



Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

November 2005

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXIX Number 11

President's Message

Jim Monaco

Well, we are winding down the year and the race is close for club champion. Currently Skip Miller is leading Bob Lewan by .02 points – that is VERY close. The final contest of the year will decide the outcome. Be sure to come out and participate. Club elections are coming up and we still need a candidate for President. Let's have someone volunteer to lead the club through the next year. I am working the arrangement for the December banquet. I am planning on having it at Cinzetti's again. Details will follow via email and be confirmed in writing for the next newsletter.

It is renewal time again – please log in to the website and renew your membership for 2006. Early renewal helps your club with year end finances.

It's holiday time again – here is wishing you and yours a great holiday season.

Jim

Next Meeting:

Date/Time: November 1, 2005 – 7:00 PM

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

Program: **Nomination of Officers**

November 6th Open Contest CD Tony O'Hara

Last One of the Year !!!

REGISTRATION 8:30 AM Seniors \$5.00 Juniors \$3.00

PILOTS MEETING 9:10 AM

FIRST FLIGHT 9:30 AM

Battery Masters - Please be sure to have your batteries at the field by 8:30 AM.

TASKS T1 International Duration - man on man launching in rapid succession. The task times for all rounds will be based on weather conditions but a priority will be for 10 min times... Skegs can be used!

Landing: L4 Spot landing with standard (25') AMA landing tapes.

Scoring: Man on Man, random flight group assignment.

Contest Report, F5J Electric October 2nd by Steve Suntken CD

October 2, RMSA F5J enthusiasts gathered for the third and final competition of the scheduled season. Unfortunately this involved only two participants. But what a stand off this became. In one corner you had the veteran electric flyer, Lenny Keer. In the other, Steve Suntken (me). The day was gorgeous. The field was green and lush and we had it all to ourselves. And there you have it. Two warriors, standing faces to face, with planes in hand ready to do battle in both, sp400 & unlimited class.

I'm not going to get into the gory details of the round by round blows, other than to say it was quite a sight. With very spotting lift throughout the four rounds of each class, we were constantly sniffing out each other's air. Feeling around for any chance to make up for earlier misjudgments. Many a time one would try to crowd into the others air, only to get spit out. And hopelessly watch his opponent rise merrily skyward. It was a fine day, fine battle and we both walked away smiling. Confidante that this warm up to the upcoming New Mexico's' challenge was a good one.

---steve

		Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Total
Sp400.....	Steve	746	1000	973	1000	3719
	Lenny	1000	591	1000	444	3035
Unlimited.....	Lenny	1000	1000	1000	1000	4000
	Steve	738	943	416	982	3079

Contest Report, Open Contest October 9th by Mike Verzuh CD

So.... I went so far as to predict we would have wonderful Colorado blue skies weather for the October contest. Mother Nature stepped in to correct my foolish prognostications, producing a beautiful day on Saturday, but Sunday arrived clouded over. I think this is the forth or fifth contest this year that we have had good weather on Saturday and bad on Sunday – luck of the draw I guess. The good news is we had 11 fearless contestants arrive. The plan was to set out the club's full complement of winches so we could get in as many rounds as possible before the predicted storm's arrival in the afternoon. Everyone pitched in setting up the winches, the sprinklers were off, the wind was from the North at 4-8 mph, and we kicked off a fast paced contest.

The flying was pleasantly surprising with buoyant air and as the morning progressed good lift. Actually we would have killed for such consistent air at the F3J team selections. It just goes to show we don't need clear skies for soaring. Because we could run two groups per round we were able to get in a lot of fast paced flying. We started of with a 6-minute round. This was very achievable so I increased the round time, even throwing in a 10 minuter to challenge everyone. To no avail most pilot were able to get their times. We were able to get in 5 rounds before the weather moved in. The top four places were only separated by 15 raw points! Joseph had an incredible low-level save, but just came up short on the landing. I came up short on one landing as well. With everyone flying and landing extremely well, these miscues sent the two of us to the bottom of the pack. Cody had some bad luck loosing his light Eraser Xtreme on launch, but flew well, even without a nose skeg on his backup. In the end Bob Lewan prevailed for a 1st. Bob is really flying well this year. He and Skip are only .02 points apart for year-end top dog! Dr. Dan came on very strong with a second place finish with Skip in 3rd, John Kappus in 4th and Lenny in 5th. In the end we had a very nice day.

Name	Place by Class	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5	Total	Norm by Class	Norm by Contest	Place by Contest
Masters										
Bob Lewan	1	978.12	995.63	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	4973.75	1000.00	1000.00	1
Dr. Dan	2	984.68	997.82	1000.00	994.26	990.33	4967.09	998.66	998.66	2
Skip Miller	3	989.06	1000.00	988.46	997.13	986.51	4961.16	997.47	997.47	3
John Kappus	4	1000.00	977.92	986.54	994.26	1000.00	4958.72	996.98	996.98	4
Lenny Keer	5	1000.00	975.98	957.69	978.51	986.46	4898.65	984.90	984.90	5
Jim Monaco	6	980.39	969.09	965.32	977.08	986.46	4878.34	980.82	980.82	6
Mike Verzuh	7	747.28	984.72	984.59	1000.00	980.73	4697.31	944.42	944.42	7
Joseph Newcomb	8	986.93	995.58	824.66	988.52	799.61	4595.31	923.91	923.91	8
Cody Remington	9	901.53	792.49	942.31	982.81	953.58	4572.72	919.37	919.37	9
Charles Miller	10	976.03	1000.00	518.30	972.78	986.51	4453.63	895.43	895.43	10
Sportsman										
Steve Suntken	1	638.34	973.80	988.44	661.41	978.72	4240.71	1000.00	852.62	11

October Handlaunch Contest Report by John Kappus CD

Back by popular demand, one last HLG contest was added to the season. Eight fliers came out to enjoy a wonderful Inian summer day. This contest was about fun and helping newcomers. Hal and Cody Remington and Greg Dubbe came out to add to our ranks. New pilots with lower season point totals were allowed first pick of their coach and timers. The tasks were also a little lower key with task time being shorter than working time to allow for more relaxed landings and rethrows. It turns out that this, and the great flying group, kept the contest close with less than 60 points separating the top five. Unfortunately, the weather started to change after the lunch break with the winds coming up. The second group of round 5 suffered through some of the worst lift conditions I've seen. The winning score from this group for the 4 best flights was just 180, or an average of 45 seconds a flight. We paused at this point, but the lift never returned or the winds softened, so the contest was called complete after 5 rounds.

The top 6 pilots all won at least one round. Cody flew solidly. He was impressive in his first HLG contest (no surprise there). Joseph and Bob were always in the hunt with Bob winning the most rounds. I flew a heavy aileron wing I made 2 years ago with a 'new' setup. Although I gave up my usual 20 percent weight advantage, the plane showed some promise, particularly if it went on a diet. I guess I know what I'll be working on this winter. The surprise of the contest was John Lovins. He flew extremely well winning two rounds and never dropping more than a few points in the other rounds. It seemed that every time I looked, John had quietly thermaled out in the other corner. Regretably, I accidentally switched Cody's and John's scores in one round. At the contest, I announced Cody as 2nd and John as 5th when it really was the other way around. This shows just how close the scores were! I apologise to John for the error and hope that everyone will congratulate him on his achievement!

Name	1		2			3			4			5		Grand Total	Norm Score	Place
	group	norm score	group	norm score	total	group	norm score	total	group	norm score	total	group	norm score			
John Kappus	B	996	B	1000	1996	A	1000	2996	B	993	3989	A	917	4906	1000	1
John Lovins	A	856	B	963	1819	B	958	2777	A	1000	3777	B	1000	4777	974	2
Joseph Newcomb	B	928	A	982	1910	B	1000	2910	B	820	3730	B	989	4719	962	3
Bob Vixie	B	1000	A	1000	2000	A	693	2693	B	1000	3693	A	993	4686	955	4
Cody Remington	A	1000	B	867	1867	B	781	2648	A	988	3636	B	994	4630	944	5
Jim Newcomb	A	955	B	915	1870	A	780	2650	A	272	2922	A	1000	3922	799	6
Hal Remington	B	781	A	757	1538	A	578	2116	B	768	2884	A	436	3320	677	7
Greg Dubbe	A	0	A	785	785	B	710	1495	A	743	2238	B	622	2860	583	8

RMSA ScaleFest Report by Lenny Keer

We held our second annual scale soaring day last weekend at the sod farm. The day started out cold, with a heavy overcast. Before long, several cars and pickups pulling trailers began filling the parking lot. As the sun started to become more visible through the cloud cover, a number of shiny white scale sailplanes were assembled on the grass. The two tow planes were fired up and flew a few warm-up circuits of the field.

We had about 8 scale sailplanes out and took turns getting towed up to soaring altitude. One of the tow planes was a large (35%?) scale aerobatic plane with plenty of horsepower under the hood. This really made the tows easy, almost like a mild winch launch. The clouds steadily burned off and we had a great day with sunshine and a mostly clear blue sky. It really turned into a perfect fall day to fly scale sailplanes!

The event was run as a relaxed fun-fly, but we also were flying for the Gold Medal Soaring Award program, sponsored by Quiet Flyer magazine. Each pilot simply times his own flight from tow release till touch down, and there are award certificates given for flights exceeding 30 minutes, 60 minutes, and 120 minutes. During this event, Skip was awarded a Gold certificate for his 2 hour, seven minute flight with his Nimbus. I was on the way to 2 hours, but was concerned about my receiver battery in my Nimbus. I landed at 83 minutes for a Silver certificate. Also, a Bronze certificate was awarded to Rich O'Connell for his 31 minute flight on his Ka6.

Thanks to all who came out to fly or just watch. Everyone seemed to have a good time and we will do it again next year!

Practice Makes Perfect by John Kappus

Does preparing for the USA F3J team selections make you a better pilot? Does practicing F3J landings without a skag improve your AMA landings? A quick look at the October score sheet answers these questions with a resounding YES !!

A look at the top 4 pilots landing scores showed that the 4th best lander averaged 95.5 points on the AMA tape. The best lander averaged 97 points with a worst landing less than .5 meter from the mark!

Timing precision was equally impressive. Four out of the top 5 pilots dropped less than 1.5 seconds per flight with the winner dropping just 3 seconds in 5 rounds. I guess practice does pay!

Albuquerque F5J Report by Lenny Keer

The 2005 Electric Soaring World Challenge was held in Albuquerque, NM in October again this year and Steve Suntken and I went down to represent RMSA in the competition. The “new” F5J rules were used, which allow each pilot to choose his own motor run time. The entire flight is flown inside a 10-minute window, just like F3J and the duration time begins after the motor is shut off. This format encourages lower launches so it is less of an eyesight contest and much more of a thermal contest.

Friday was a warm-up day and there was a good crowd there enjoying the perfect weather. Sunny and warm with a very light breeze. If only we hadn't used up the nice weather so soon! Saturday began with heavy overcast and a VERY low ceiling. The SP400 group was flown first and could only climb to around 400 feet before disappearing into the cloud base. The ceiling did improve a bit and I think we finished about 1 ½ rounds before the rain shut us down for the day.

Sunday morning came and the rain had stopped. Unfortunately, there was a thick blanket of fog hanging over the field. While we were standing around waiting for it to lift, several of us used our SP400 models to “explore” the limits of visibility. Finally, the fog did begin to dissipate and we resumed the competition. As the fog faded away a clear blue sky took its place. We completed another 1 ½ rounds Sunday, finishing up in early afternoon.

So, we were only able to complete 3 rounds instead of the planned 9 or 10. In SP400, Steve was 4th and I was 1st. In Unlimited we each had a bad round. Steve was 6th and I was 5th. Neither of us flew in the 7-cell class. Overall, there was a good mix of models used. The SP400 models were mostly open-bay floaters with a couple bagged wings also used. The winning model was my converted Mirage HLG, with a bagged 60” wing. The 7-cell class had a mix of high tech floaters and moldies. The winning model was a molded Graphite. The open class had moldies, obechie/foam, and AVA's competing head to head. Interestingly, in the calm, no lift conditions the AVA and similar planes were able to hang better; but when the wind came up a little and the thermals were popping, the moldies seemed to rule the sky. The winning plane in unlimited class was a molded Graphite also.

This is a nice F5J contest to attend. It is well run and not too long a drive from Denver. They'll probably be having it earlier next year in hopes of better weather.

Handlaunch Season Points Totals by John Kappus

The 2005 handlaunch glider season is now over. We had good participation this year with 13 fliers during the five event season. The competition got tighter throughout the year as the contest flying honed the piloting skills. Most Importantly, we all had a lot of fun. Our new fliers all said that they enjoyed the events and will be back. In 2006 we'll look for more ways to make newcomers comfortable. I encourage all to think about adding a HLG to your Christmas wish list. Come join in the pure thermaling fun in 2006!

	5/21	6/25	7/17	9/4	Oct	05 Season Points Total		
Name	norm score	norm score	norm score	norm score	norm score	Best 3 Total	Normalized	Place
John Kappus	1000	1000	975	1000	1000	3000	1000	1
Joseph Newcomb	970	913	1000	987	962	2957	986	2
Bob Vixie	936	942		881	955	2833	944	3
Jim Newcomb	806	919		696	799	2523	841	4
John Lovins	625	595		801	974	2400	800	5
Bill Moxon	807	671				1478	493	6
Daniel Kuik			683	721		1404	468	7
Cody Remington					944	944	315	8
Greg Dubbe		264			583	847	282	9
Lenny Keer	768					768	256	10
Nat Leadbetter	743					743	248	11
Hal Remington					677	677	226	12
Andrew Wright	642					642	214	13

2005 Open Contest Standings

	Mar	Apr	May	June	F3JR	July	Aug	F3JTS	Sep	Oct	Nat. Lvl.	Name	Best 6	Place
Masters														
Skip Miller	1000.00	965.73			1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	997.27	1000.00	997.47	989.01	SWC	5997.47	1
Bob Lewan	938.02	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	976.87	998.21	996.76	865.87	999.23	1000.00			5997.44	2
Joseph Newcomb		990.08			983.46	982.85	793.87	963.46	880.70	923.91	992.89	SWC	5836.65	3
Mike Verzuh	944.37	947.58	995.23		990.80	916.54	916.80	879.25	916.57	944.42	976.74	SWC	5799.14	4
John Kappus				996.45	908.55	997.38	970.87	923.44		996.98			5793.67	5
Jim Monaco	999.68	925.88			982.44	883.91	914.19	741.78	808.60	980.82	987.08	SWC	5790.09	6
Dr. Dan Williams	795.09	958.72	955.69	655.06	861.52		875.88	918.99		998.66	984.49	SWC	5692.43	7
Lenny Keer	861.55	995.51		821.69	989.98		886.08			984.90			5539.71	8
Cody Remington		852.51	905.38	794.87	905.87		940.39	841.87	903.85	919.37	917.29	SWC	5492.15	9
John Padilla		881.74	899.19	842.40	896.57		995.97	878.06					5393.93	10
Charlie Miller		941.05			977.22			924.50		895.43			3738.20	11
Tom Gressman		914.01			883.34			906.40	912.68				3616.43	12
Byron Blakeslee		986.48	836.20						667.84				2490.52	13
Dusty Miller								991.87			990.50	SWC	1982.37	14
Don Ingram	934.98	945.42											1880.40	15
Mark Howard			899.08		814.97								1714.05	16
Bob Vixie						828.02					869.79	SWC	1697.81	17
Bob Moffett	769.27		902.80										1672.07	18
Shannon Bingham						842.49	827.00						1669.49	19
Jim Barr	692.80	696.14											1388.94	20
Bob Avery											912.44	SWC	912.44	21
Rich O'Connell					242.78								242.78	22
Sportsman														
Steve Suntken	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00				260.73		1000.00	1000.00			5260.73	1
Jim Newcomb		806.11									668.50	SWC	1474.61	3
Daniel Kuik							1000.00	774.09					1774.09	2
Chris Miller		343.44											343.44	4

For Sale

Rare and challenging to find Vintage Sailplane
 Experienced **Hobie Hawk** sailplane by Midwest Products Co.

Complete with pushrods and hardware, except for canopy.
 Cream fuselage, red monokote type covering on wing and tail group.
 Red covering is fair, with a couple of small poke holes, could use some re-shrinking. Could be recovered for pristine cosmetic appearance.
 Original foam carton available, rough, but good for protection and the original outside box is available with complete specifications.

Many pleasurable hours of flying left in this collectable old bird.
 Asking \$150 and you pick up in Arvada.

Travis McGinnis (303) 422-5720
travismcgnn@comcast.net

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	Seale-Fest	Lenny Keer	CANCELLED rescheduled to Oct 23
<i>June 4</i>	<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
October 1	Scienturfic Appreciation Day		Also Family Day Rescheduled to Oct 1
<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 2	F5J Electric	Steve Suntken	Tune up for NM (Moved from Oct 1)
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)
Librarian: Tracy Cochran (303) 934-8838 Tcochran@idcomm.com
Newsletter: John Kappus (303) 861-7121 john.kappus@alum.mit.edu

Winch Master

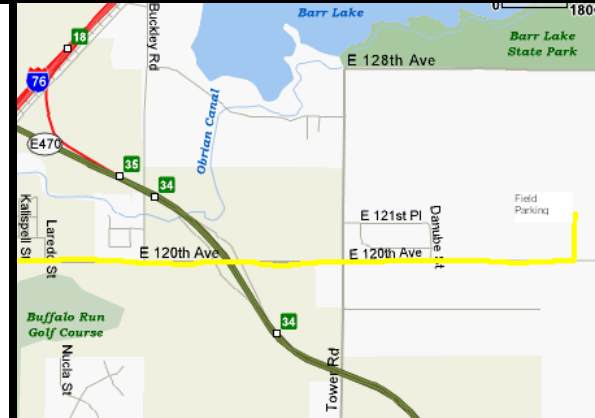
Mike Verzuh (970) 532-0638 <mailto:mike@verzuh.com>

Battery Masters

Bob Lewan
Skip Miller
Jim Monaco
Cody and Hal
Remington
Joseph and Jim
Newcomb
Steve Suntken (Temp)
Mike Verzuh

For Winch Use:

If you are interested in using a club winch please contact Mike for the first time, and I will insure you have all the details for trailer access. Also if you are a new member and have not had a winch operation and safety briefing we will coordinate that.



Directions to Field

Take I-76 to exit 16. Turn left and follow the frontage road to the stoplight and turn east onto 120th eastbound towards the airport. Take 120th East to Tower Rd. Take 120th east of Tower Rd about 3/4 miles. We fly on the North side of 120th which is the SE quadrant of the sod farm.
Flying for RMSA members and accompanied guests only.



Rocky Mountain Soaring Association
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First Class Mail

Forwarding Address Requested