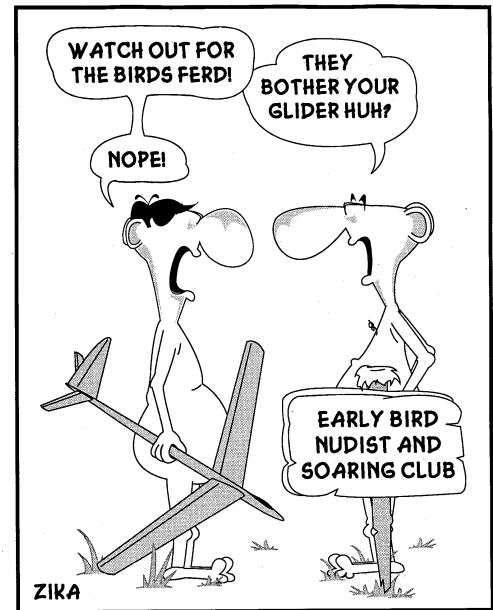


Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association



January 2000

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXIV Number 1

President's Message

Greetings:

Its been another good year for the RMSA. Many of you are probably settling into "building" season as I am and reflecting on the past year and contemplating the future. Whether you are putting the final touches on a new Spirit RES or installing skegs on a new composite three meter model, the anticipation of the coming year lurks. Do you find yourself daydreaming at work about spiraling in the perfect thermal or just sit there wondering how to make good "spluey". Spluey has been on my mind lately. I'm learning when to mix microbaloons with epoxy to make spluey vs. mixing epoxy with cotton fiber or shredded fiberglass cloth. Its weight vs. strength. Say, Lenny, how do you mix your spluey? Say, Mark, how do you get z-bend ends onto those tiny carbon rods? Gee, honey, I'm sorry about all the balsa saw dust on the kitchen floor. I'm not spending too much time in the basement, am I? ... The journey into mental illness has truly begun.

Many of you may already be practicing for the year ahead. Many of us are planning to attend the Southwest Classic in Phoenix which is held the first week of February. The original Dave Thornberg's rules and Sunbird Classic hand

launch contest will be the day before the Classic. The Colorado crew is poised to kick some California butts! The RMSA Pro-Am contest is scheduled for March 7. All of these events leave little doubt that we will be practicing precision landings in the snow. As we look forward to the coming year a couple of items should be contemplated as primary goals for the club:

Competition - Running fun contests and being effective and professional is priority number one. Contest attendance is up and we seem to have a critical mass of club members taking responsibility to get certain winch, scoring and other tasks accomplished. The RMSA should build upon the successes that we have had during the 1999 season and move forward to become even more effective. Priorities include adding a fifth winch, rebuilding winch housings to make them more portable and making decisions on the retrievers. Many of us are attending national contests and raising the national perception of our club. We had a big contingent at the Nats last year and, hopefully, we will again this year. I plan to encourage club members to attend these events if possible and to unify our efforts and those of the PPSS (Pike's Peak Soaring Society) so that the team from Colorado is watched and feared. Mark Howard will be

Next Meeting:

Date/Time: January 4, 2000

Location: Western Education and Public Planning
1803 So. Foothills Hwy Suite 102
Boulder, Colorado

**Happy
New Millenium!!**



Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

hosting an F3B event in May that will draw pilots from across the country. We need to make sure that we make a good showing and support Mark's efforts to host a successful F3B contest.

Protecting the Field - We probably have one of the nicest fields in radio controlled soaring. We need to do everything that we can to make sure that the information regarding its use is as widely distributed and well understood as possible. This will become a mission of both Jim and I and we want every involved club member to repeat the mantra of appropriate field use at every opportunity. Recently, the "Powerline" slope site has become endangered. Several folks who use that site have been fined for crossing the fence onto Boulder County open space and have approached the County Commissioners to legitimize use. Those efforts were initially unsuccessful, although the "jury" is still out. We have probably lost unfettered use of one of the best slope sites in the Rocky Mountain West. (I love the place) Apparently, landing and retrieving in the parking area which is owned by the Department of Energy is still appropriate. I will keep you posted on this issue, but the lesson to be learned about our primary field is evident.

Outreach - Our involvement with PPSS continues to be a very positive thing for the club. Continuing this outreach by e-mailing copies of the newsletter to web-connected PPSS members would not cost us anything and might draw more guests to our contests. I believe that flying against as many good pilots as possible enhances all of our skills and more effectively prepares us for National contests. Further, we need to continue to get more young people out to the field to perpetuate the hobby. Our existing young pilots need as much encouragement and support as we can muster. Finally, we need to encourage anyone interested in RC Soaring to come out and give it a try. RC hobbies in general are on the decline given the competition from video games, technology and mountain sports. We need to continue to be ambassadors for the hobby.

Consensus and an "Open Ear" - As a club, we probably will not agree on the best way to proceed during the coming year. As we move forward with some of the

decisions to be made, Jim and I will consider all viewpoints and we will do our best to help the club make decisions reflecting the best consensus. At times, neither of us will be reachable given the demands of our jobs. The best way to reach us is email and we will work to be available to club members as best we can.

The coming year will be a very exciting one for all of us and I'm having a blast. I hope your Y2K SOARS! -
Regards, Shannon.

January Club Business

The club has several items on the agenda for the January meeting.

New Winch

The board has been authorized by vote to procure a fifth winch for club contests. Since fabricating a winch

matching the current configurations may be difficult, especially finding a matching drum, I suggested that we contact Matt Curtis who recently purchased a winch from a previous club member. That winch closely resembles the current club configurations with the exception of "Real Balls" endplates. I called Matt and

offered to buy the winch back for the club and allow him to be the winchkeeper. We discussed his responsibility to get the winch to all club contests and he was amenable to that. Matt will sell the winch for the price he originally paid for it \$375, and will throw in a new battery he purchased for it. The board will consider this expenditure at the January meeting.

Club Banner

A club member has proposed that RMSA procure a banner to identify RMSA team members at national and regional competitions. The cost of this banner is about \$150. The board will consider this expenditure at the January meeting.

Meeting Location

The January meeting will be held at the offices where Shannon Bingham works. This is intended as a

Action Hobbies
A frequent supporter of RMSA contest programs!
 8790 W. Colfax 303-233-6275

Sailplane kits by:
 Trick (Zagi), M&M Glider Tech, Whyte Wings, Goldberg, Sig,
 Dave's A/C Work's, Global, Great Planes, Model Tech, Midwest,
 Dynafite, Thunder Tiger, Frank Cavazos (Boomerang), AGR

Sailplane supplies:
 Ultracote lite, carbon fiber, hinge tape, hinge seal tape,
 tow hooks, hi starts, Hitiec & FMA micro receivers, servo wire,
 Cirrus micro servos, 50-1500 mah batteries & packs, Hitiec

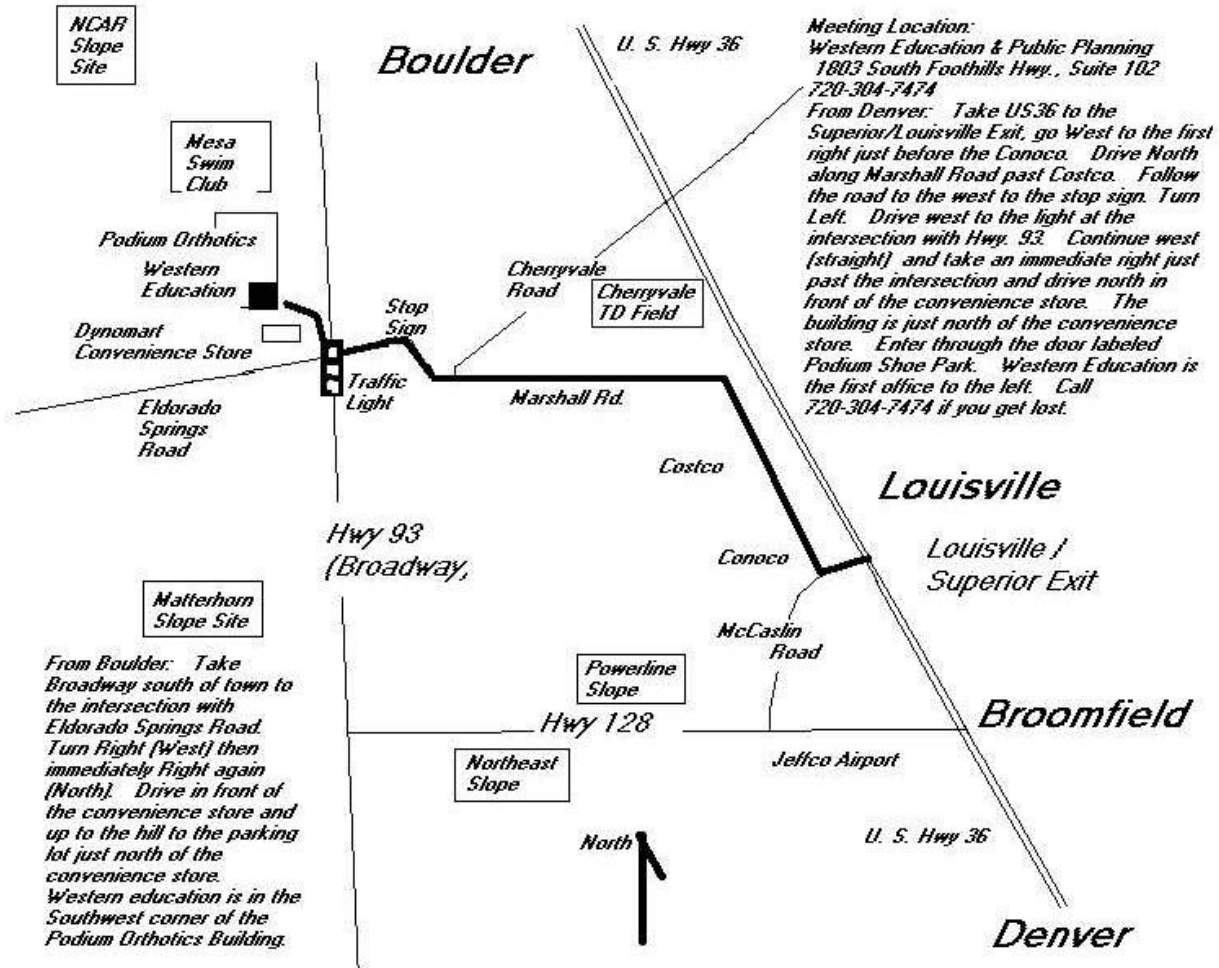


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temporary meeting location until we can find a more central location. Most of the free locations require that a member be a resident of that community. To that end we solicit the help of members in locating a new meeting location. Bob Rice has graciously offered the use of his company offices as a potential site, located in downtown

Denver. Shannon has offered his office in Boulder that we are meeting in this January. If any members have a suggestion for a meeting location, please contact one of the Board members. Following is a map to the meeting location.

Temporary RMSA Meeting Location



Year End Treasury Report

Cash:	150.49
Checking:	1099.34
Savings:	686.65
Balance:	1936.48

Renewal Time

It's that time of the year again. Dues for 2000 are now due. Please fill in all the information requested on the application form enclosed. The club needs to update everything to ensure complete and correct records. Please renew before years end.
Bob



Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

For Sale

ECLIPSE - Fair condition with nicely repaired, relatively minor damage. With 6 - Artr 141's and Stylus program - Ready to Fly and Win - \$475. Would throw in Hitec receiver no crystal and nice battery with less than one season use for another \$65.

TWO METER BEATER - Two piece wing and removable tail, all EPP, balsa stabs, nice aileron sloper in good condition that travels really well in compact box. Slow, well-behaved flight characteristics, tough and pretty in the air. Includes two HiTec 205 Metal gear wing servos and a Artr 102 for elevator, battery and switch. Ready to fly, \$100. With airtronics 7 ch receiver, no crystal add \$45 and go fly. Stylus programming available

DAW S1-26 Sloper - Polyhedral EPP 60" in Fair Condition. Includes battery, switch, 2 Hitec HS80MG metal gear servos. Tough, easy to fly slope trainer - \$70. With HiTec 535 receiver no crystal, add \$45 and go fly.

Climax Polyhedral 60" slope - Original prefab kit with fiberglass fuse in fair condition. Wing is nicely covered, model flies really well and will do loops all day. Great light lift model. Bolt on removable stabs make this one travel really well. With two CS20bb's - \$90. Throw in a Hitec 555 receiver no crystal and 270 mah batt with one season - add \$45 and go fly. Stylus programming available.

Would consider selling all airframes without servos.

Shannon Bingham - home: 303-499-2314.

For Sale

SLEGER'S FAZER 2- METER

Fiberglass fuselage, Obecci covered foam wings and tail, 2#-HS-85MG flaps, 2#-HS- 205MG rudder and elevator, 2#-CS-26 ailerons, 600Mah battery pack. Excellent condition. \$350.00.

MIDWEST ESSENCE 2-METER RES, V-TAIL

Built up balsa and ply. covered in ultracoat, 2#-Airtronics 94102 ruddervators, 1#-CS-30 spoilers. Good condition. \$100.00.

MONARCH C HANDLAUNCH

2#-HS-50, 110Mah battery pack. Great condition. \$130.00.

All reasonable offers considered.

**Bob Lewan Home 303-655-1649, Work 303-884-3142,
E-mail jdicke2274@aol.com**

Wanted

Used Vision transmitter.

Matt Curtis
(303) 698-4376 (Home)
(303) 722-6081 (Work)

GENERAL INFORMATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOARING ASSOCIATION has a general membership meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM. 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 on back page) 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 both organizations. All rules, regulations, and instructions issued by Scienturfic personnel or officers of the Colorado State Division of Wildlife are 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!



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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. Flying 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. When entering a thermal occupied by other aircraft, enter in the same direction as the first aircraft 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 The aircraft will have an identification name/address or AMA number on or in the model in case of loss. Please tag your winch/high start spikes or stakes with fluorescent tape so they are easily spotted on the field by all concerned. 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 - 2000

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.
5. AMA/RMSA rules and regulations will be reviewed at the contest pilots' meeting and any deviation will be in published form.



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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 and to ensure any safety procedures are known and adhered to.
7. There will be no time constraints put on the running of the contest. 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.
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. In the event of an equipment failure or an allowable pop-off, the flyer must land immediately and relaunch on any available winch. The entire group will only be relaunched in the event of 2 or more launch failures.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. The CD shall establish and post the flight and shag order for each flight in the round.
12. Master and Sportsmen will be allowed one pop-off per contest. Novice will be allowed one pop-off per round. Pop-offs must be declared immediately (within 10 seconds), Equipment failures are not considered pop-offs and are not limited. For Man on Man competitions once declared the flyer must land immediately and relaunch on the next available winch. For Designated Flight Order the flyer goes to the end of the flight order.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOARING ASSOCIATION CONTEST PROGRAM

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 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 AMA/RMSA sanctioned contests will count toward season point totals and awards. Specialty contests, fun flies, etc. are non-sanctioned and thus non-point events.

NON-RMSA CONTESTS

The Colorado Challenge Cup is normally held in August or September and sanctioned by the club holding the cup for the year and is a counting event regardless of the club holding the event.

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.

To encourage reciprocity with the Pikes Peak Soaring Society (PPSS) ONE PPSS contest may also be used for season 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 HLG for the RMSA HLG title.



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NO MORE THAN TWO NON-RMSA CONTESTS CAN BE COUNTED TOWARDS SEASON POINTS TOTALS!! This is a total for BOTH HLG and Open class.

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.

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 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 two of the special noted contests may be counted toward the six best (including one contest hosted by the Pikes Peak Soaring Society).

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 AMA sanctioned contests entered during the year by that competitor. Normalized points from outside contests must be documented, signed by the contest director, 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.



Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

RMSA Membership Application

Please print this form locally -- fill out -- and mail in with the proper funds
Family memberships -- please make a complete form for EACH flying family member

RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____ SPONSOR _____

Please complete the following information for our records:

Name : _____ Need name badge? No Yes
 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 #: _____
 E-Mail: _____ E-mail delivery of Newsletter: Yes No
 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 -----

Frequencies you use _____

PLANE SPAN COLOR (Top,Bott.,Fuse) CLASS(Open,HLG,Std..)

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)

Please send to:
RMSA
c/o Bob Rice
1123 S. Oakland St.
Aurora, CO 80012

Make checks payable to RMSA

Comments and suggestions are ENCOURAGED! Please include these with your form!



Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

2000 RMSA Contest/Event Calendar

Date	Event	CD	Notes
Jan. 4	RMSA Meeting		
Feb. 1	RMSA Meeting		
Mar. 7	RMSA Meeting		
Mar. 12	Open*	Lenny Keer	
Mar. 19	Pro-Am	Jim Monaco	Third annual Pro-Am
Apr. 4	RMSA Meeting		
Apr. 9	Open*	Jim Barr	
Apr. 16	HLG**	Jack Zika	
April 30	2M*	Mark Howard	Restricted to 2 meter models
May 2	RMSA Meeting		
May 7	Open*	Bob Pederson	
May 13	HLG**	Skip Miller	Saturday event
May 27-28	F3B	Mark Howard	National Level Open
June 6	RMSA Meeting		
June 11	Open*	Bob Rice	
June 17	HLG**	Lenny Keer	Saturday event
July 1	RES*?	Rick Housden	Saturday event - Rudder/Elevator/Spoiler only
July 11	RMSA Meeting		
July 16	Open*	Bob Lewan	
Aug. 1	RMSA Meeting		
Aug. 6	Open*	Jim Monaco	Kinda-F3J
Aug 13	HLG**	Bob Lewan	
Aug. 27	2M*	Mark Howard	Restricted to 2 meter models
Sept. 5	RMSA Meeting		
Sept. 10	Open*	Mike O'Hearn	AKA: Colorado Challenge Cup
Sept. 16	RES*?	?	Saturday event
Oct. 3	RMSA Meeting		
Oct. 15	Open*	Shannon Bingham	
Nov. 7	RMSA Meeting		
Nov. 12	Open	Bob Rice	
Dec. 10	Awards Banquet		

*Club Open points contest ** Club HLG points contest *? Potential Open points contest



1999 Board Members

President:	Shannon Bingham	303-584-0225	binghams@boulder.earthnet.net
Vice President:	Jim Monaco	(303) 464-9895	j.m.monaco@worldnet.att.net
Secretary:	Bob Rice	(303) 745-5269	bob.rice@tobin.com
Treasurer:	John Pearson	(303) 306-6800	jp7120@aol.com
Past President:	Mike O'Hearn	(303) 693-6925	m.o.hearn@worldnet.att.net

Member Support

www.homestead.com/rmsa/files/rmsaopen.html

Chief

Instructor:	Jack Zika	(303) 279-1549	(303) 505-9488 (Pager)
Instructor:	Mark Howard	(303) 278-7519	Mhoward@spaceimaging.com
F3B/F3J:	Mark Howard	(303) 278-7519	Mhoward@spaceimaging.com
Librarian:	Tracy Cochran	(303) 934-8838	Tcochran@idcomm.com
Newsletter:	Jim Monaco	(303) 464-9895	j.m.monaco@worldnet.att.net

Winch Masters

Bob Rice	(303) 745-5629	Bob.rice@tobin.com
Mike O'Hearn	(303) 693-6925	m.o.hearn@worldnet.att.net
Shannon Bingham	(303) 814-0571	binghams@boulder.earthnet.com
Gary Lewan	(303) 277-1375	



Directions to Field

Take I-76 to exit 17. Take 120th East to Tower Rd. Continue straight through traffic light and look for the sod sprinkler on the left. We are on the southwest corner of that part 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