



Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

August 2005

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXIX Number 8

President's Message

Jim Monaco

I hope everyone is keeping cool - it's been a very hot July. Mike V and I were brain damaged enough to be out one afternoon when it was 107! The first order of business is to congratulate RMSA members for the great showing at the first F5J electric event that had CASH prizes. Jon Padilla took first place in Open class winning the top prize and Steve Suntkin took 1st in SP400. I don't have all the details, but Lenny Keer had some equipment problems. It continues to show that RMSA members are among the best in the country.

The F3J Team Selections are coming up soon. Registration is closed and we will be setting up the flight matrixes soon. We still need timer volunteers! We have a great raffle for volunteers only - be sure to sign up for a shift to qualify for the raffle. You can sign up online at <http://www.rmsadenver.com/cgi-bin/f3jvsched.pl> We especially need volunteers for Friday both morning and afternoon. Since these are workdays we need members who have the time to cover for this important day. Even if you cannot volunteer, you should come out and see this event. The best pilots in the country will be here trying for a spot on the US team.

We will continue to fly on the East field were we are now thru the end of the year. Fly safe and fly high!

Jim Monaco

Next Meeting:

Date/Time: August 2, 2005 – 7:00 PM

Location: Broomfield Community Center, Lakeshore Room
280 Lamar St
Broomfield CO 80020 (Map in the January Newsletter)

Program: None, general club business meeting

August 7th Open Contest CD Jim Monaco

August 7, 2005

CONTEST FORMAT F3J with winches

REGISTRATION 8:30 AM Seniors \$5.00 Juniors \$3.00
PILOTS MEETING 9:00 AM
FIRST FLIGHT 9:15 AM

TASKS We will fly as many 10 min rounds as we can get in. No round will start after 2:30 p.m. There will be no throw-outs.

August 14th — HLG Contest — CD John Kappus

Cancelled (Moved to July 17th due to proximity to the Team Selections)

**United States F3J Team Selections
Aug. 19 – Aug 21, 2005**

RMSA has the privilege of hosting the contest that selects the team to represent the US in the F3J world Championships next year in Martin Romania. By the time you read this the team entry deadline will have passed, but RMSA needs lots of help to properly staff this event. We can use every possible member during this critical event. Recruit your friends and loved ones to help out. Our main need is for timers. We need to provide official timers for all flyers. If you can run a stopwatch, you can help. See the brochure on the next page detailing the raffle we are providing “for volunteers only”. You can’t buy tickets, but you can earn them. And the grand prize is a COMPLETE Airtronics Stylus radio system. See the many ways you can improve your chances to win on the next page. RMSA NEEDS YOU!!!



USA F3J SOARING TEAM SELECTIONS
VOLUNTEER RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE
A COMPLETE AIRTRONICS STYLUS RADIO
SYSTEM!!

August 19-21, 2005

That's right we are giving away a complete Airtronics Stylus Computer Radio system INCLUDING the card of your choice, Glider, Akro, Helicopter.

The Rocky Mountain Soaring Association is the host club for the competition to select the United States F3J Soaring Team to represent the US at the World Championships in Martin Romania next year. This event will be held during three days **August 19 through August 21**.

F3J is an exciting – human tow – simultaneous launch event, with lots of action and strategy. This event will require a number of volunteers to support official timing activities for the competitors and other miscellaneous tasks. You will have the opportunity to see some of the world's best soaring pilots competing for the privilege of making the United States Soaring Team. If you intend to come and watch – you could just as easily be a volunteer. You will be up close and personal to the best pilots in the world – watching their techniques and hearing their strategies. *No experience needed!!!* The most needed help is for officials to time the competitor flights. If you can push a button on a stopwatch you can be a timer. Volunteers can receive training prior to the contest – the rules are pretty simple. On Friday afternoon August 19th RMSA personnel will conduct a training session at the RMSA club field lasting no more than 1 hour to familiarize volunteers with the watches and when to start and stop timing. If you cannot make this training session we will conduct the training immediately prior to each shift.

In order to encourage volunteers to donate their valuable time Airtronics has generously donated a complete Airtronics STYLUS radio as the grand prize. This system includes: transmitter, receiver, 141 servos and choice of feature card. Various other prizes will also be in the raffle. Here is how it works:

1. For every 4 hours that a volunteer works, they will receive 2 raffle tickets.
2. Volunteers who commit to working prior to July 19th and sign up for specific times receive double tickets for their committed times.
3. Volunteers that commit to the entire 3 days prior to July 19th will receive a bonus of 10 tickets.

If you can work 1 day you get 4 tickets – if you commit to that day before July 19th you get 8 tickets total. If you work all three days you get 12 tickets. If you sign up and commit to these days before July 19th you double that plus 10 bonus tickets for working every day - for a total of 34 tickets.

You can sign up online at the RMSA web site at <http://www.rmsadenver.com/cgi-bin/f3jvsched.pl>. Since this raffle is limited to non-flying volunteers working a minimum of 4 hours the individual odds of winning are very good!

Contest Report, Open Contest July 10th, 2005 by Bob Vixie CD

I arrived at the field to find Jim Monaco already test flying his Icon into a light breeze out of the south. It seemed like the first “nice weather” contest of the season so far --- a few clouds, but sunny and warm. Mike arrived shortly after with the winch trailer and we started thinking about field layout. I could see the sprinklers coming, but they were a quarter circle away. We should be able to get a few rounds in before they get here. We set out the winches to the south, had the pilots meeting, and the sprinklers were on us. Darn they move fast. I made the decision to move. Lots of work, but I figured better now and have the rest of the day to fly. We moved north past the sprinklers and set back up. The wind had died and we did have a wonderful day of flying. Note-to-self: Don’t set up in front of the sprinklers. It’s just a bad idea.

The turnout was pretty light. We had 8 pilots show up. A few members were in Oregon at the electric event and I’m sure several were on vacations. Shannon showed up after a long absence. Was great to see him back out. We flew F3J on winches and got 6 rounds in. The conditions were challenging at time and booming at others. The usual suspects littered the top of the standings, with Skip coming out on top. Bob Lewan, John Kappus, and Joseph all had outstanding flights, but kept getting edged out by Skip.

Place by Contest	Name	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5	RD 6	Total	Norm by Contest
	Masters								
1	Skip Miller	1000.00	998.18	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	5998.18	1000.00
2	Bob Lewan	1000.00	1000.00	996.39	998.79	992.47	999.78	5987.43	998.21
3	John Kappus	994.60	993.57	1000.00	994.28	1000.00	1000.00	5982.45	997.38
4	Joseph Newcomb	997.84	991.78	999.52	1000.00	984.39	921.78	5895.32	982.85
5	Mike Verzuh	651.88	1000.00	857.67	994.37	999.74	993.93	5497.59	916.54
6	Jim Monaco	994.96	997.87	991.50	601.06	999.86	716.63	5301.87	883.91
7	Shannon Bingham	961.29	964.10	984.28	622.39	996.95	524.42	5053.44	842.49
8	Bob Vixie	587.39	989.62	896.33	993.38	863.29	636.59	4966.60	828.02

We flew a “bragging rights” 15-min round after the contest between the top 4 places. Skip popped off and ended up with about a 100-foot launch. He headed south and started circling in what he could find. It was going up, but very slowly. It was at least 5-7 min before he reached regular launch height, eventually skying out. The round ended up as:

	Time	Landing	Points
Skip Miller	14:56.20	100	1000
Bob Lewan	14:54.39	100	998.18
Joseph Newcomb	14:52.38	100	996.17
John Kappus	14:50.63	95	989.39

Nice flying by all, but with the pop-off save, Skip you definitely earned your bragging rights!

Thanks to Mike for bringing the winches out and Jim for scoring. Awesome job guys.

July Handlaunch Contest Report by John Kappus CD



We showed up Sunday morning to the promise of a weather change from the unbelievably hot conditions of the previous week. Well, we got the change accompanied by high winds. Bob Vixie, probably like a bunch of others, didn't even make the trip out, so you know it was windy! We did have the pleasure of having two first time flyers show up, Ken Jochim, and new junior Daniel Kuik. We waited for about an hour for the sprinklers to move hoping the wind would abate at least a little. The wind did not cooperate, but Joseph and I decided to have some fun and try to fly anyway. We figured that this would be good practice for Joseph's first trip to the NATs which is usually windy. Daniel also decided to try his luck, so using Ken, John Lovins and JoElyn as timers, we flew one flight group for a quick 7 round contest. I flew with more lead than I've ever used along with a heavy wing but probably only got up to the weight of Joseph's unballasted Encore. We were all really surprised to find that the lift was pretty good. We made most of our

times! The strong lift moved downwind quickly, but you could go up enough to get back. It turned into a real test of eyesight and guts and I probably don't have to tell you that Joseph won the guts battle. Daniel flew exceptionally well in difficult conditions. We're not really sure that he's a first timer! I can certainly tell you that we all had fun!

Remember that we are taking August off from the HLG contest schedule to prepare for the team selections. Also the **September HLG contest will be rescheduled for September 4th** due to my wife's vacation plans. Take a look at Tom Gressman's for sale DLGs. These are really good planes. Think lift and come out and join the fun in September!

	1	2		3		4		5		6		7		Grand Total	Norm Score	Place
Name	norm score	norm score	total	norm score	total	norm score	total	norm score	total	norm score	total	norm score	total			
Joseph Newcomb	1000	1000	2000	960	2960	1000	3960	1000	4960	1000	5960	809		6769	1000	1
John Kappus	823	918	1741	1000	2741	858	3599	1000	4599	1000	5599	1000		6599	975	2
Daniel Kuik	445	611	1056	623	1679	615	2294	1000	3294	765	4059	563		4622	683	3

2005 Open Contest Standings

NATs News by Joseph Newcomb



This was my first trip to the Nats. My first day of flying was the hand launch competition, which had 24 competitors. The day started with an interesting and somewhat confusing first round ladder task. The task was described as follows: "4 flights minimum, each flight must be longer than the last. 30 second minimum flight time." Since I hadn't flown this before, and didn't have much time to think about strategy, as I was up first, I got some advice from others, who said that I'd do best to go for progressive flights of 31, 32, 33 seconds and then begin to try for longer flights. This was a good strategy, but at this early time in the morning, the air had not developed. My turnarounds weren't too tight and it got harder and harder to beat my last flight. In one flight I was unable to beat my last longest score by one second, so I gave up more than a minute. The next two rounds were more conventional tasks, and I won both of them, beating Phil Barnes for the only two rounds he didn't win in the whole contest. In those rounds, I only beat Phil by doing quick turn-arounds, averaging 1.8 seconds with tip catches every time.

The conditions were difficult and many of the tasks were interesting. In one round, where the task was to fly two five minute flights, I flew 2:30 and 3:00 and that was close to winning the round. It was difficult to keep your spirits up because you felt like you were doing poorly. In the end, the amazing Phil Barnes came out on top. He was clearly the highest launcher and knew the limits of his plane well. I wound up in sixth place, one point behind Larry Jolly. I flew the Encore, which did well.

F3J was a two-day contest on Saturday-Sunday, with 44 competitors. The conditions were very different than here in Colorado. The thermals seemed especially light to me, and traveled downwind far. Some rounds had good thermal lift and others had nearly none at all. Sometimes the best strategy was just to hang.

Tom Keisling was impressive throughout the contest and wound up winning. He flew his own design, ultra-light plane. This is the latest version of the planes he flew at the World's last year. As expected, his plane flew extremely well in the light conditions the first day. It was surprising that such a light plane was able to compete well in windy conditions the second day. Some people think that this type of plane could be the future of F3J.

We've heard that the model will be coming out soon, called the Supra.

Unfortunately, I came up just short of the fly-offs in 11th place. Like many other pilots, I landed a plane out in the cornfield on Sunday. The corn is about 9 feet tall, so it can be pretty hard to find planes. I learned an important lesson about the value of identifying a line of sight when a plane goes down. In the rush to get you second plane in the air, it is important to stop and determine an accurate line of sight to where the plane went down. Unfortunately, I failed to do this and spent at least an hour searching for the plane, along with several other helpers.

Overall the contest was great. I learned a lot about different conditions.

I had a lot of support. Special thanks to Larry Jolly and Craig Greening who took me in on their team.

RMSA Flyers Dominate Alpine F5J Contest by Lenny Keer



Each year Quiet Flyer magazine puts on their Alpine Soaring Adventure in the mountains of eastern Oregon. This year, they decided to also include an electric F5J contest to bring some attention to this competition format. To make things interesting, it was decided to have cash awards and Quiet Flyer, Hacker USA, and Northeast Sailplanes stepped up to sponsor the \$6000 total purse. With a start like that, this should have been a sold out venue, but the sporadic advertising and somewhat inconvenient location kept the pilot's list short. The event was held on Sunday, July 10th and Monday, July 11th.

The contest used the "Unlimited Motor Run" format that is becoming very popular. This format provides all of the fun of F3J flying without any towing hassles. Within a 10-minute window, the planes are launched and each pilot climbs for as much or as little time as he chooses. Once he shuts his motor off his duration time begins counting and the motor cannot be restarted. Just as in F3J, the plane must be landed before the 10-minute window expires in order to receive landing points. A computer was used to monitor each pilot's motor run. SP400 and Unlimited classes were both flown.

The field was a mowed hay field near Joseph, Oregon. Not really ideal, but workable. One nice amenity was a large metal barn on the site where the pit area was set up. This provided a welcome shelter from the occasional showers on Sunday and shade from the sun on Monday.

When the dust settled, Jon Padilla took first, Steve Suntken was third, and I placed fourth in Unlimited class. In SP400, Steve was first, Jon was second, and I was third. It was a great showing for RMSA and over \$4000 of the total purse came back to Colorado!

The next big F5J event will be closer to home, in Albuquerque in October and we'll be having a small F5J warm-up event here prior to that. If you have an electric sailplane that you'd like to put to some good use, bring it out and join the fun!

Treasurer Report by John Pearson

Account Transactions
 First Bank
 Checking

02/01/05 Through 07/24/05

Num	Date	Payee	Category	Amount	Running Balance
Opening Balance as of 02/01/05					905.8100
Month Ending 03/31/05					
	2005-03-04	PayPal	Club Dues	451.4000	1357.2100
	2005-03-07	John Pearson	Club Dues	25.0000	1382.2100
1812	2005-03-24	Jim Monaco	Bills : Membership Fees	-611.5700	770.6400
Total Month Ending 03/31/05				-135.1700	
Month Ending 05/31/05					
	2005-05-09	1st Bank	Revised Balance	17.6000	788.2400
Total Month Ending 05/31/05				17.6000	
Month Ending 06/30/05					
	2005-06-29	contests	contest fees	405.0000	1193.2400
Total Month Ending 06/30/05				405.0000	
Month Ending 07/31/05					
	2005-07-10	F3J Team Selection Fees	Split/Multiple Categories	277.5800	1470.8200
Total Month Ending 07/31/05				277.5800	
Grand Total					565.0100 1470.8200

For Sale

Starlight 3000 V-tail new in box.
 Yellow and black. \$1100.00

Photon II DLG New in Box
 \$300

Blaster DLG New In Box
 \$300

Tom Gressman 303-246-6151 or 303-744-3535 X1101

2005 RMSA Contest/Event Calendar

Italics indicates PPSS events at their location Club Open Points best 6 Club HLG Points best 3 inc PPSS event

Date	Type	CD	Name/Notes
<i>January 22</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Joel Zellmer</i>	<i>Fun Fly</i>
February 1	RMSA Meeting		
February 5-6			<i>SWC - Phoenix</i>
<i>February 19</i>	<i>RES (PPSS)</i>	<i>Greg Tarcza</i>	<i>Snow Fly</i>
March 1	RMSA Meeting		
March 6	Pro/Am	Jim Monaco	
March 13	Open*	Jon Padilla	F3J with Winches
<i>March 20</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Mike Fritz</i>	<i>March Madness</i>
April 2	RES	Dr. Dan Williams	
April 5	RMSA Meeting		
April 10	Open*	Don Ingram	
April 17	F5J	Lenny Keer	Electric Event
<i>April 24</i>	<i>RES (PPSS)</i>	<i>Chris Keller</i>	<i>Humps and Bumps</i>
May 3	RMSA Meeting		
May 7	Open*	Bob Moffett	SATURDAY Event
May 21	HLG**	John Kappus	
<i>May 21</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Austin Cleis</i>	<i>May Fly</i>
May 28-29	F3J in the Rockies*	Mark Howard	
June 4-5			IHLG - California Event
June 4	Scale Fest	Lenny Keer	CANCELLED rescheduled to Oct 23
June 4	<i>Electric</i>	<i>John Read</i>	<i>Watts O' Fun</i>
June 7	RMSA Meeting		
June 12	Open*	Rich O'Connell	
<i>June 25</i>	<i>RE (PPSS) !</i>	<i>Dave Kurth</i>	<i>Memorial</i>
June 25	HLG**	John Kappus	
June 26	F5J	Lenny Keer	
July 5	RMSA Meeting		
July 10	Open*	Bob Vixie	
July 17	HLG**	John Kappus	Rescheduled from August 14
July 22-29			<i>Soaring NATS - Muncie ID</i>
<i>July 24</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Bob Avery</i>	<i>Height O' the Season</i>
August 2	RMSA Meeting		
<i>August 6</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Greg Tarcza</i>	<i>Howling Coyote (night fly)</i>
August 7	Open*	Jim Monaco	
August 14	HLG**	John Kappus	Cancelled due to F3J Team Selections see 7/17
August 19-21	US F3J Team Selections	Byron Blakeslee	Approved
<i>August 21</i>	<i>RES (PPSS)</i>	<i>Austin Cleis</i>	<i>Dog Daze</i>
September 4	HLG**	John Kappus	Rescheduled from Sept 17
September 6	RMSA Meeting		
September 11	Open*	Bob Rice	Colorado Challenge Cup
September 18	Scienturfic Appreciation Day		Also Family Day
<i>September 24</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>Chris Keller</i>	<i>Soar Bash</i>
September 25	RES	Dr. Dan Williams	
<i>October 1</i>	<i>HLG (PPSS)</i>	<i>Gus Gustafson</i>	<i>Fall Fling</i>
October 1-2			<i>Visalia Fall Fest</i>
October 1	F5J Electric	Steve Suntken	Tune up for NM (added to schedule)
October 4	RMSA Meeting		
October 9	Open*	Mike Verzuh	
<i>October 22</i>	<i>RES (PPSS)</i>	<i>Dave Meyers</i>	<i>Witches Brew</i>
October 23	Scale Fest	Lenny Keer	
October 29	RES	Dr. Dan Williams	
November 1	RMSA Meeting		
November 6	Open*	Tony O'Hara	
<i>November 20</i>	<i>Open (PPSS)</i>	<i>John Read</i>	<i>Turkey Shoot</i>
<i>December 3</i>	<i>Barn Fly</i>	<i>John Read</i>	<i>PPSS Members Only</i>
December 11	RMSA Banquet		



2005 Board Members

President:	Jim Monaco	(303) 464-9895	JimMonaco@earthlink.net
Vice President:	Mike Verzuh	(970) 532-0638	mailto:mike@verzuh.com
Secretary:	Bob Rice	(303) 745-5629	mailto:brice@p2es.com
Treasurer:	John Pearson	(303) 306-6800	mailto:JTP1006@earthlink.net
Past President:	Dr. Danny Williams	(303) 903-2291	drdandc@juno.com

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:	John Kappus	(303) 861-7121	john.kappus@alum.mit.edu

Winch Master

Mike Verzuh (970) 532-0638 <mailto:mike@verzuh.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. 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
1123 S. Oakland St
Aurora CO 80012

First Class Mail

Forwarding Address Requested