



Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

January 2004

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXVIII Number 1

President's Message

Renewal Reminder

It's time to renew your memberships. Renew with the application in this newsletter, or online at <http://www.jmccconsulting.com/rmsa> You will be receiving membership cards this year after you have renewed your membership!!

Happy New Year To All.

This is going to be an interesting year contest wise at the very least, as those of you that were at the year end banquet learned Skip Miller will not be flying a full contest year with us as he has announced his partial retirement this year - he only plans to fly six or so contests with us this year although he will still be going to the big nationals he has opened the door a crack for someone new to take the championship for 2004. I can not wait to see how this comes out as there are so many ready to step up to this challenge due in most part to the participation and help of Skip. I for one have to thank him for pushing me and at the same time helping me, and there as so many others that also push us all and make us a force to be reckoned with at the national level.

Now on to other things. I hope that you all have had a great holidays and are ready to get flying again it has just been way toooo cold to fly these last few days and my thought's are turning towards being able to fly in 80 degree weather the first week in February.... Yes the South West Classic is coming up fast, I have heard of about six of our members going down for the contest. I myself will be leaving for the contest the Tuesday before. So if you need anything hauled down please contact me soon so I can make plan's for your equipment. I will be driving down alone so if anyone wants to share the drive in a motor home just let me know via E Mail ASAP, or I will plan on driving down and back solo.

We are changing the date of the Meeting to one week after this Thursday to the 15th of January due to the fact that the meeting was scheduled so close to the Holidays. Now the IMPORTANT part of this is..... This will be the CD's meeting. So if you want to CD an event to keep your rating, or you have a special event that you would like to CD, or you would like to become a CD this is the meeting you need to attend because this will be where we will be setting the schedule for this year's contests.

Next thing we have to get done is setting the date that we will be building the new winches. This will be two different day's because after building the new winches we will have to let the paint dry before we can assemble them. Charley Miller has said that he will build the wiring for the new winches. Jim Monaco and I will be doing the welding and we can use painters and some one to help to get the parts ready for welding and other things that I have forgotten or do not know needed to be done yet silly me. Anyway, anyone willing to help please contact me or Jim to let us know. We are going to have to get this done before the contest season so we can test and fix any problems BEFORE the contest season starts. Be sure and thank Jim when you see him for all his hard work on the winch design because he has pretty much done this on his own for us.

Next Meeting:

Date/Time: January 15, 2003 – 7:00 PM

Location: Broomfield Advanced Chiropractic
26 Garden Ctr
Broomfield CO 80020-7012

Program: CD Meeting and Contest Scheduling

I am looking forward to an interesting year with all of you. Let me say thank you all for some great memories this last year and I look forward to making many more this year with you all.

See you at the field!
Dr. Dan Williams

CD Meeting

The Annual CD meeting will be held January 15, 2004 at Dr. Dan's Office (see front page). At this meeting we will be setting the schedule for 2004. We would like all CDs to attend this meeting. If you are a CD and cannot make the meeting, please contact me with your preference for which contest (month) you want to run and what kind of contest you will be running and make up a name for the contest. I will fill out the appropriate paperwork and submit it for you. I encourage the attending CDs to bring any extra sanction forms you may have to the meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a CD, please attend this meeting to determine the requirements and complete the appropriate paperwork. One of the requirements is to have at least one assistant CD experience, so this is where we can pair you up with an existing CD to get that experience.

Jim

RMSA Winch Rebuild

For the last couple of years we have been procrastinating the redesign and rebuild of the club winches. This last year Mark Howard donated the use of his trailer to store and transport the winches, while Mike Verzuh has been storing the trailer at his place, ensuring the batteries are charged and transporting the trailer to the contests. This has worked out very well with the contest CDs only needing to contact Mike to ensure that the winches would be at the contests. A couple of problems with the current winches surfaced this year. First the weight of the current winches and batteries exceeds the capacity of the trailer. Mike has to drive very carefully to avoid the tires rubbing on the wheel wells. Another problem is that the winches are all different and require different setup procedures. Since we are assigning winchmasters, there is confusion on how to set the winches up. It is also a pain for setup and teardown to have to remove the wheels. To address these issues I have redesigned the winches to be more compact, and much lighter than the current setups. In addition the current design is simply rolled into place, a single stake is used to initially set the alignment, then when the alignment is complete a second stake is used to anchor the system. The handle is collapsible and stores collapsed under the winch. There are two positions that the extended handle can be pinned to. One position allows the winch to be pulled on all four wheels – this takes the weight from the handle and makes it easier to pull in most cases. Some people may prefer to pull the winch on 2 wheels. Pinning the handle in the innermost pin hole allows for the handle to be stiff for a two wheel pull. We now have an on/off switch that controls just the pedal. This allows us to disable the pedal for safety, and not have to operate and put wear on the heavy power switch. The main power switch can be left on and is used only in the case of a solenoid failure.

The current status is that I have had the winch attachment plates cut, and am ordering the frame components this week. I am creating a set of building instructions, and a parts list and will purchase the rest of the parts shortly. Some of the assembly work will be completed in advance. Charlie Miller has offered to make the cables, while Don Ingram is going to drill and tap the brake parts. We will be making 6 frames for our current winches and will make 2 extra frames for future growth.

We used the prototype winch for about 4 weeks and it works very well. We did learn some things that we will incorporate into the production versions. For example: the motor mount plates needed to be cut slightly differently to allow for mounting the current power switches. The base frame needed to be enlarged about 2 inches to allow for better placement of the pedal switch, and to give more room for the battery. The short wiring with heavier wires, along with the new Optima batteries seems to provide much more power than the old winches.

When all the parts are procured we will be scheduling a building session. Doc is checking out the cost of powder coating the frames. If this is cost effective, the powder coating will be much more durable than painting the frames. After either painting or powder coating, we will have a winch assembly day where we disassemble the old winches and assemble the new ones. I will send out an email alerting everyone when we plan to do this.

Following are some pictures of the new winch.

Jim



For Sale

- **Tragi 705X** The 2003 Visalia winning model in Open. Retails for \$1350 through F3X.com. NIB, Complete with ballast For details look at F3X.com.

Tom Gressman/303-744-3535X1101/tgressman@aol.com

- **Escape** - blue and white, has small crack on the wing from a dork landing. Still very strong and in great condition. No radio equipment, but completely built and wired with connectors. \$600.00 or best.

Bob Lewan 303-655-1649 rlewan@earthlink.net

- **Pike Superior**, Pike Superior Carbon D-Box, Ready to Fly, Includes DS368 JR servo's all around. 2200 mAH Ni-MH pack, Hi-Tec Super Slim Rx. 76 oz., Excellent Condition, Ready for F3J. All Red with Bright Green Stripes on tip panels. Also, comes with ballast set and Jim Bag. \$1400
- **HiTec HS-5975HB, Coreless, Digital Servos**, Resin Gear. Standard Size Servo, 91 oz torque. Brand New in Box from Hi-Tec. Retail Cost at Servo City \$81.00 each. Will sacrifice for \$ 60 each.... I have seven. Unique no wear servo, see link: http://www.hitecrcd.com/product_fs.htm

Jon Padilla Jon.Padilla@EmersonProcess.com

- **Escape** - All Voltz, Airtronics receiver. Ready to fly! There is minor damage on right wing tip. Nothing structural. And barely noticeable.. I used this in the F3J team selection so I know it can take a serious launch! \$1,100 !

Charlie Miller xantipa@comcast.net

- **Emerald** – White top / Blue bottoms, built-up rudder (orginal molded also included), not pristine, but in good shape. Fuselage repair internal to nose area, small hangar rash under lettering, and reinforced spar area in one wing. Hitec HS85s all around (metal on flaps) – no receiver or battery. Test flights can be arranged. \$425.00

Jim Monaco JimMonaco@Earthlink.net

Rocky Mountain Soaring Association - 2004

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
 \$ 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!
REMEMBER TO SIGN THE FIELD RULES!!!

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

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 have 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

2003 RMSA Contest/Event Calendar

Date	Event	CD	Notes
Jan 7	RMSA Meeting		
Jan 25	Open Event (PPSS)	Joel Zellmer	Fun Fly
Feb 1-2	SWC		Phoenix SouthWest Classic
Feb 4	RMSA Meeting		
Feb 23	Open event (PPSS)	Steve Bygren	Snow Fly
Mar 2	Pro-Am	Jim Monaco	Sixth annual Pro-Am
Mar 4	RMSA Meeting		
Mar 9	Open*	Bob Pederson	March Blowout
Mar 22	Open event (PPSS)	Larry Laughlin	March Madness
Apr 1	RMSA Meeting		
Apr 5	RES event (PPSS)	Rich O'Connell	REServe
Apr 6	Open*	Jim Barr	Spring Thermals
Apr 27	F5J	Lenny Keer	
Apr 27	Open event (PPSS)	Rich O'Connell	Humps and Bumps
May 4	Open*	Don Ingram/Bob Johnston	Spring Fling
May 6	RMSA Meeting		
May 17	Open event (PPSS)	Austin Cleis	May Fly
May 18	HLG**	John Kappus	
May 24, 25	Spring Soaring Festival*	Mark Howard	Special National Event– click date for more info
May 31	F5J	Lenny Keer	
June 1	Open**	Bob Moffett	Summer Fun
June 3	RMSA Meeting		
June 7&8	F5B!	Lenny Keer	National Level Contest
June 7-8	IHLG		
June 14	Electric event (PPSS)	Jack Dech	Watts of Fun
June 22	HLG**	Jim Newcomb	
June 22	Open event (PPSS)	Chris Keller	Summer Solstice
June 28-29	F3J in the Rockies*	Mark Howard	Two Day National Event – click date for more info
July 1	RMSA Meeting		
July 12	RE event (PPSS)	Dave Kurth	Memorial
July 13	Open*	Jim Monaco	Firecracker Open
July 19	Open event (PPSS)	Bob Avery	Height of Season
July 20	HLG**	Dr. Dan	
July 26/27	F5J	Lenny Keer	Electric event – click date for more info
Aug 2	Open event (PPSS)	Greg Tarcza	Howling Coyote (Night Fly)
Aug 5	RMSA Meeting		
Aug 10	Open*	Bob Johnston/Don Ingram	Hotter than Snot
Aug 23	HLG**	John Kappus	
Aug 24	Open event (PPSS)	Dave Meyers	Dog Daze
Aug 30-Sept 1	F3J Team Selections		TENTATIVE
Sept 2	RMSA Meeting		
Sept 7	Open*	Bob Rice	AKA: Colorado Challenge Cup
Sept 20	Open event (PPSS)	Barry Welsh	Soar Bash
Sept 21	HLG**	John Kappus	Canceled by pilot request – the last counting HL contest will be the PPSS October 4 event
Oct 4-5	VISALIA		
Oct 4	HL event (PPSS)	Bob Vixie	Toss Up
Oct 7	RMSA Meeting		
Oct 11	F5J	Shannon Bingham	Rescheduled from Aug 3
Oct 12	Open*	Shannon Bingham	Falling Leaves Open
Oct 18	RES event (PPSS)	Jack Dech	RESpite
Oct 26-27	F5J		Phoenix National Competition
Oct 26	HL event (PPSS)	Mike Fritz	Witches Brew
Nov 4	RMSA Meeting		
Nov 23	Open event (PPSS)	John Read	Turkey Shoot
Nov 9	Open*	Jim Monaco	Last Chance Thermals
Dec 6	? (PPSS)	John Read	Barn Fly
Dec 7	Awards Banquet		

*Club Open points contest **Club HLG points contest

Italics indicates non-RMSA events



2003 Board Members

President:	Dr. Danny Williams	(303) 903-2291	drdandc@juno.com
Vice President:	Mark Howard	(303) 278-7519	Mhoward@spaceimaging.com
Secretary:	Bob Rice	(303) 745-5629	bob.rice@tobin.com
Treasurer:	John Pearson	(303) 306-6800	JTP1006@earthlink.net
Past President:	Shannon Bingham	(303) 877-7557	binghams@boulder.earthnet.net

Member Support

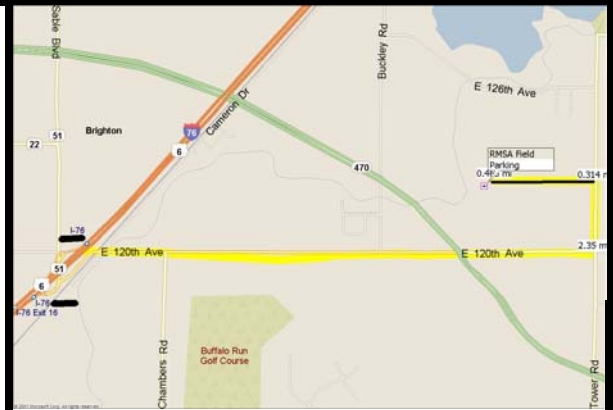
<http://www.rmsadenver.com>

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	JimMonaco@earthlink.net

Winch Master

Mike Verzuh (970) 532-0638 mike.e.verzuh@seagate.com



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. Turn left (North) on Tower. Look for a left turn onto a dirt access road on the North side of the sod farm. We are on the Northwest 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

Forwarding Address Requested

First Class Mail