a new member!

Talking about RMSA applications, have you gotten your 1998 dues and application into Bob Rice yet? We need to have your re-up early so we can assemble a new and accurate 1998 roster for membership communication. As to the frequency control problem, Bob Rice had a AMA scanner out at the field for a week end and not a problem was detected! But we do know more than one problem is lurking in the bushes and has struck before! But the question is as to when it will raise its ugly head again! How can you protect yourself! Well, Tower Hobby and Kyosho have a personal scanner available. Call them at 1-800-637- 6050 for details. There are already 3 or 4 persons in the club who are purchasing a bit of security and peace of mind. Check it out.

Next Meeting

Date/Time: January 6, 1998 7:00 PM

Location: Newgate Apts.
10400 W. 44th Ave.
Wheatridge, Co.

*Steps to meeting room are behind
the building near the pool.*



Retriever equipment is being upgraded for the upcoming season. We will conquer the problems that have plagued us and look forward to experiencing 6 to 9 flights per contest! It can be done and those involved in the contest format as CD's or contestants will need to be educated in the proper operation and maintenance of the equipment. Just as soon as the equipment is ready, we will call upon the CD's and contestants to meet for a hands on meeting or meetings at the field prior to our March contest. Hopefully we will have the weather's cooperation for those meetings!

The 1998 contest committee's revamped rules and regulations for CD's and contestants are included in the Thermals for you to become familiar with as there have been some changes for the betterment

of all.

Also, you will find the 1998 Contest/R&R schedule that was worked out by the contest committee and the contest directors. There have been two new "RES" (1&udder, Elevator, Spoiler) only contests scheduled for this year; no span requirement - just RES! Bob Douglas has scheduled at least 3 events for R & RIBBQ fun fly, LSF advancement! I would hope that this '98 scheduling reflects the interest that has been expressed in the various areas. Now that we are holed up in our "caves" for the winter - stock up on aero supplies for a little research/development for the upcoming season! Oh, yes, the winter thermal gods are shining upon those in need of R & R. See you at the field!

Jack Zika

The Editor's Thoughts...

Happy New Year... Well, it's a done deal. I am officially the new editor for your **THERMALS**. I have got big shoes to fill, for a highly capable group of dedicated individuals have preceded me in this role. Mark Howard, the most recent editor has done a great job keeping the members up to date on club happenings as well as contributing many valuable nuggets of information. **Thanks Mark!** The newsletter is the heartbeat of our club, and is our face to the soaring community, as well as a vehicle to attract new members and keep our existing base.

It is a lot of work filling and maintaining these pages, and I hope to do as well as my predecessors. I will start my term with the battle cry of newsletter editors everywhere - "It's YOUR newsletter, please help make it what YOU want by contributing." In lieu of outside contributions, it becomes MY newsletter, and that is probably not a good thing.. Send me your ideas and I will publish any wanted, or for sale ads you send to me. The ads will run for only one month unless you tell me how long you want it to run.

To contribute you can reach me in a number of ways; the best is probably e-mail jmmonaco@us.ibm.com. I can accept most forms of text and graphic attachments. You can mail information to me at 103 Breckenridge Trail, Broomfield CO 80020. I have a B/W scanner at home and a color scanner at work to input pictures with. You can also call me with ideas and suggestions during the day at (303) 924-3393 and evenings at (303) 464-9895. I can take calls 'till about 10:00pm daily. By pre-arrangement I can put my fax online and receive faxes at my evening phone number. Please call first though - we hate to answer the phone and get that loud modem noise in our ears.

Jack Zika's brother Gene has kindly allowed us to use some of his wonderful artwork to spruce up these pages. I hope you enjoy his soaring cartoons as much as I do...

I suppose for the first newsletter I should tell you a little bit about myself. I am under 43 years old (barely) and I am very happily married to a wonderful and tolerant woman, Cathy who manages to cope with my obsessive flying and building behavior. I have 2 children, Christina (18) who goes to CU Boulder and Marc (14) in



Broomfield middle school. Marc has been flying with me for a while now, and I'm sure it won't be long before he kicks my butt...

I first attempted model A/C flying at about age 10 when Dad bought me a control line P-51 for my birthday. My modeling career lasted about 6 seconds as Dad (who had never flown) demonstrated the proper technique for drilling for oil with an .049 engine. A long hiatus ensued (about 30 years) until I tried again. A few years ago I decided to try again, and purchased a new built Spectra electric glider from the local hobby shop. For some strange reason I had no interest in glowfuel planes, I suspect it is the "once bitten" syndrome – I don't drink gin any more either!!! I suffered through the learning flights alone crashing and fixing in a seemingly endless cycle. Actually, I think all of my attention was focused on how to keep that darn battery pack safely INSIDE the plane. One afternoon my son and I were at a local field preparing to fly. Now this field was at the base of a pretty large slope, but it never occurred to me that you would fly anywhere except the flat part. As I prepared my plane for another battery ejection test, I looked up the hill and another person was walking down the middle of the hill towards us carrying a large open class glider. What had I done!! I didn't even look around when I switched on – I had never seen another flyer... With visions of destruction in my thoughts, I walked towards the gent coming down the hill, prepared to take my medicine. As luck would have it, there was no destruction, we were on different frequencies, and I couldn't have seen him anyway, as he was on the ground over the lip of the hill. He was as surprised as I was to see another glider guider there. What a stroke of luck this turned out to be. The fellow was a longtime contest sailplane flyer. In fact, some of you may know him since he lived in Golden for a while, Jeff Carr and his dad Pete, have been involved in soaring for a long time. Anyway, Jeff offered to launch and trim our bird for us which we graciously accepted. It was a wonderful sight to see the plane climbing without the motor!!! Jeff then coached my son and I through a great couple of flights. We were sure hooked then. We flew with Jeff a number of times and rapidly became less destructive. After a few months Jeff was transferred but gave me the name of another gentleman who used to fly gliders, but he wasn't

sure if he did anymore. I called this fellow up – and no – he hadn't flown in a long time due to recuperation from some heart surgery, but was excited to start again – so we began to fly together. Bill Johnson taught us a lot and helped us through to general independence in the few months we flew together. In April of '96 I accepted a job with IBM here in Boulder. The bad part was that I agreed with my wife to keep the family in NY for over a year so my daughter could graduate from high school, so I spent a year commuting between Denver and NY. This was a difficult period for us, but it was during this time that I came out to the sod farm to watch a contest during one of my weekends here. It was great to see all the cool planes and the great fliers and everyone seemed to be having fun, so I signed right up. Since that time I have improved greatly (I think anyway) and I'm continuing to have fun, and that's what it is really about – isn't it?

My family finally moved out here in July of '97 and we are now in the process of getting settled in Broomfield. My son has been flying with me since July and attending all the contests. I am a Sportsman and he is a Novice. Marc is flying a foamie TG3 and has mastered the basic principles of flying and is about ready to step up to a more fragile plane that can help him find and work lift. I am flying a wonderful new open ship called the Pelikan, from Inventec. The plane handles like a dream and allows me to concentrate on the subtleties of lift, rather than flying the plane. I'm still excited and look forward to a great year of flying.

I have had the opportunity to browse through many of the old newsletters and see how the club has evolved over the years. We have a lot of challenges, as any club does, to serve the members needs and to cultivate the growth of the membership. We have many new members, and I hope you esteemed elder members won't take offense if I occasionally recycle a few of the better newsletter articles. I hope to include something for everyone in the newsletters and welcome your inputs.

Being the first newsletter of the year there is a bunch of stuff related to renewing your memberships, and the new guidelines for the coming contest season. In the coming months I hope to include a variety of information. Next



month I will publish a set of plans for a very inexpensive delta-wing slope soarer called the

The Contest Scene

The new year will be upon us soon and the club is diligently preparing for the coming contest season. The contest board has met and established the guidelines for the coming year. There are a number of changes that will be implemented in this years contests. These changes were decided on by the board for a number of reasons I will summarize the major changes below.

The first significant change is that all fliers will be in a single pool for assignment to flight groups in man-on-man competition. This enlarges the pool of fliers and will likely allow most of the contests to qualify for LSF points. It may also reduce the number of individual flight groups and allow more rounds to be flown. The downside is that the Novice fliers may wind up flying against our better fliers and the luck of the draw could find a Novice getting buried by a Master flier. In theory, the random draw should compensate for a poor flight group assignment.

The second significant change is that we will use retrievers for all contests. This will require training so that the majority of fliers are capable of properly operating the retrievers. We will be experimenting during the early months of '98 to perfect the operation and use of the retrievers.

The third significant change is that flight groups will consist of three fliers and in the event of a

PIBROS.
'til then...Thermals - Jim

pop-off, the flier will immediately land and relaunch from the 4th winch. The entire flight group will not be relaunched unless a second popoff occurs.

These changes are intended to improve the smooth running of our contests. As always, your comments are appreciated. Please attend the meetings if you have any concerns you would like to express.

Treasurer's Report

Following is the status of the RMSA accounts as of December 1997:

Savings -----	\$252.86
Checking -----	\$852.09
Cash	\$43.00

Notice to Newsletter Editors

Please notice that the editor of the newsletter has changed. If you are currently mailing a copy of your newsletter to the RMSA club, please change your mailing address to:

RMSA Editor
Attn: Jim Monaco
103 Breckenridge Trail
Broomfield, CO 80020



GENERAL INFORMATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOARING ASSOCIATION has a general membership meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM in the meeting room of the Newgate Apartments, 10400W. 44th Ave., Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Our club meetings are open to the public and visitors are encouraged to attend.

The RMSA flying site is located at the Scienturfic Sod Farm, 128th Ave. and Tower Road (See map) Our monthly contest is held the Sunday after the first Tuesday of the month. The flying site is open during the week and you can generally find someone at the field and especially on the weekends. If you need help or a flying buddy during the week, please give one of the officers a call and arrangements will be made. Beginners and spectators are always welcome!

Reminder Membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and Rocky Mountain Soaring Association is required for field usage. Membership in AMA is required for flying in any RMSA organized event or using any RMSA equipment If you are new to the area or new to the sport, please contact one of the members for information and beginning pilot instruction which is free of charge by our qualified instructor staff.

RMSA has been a charter member of AMA since 1976 and all members of RMA/RMSA are responsible for adhering to the rules and regulation of born organizations. All rules, regulations, instructions issued by Scienturfic personnel or officers of the Colorado State Division of Wildlife re to be followed by all RMSA members and guests. We have had the privilege of using of this facility since 1976. Please respect with gratitude the owner's generosity!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOARING ASSOCIATION FIELD RULES

1. If you are the first pilot on the flying site, you are obligated to drive the perimeter of the sod farm to see that there is no other flying going on before establishing the best flying site for all arriving pilots based on the conditions that prevail at the time. Flyng should be from one site only!
2. 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.
3. Parking and pit areas should be as condensed as possible for the safety of launch and landing.
4. Establish flight line areas for winch launch, high start launch, and hand launch that are separate for the sake of launch, flight & landing safety.
5. 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.
6. No aerobatics or speed runs over the parking/pit/Launch/Landing zones.
7. Do not launch if a plane is circling in a launch zone: vacate the launch zone as soon as possible if someone is waling to launch.
8. When entering a thermal occupied by other aircraft, enter in the same direction as the first aircraft
9. Landing aircraft have the right of way!
10. In the event of no mechanical retriever, please shag your own chute/line for the flight
11. Please share the usage of club equipment so that all have equal flight time.
12. Please be courteous and helpful to your fellow flyers as well as informative to all guests/spectators. Enjoy yourself and others!!
13. Absolutely no debris or trash is to be left on the field! Please take it home with you for disposal.
14. Make sure that your plane and electronics are airworthy before each flight Exercise good safety sense in your flight
15. The aircraft will have an identification name/address or AMA number on or in the model in case of loss.
16. Please tag your winch/high start spikes or stakes with fluorescent tape so they are easily spotted on the field by all concerned.
17. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages will be consumed, prior to or during participation in any model event on the flying field.



CONTEST DIRECTORS and PILOT GUIDELINES - 1998

The intent of the following rules and regulations is to enhance the enjoyment of sailplane Contesting for all participants.

1. For AMA/RMSA sanctioned Contests, the Directors must be certified by the AMA. For non-sanctioned events; the directors may or may not be AMA certified.
2. In AMA/RMSA sanctioned contests, the CD is a certified agent of those organizations and 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."
3. 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. 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.
4. The announcement of the monthly contest will be published in the Thermals and should include all pertinent details as well as the names of the CD staff for that contest.
5. AMA/RMSA rules and regulations will be reviewed at the contest pilots' meeting and any deviation will be in published form.
6. 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.
7. All of the membership should be available for all activities of the contest board.
8. RMSA winches and retrievers will be used by all participants except for HLG and F3B & F3J.
9. There will be no time constraints put on the running of the contest. Spring¹ summer, and fall starting times for contests should be adjusted to the season; as many rounds should be flown as possible! The CD will purpose 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.
10. Winch and retriever equipment will be used at all AMNRMSA sanctioned events and at the discretion of the CD at fun flies, etc. Hand launch and F3B/F3J events are responsible for their own needs. Club equipment, while not up to required F3B standards, will be available.
11. With the exception of HLG and F3B, the AMA/RMSA contest format will be "Man on Man" or "Designated Flight Order." When "Designated Flight Order" is used, a 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. Man on man format will use 3 man groups and a 4th winch will be available to immediately relaunch a pop-off. (No relaunching of the entire group).
12. 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 and his staff.
13. The CD will 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.
14. The CD will instruct all contestants and helpers as to winch/retriever operation, retrieval signals, timer responsibilities and landing and low altitude safety rules, etc.
15. The CD shall establish and post the flight and shag order for each flight in the round.
16. Master and Sportsmen will be allowed one pop-off per contest. Novice will be allowed one pop-off per round.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOARING ASSOCIATION

CONTEST FORMAT -1998

PURPOSE:

1. To help all members of AMA/RMSA develop flying skills by competing against an equally skilled group of pilots in the thermal duration, F3B, F3J events in the varied disciplines of HLG, 2M, standard, and open class.
2. To allow advancement to a higher level skill group - - novice to sportsman to master.
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 obtains AMA sanctions for nine regular monthly contests to be counted toward season points. The Board or individual contest directors may from time to time also request or schedule additional specialty contests. All AMNRMSA sanctioned contests will count toward season point totals and awards. Specialty contests, fun flies, etc. are non-sanctioned and thus non-point events.

CLASSES

Novice new members with little or no contest experience

Sportsman members with contest experience having advanced to this position by the RMSA class point system.

Master a member having advanced through contest achievement from other classes.

New Member/Contest Visitor Classification At AMA/RMSA contests, all members are Expected to identify themselves as novice, sportsman, master pilot based on the above guidelines. New members to RMSA may elect to place themselves in sportsman class if they have had prior contest experience of a very positive nature as a novice pilot. New members with vast contest experience may petition the RMSA Board to be placed directly in master class.

ADVANCEMENT

Class points will be given in each class as follows: 1st - 3 pts; 2nd - 2 pts; 3rd - 1 pt.

Advancement to the next class requires the following:

1. Novice to Sportsman = 12 pts and 1 class win or 3 class wins.
2. Sportsman to Master = 21 pts. And 2 class wins or 4 class wins.
In all contest class situations, there must be at least 3 competitors in your class to be counted toward advancement points. No class points are carried forward at advancement—however, class points are carried forward to the next contest year.
3. There shall be 8 open class and one 2-meter contests for championship points (best 6 of 9) March thru October. Four HLG contests.

STANDINGS

Normalized scores from each contest will be used to develop advancement points and for annual awards. Annual awards will be given at least through 3rd place in each class. Only the 6 best contests may be counted toward the annual awards. The RMSA club champion will be recognized as a true champion pilot competing against his peers in the 6 best AMA/RMSA sanctioned contests entered during the year by that competitor. The club scorekeeper will certify all point totals. Annual awards will be given in the class where the pilot spent most of the year.



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS, NEW APPLICANTS AND RE-APPLICANTS

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? No Novice Sportsman Master

Address (if new member or incorrect on label) _____ Year Joined RMSA: _____

_____ Home Phone: _____

_____ Work Phone: _____

AMA #: _____ AMA Contest Director? Yes No

AMA Class Open Youth Family Birth Date: ____/____/____

LSF #: _____ LSF LEVEL: _____ NSS #: _____

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: \$ 5.00 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!

Please send to: Bob Rice
1123 S. Oakland St.
Aurora, Co. 80012



1998 Contest/Event Calendar

Date	Type	CD	Notes
Jan 6	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
Feb 3	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
March 3	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
March 8	RES	Bob Douglas	Restricted to Rudder/Elevator/Spoiler controls only
March 15	Open*	Mark Howard	
April 7	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
April 19	Open*	Jim Barr	
April 26	HL**	Phil Weigle	Points towards club HL championship
May 5	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
May 17	Open*	Jim Monaco	
May 31	HL**	?	Points towards club HL championship
June 2	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
June 7	Open*	Phil Weigle	
June 21	FunFly	Bob Douglas	Fathers Day Family BBQ and Fun Fly
June 28	HL**	?	Points towards club HL championship
July 7	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
July 12	Open*	Bob Rice	
July 26	HL**	Jack Zika	Points towards club HL championship
August 4	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
August 9	Open*	Jim Monaco	
August 16	LSF Tasks	Bob Douglas	LSF Tasks and Fun Fly
August 23	2 Meter *	Mark Howard	Restricted to 2 meter models
Sept 1	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
Sept 13	Colorado Challenge Cup*	Matt Sheldon	Restricted to RMSA/PPSS members – open class A/C
October 6	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
October 11	Open	Bob Rice	
October 25	Fun Fly	Bob Douglas	
November 3	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
November 8	RES	John Pearson	Restricted to Rudder/Elevator/Spoiler controls only.
December 1	RMSA Meeting		Newgate Apts – See Cover
December 6	Awards Banquet		Annual RMSA Family Banquet with Awards – location TBD

* Indicates contest included in club Open Championship points

** Indicates contest included in club HLG Championship points

Shaded events are historical.



1998 Board Members

President: Jack Zika (303) 279-1549
(303) 505-9488 (Pager)
VicePresident: Mike O'Hearn (303) 693-6925
Treasurer: John Pearson (303) 770-0797
Jpearso1@ix.netcom.com
Secretary: Bob Rice (303) 745-5269
bobr@tobindatag.com
Past President: Phil Weigle (303) 341-9256

Member Support

Chief
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F3B/F3J: Mark Howard (303) 278-7519
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Librarian: Tracy Cochran (303) 934-8838
Newsletter: Jim Monaco (303) 924-3393
Jmmonaco@us.ibm.com

Winch Keepers

Matt Sheldon (303) 421-6532
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Phil Weigle (303) 341-9256
Bob Rice (303) 745-5629



First Class Mail

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Golden, Colorado 80403

Forwarding Address Requested