

Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

December 2008

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXXII Number 12

President's Message

Mike Verzuh

This will be my last monthly message as club President. I would like to thank everyone for the support. We really have a great club. We are lucky to have a fantastic flying site, and a sod farm crew that really does support RMSA. We have a strong membership which consists of a diversity of folks. The whole membership works to keep the club strong, and I am really glad to be a part of the club as President.

Our club's focus remains as a contest/competitive oriented club. The foundation of this focus is that competitive flying increases one's skills, keeps our club on the forefront of national sailplane activities, and keeps everyone on the edge of new sailplane technology and design. I believe we achieve these goals with the activities and support of all our members. Over the last couple of years we have seen our contest participation swing upward again. This is not entirely due to the cyclic nature of contest participation. Credit goes to new programs such as the Mentor Program, and mixed contest formats such as hand launch, and RES combo events, but I believe the main item that draws new members and new contest participation is the individual support provided by our existing membership to new members and flyers. I personally try to reach out to new folks to make them feel supported and included. I see many members doing the same thing - taking new folks under their wing for support. This is the key to a strong club, one that is inclusive, full of camaraderie, and remains very competitive. I know our new club leadership will continue with the RMSA traditions, and continue to grow our membership and contest participation. They will still need everyone's help to achieve these goals, and I know our membership is up for it!

We end the year in a strong financial position. We had low routine maintenance costs this year and replaced a couple of batteries, but no major winch repair costs. I'm sure we will need more winch and winch trailer repair work next year so the funds will be needed. Our operating base is \$2,142.68 in checking and reserve funds of \$713.53 in savings. We still have year end and next year award costs that should be about \$300-\$400 to come out of the operating funds. This leaves us exiting 2008 with about \$1,700 of working funds.

We will close out the year at our Year-End **Banquette, which is scheduled for Sunday December 7th**. This is a fun event. Please bring your whole family along, as we will have great food and a chance for everyone to get connected. Please respond to Jim Monaco's email ASAP, so he can get a count to the restaurant. Again it is time again to renew for 2009. Please check the web site, and get those dues in to Bob Rice. The Banquet is also a very good time to bring in your 2009 dues checks.

On the contest front things will be quiet until next year. The first event we have strong participation at is the South West Classic in Phoenix. The organizers have moved it out a week to miss the Super Bowl and a major golf event so travel and lodging should be reasonable. The event is February 21st and 22nd. We brought home second place team award last year, and we need to get back to the top position. I would like to encourage strong RMSA participation, as this is a great way to start the flying season. Check out the CASL web site for details and sign up. www.casl.net

Lastly I want to say I appreciated being your club President for the past couple of years. I know we are in good hands going forward. I also want to again thank several key folks that really make things happen for our club. I am just going to list them, Steve Suntken, Jim Monaco, Hal and Sue Remington, Tony O'Hara, Bob Rice, John Pearson, John Kappus, and Skip Miller. There are many more folks that acted as Contest Directors, Contest Supporters and Mentor Day leads that stood up to support the club – thanks everyone.

That is all for now. I want to wish everyone great soaring days, and I will see you all at the banquette.

Regards,

Mike Verzuh

Next Meeting:	At Annual Banquet
Date/Time	Dec 7th 11:00 AM
Location:	Cinzettis

Vice President & Field Manager's Message	Steve Suntken
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Greetings fellow club members.

Whoa! As the ole saying goes. What a difference a day makes. Yesterday I flew for a few hours in perfect conditions and today I wake up with bout an inch of snow. Tis Colorado, I guess. Beats the Midwest from wince I came. Where you'll probably wake up with feet of snow, instead of inches.

Ok. back to my point.

Whelp, another one of our 'club's' flying seasons has come to a close, but definitely not the "Flying Season." Wanted to pass along a reminder that goose hunting is now open at our flying field. While in years pass, seems like most of the hunting as been at the west field, there is a duck blind set up at our present site. Haven't seen any activity there, yet, but I'm sure there will be shortly. If they (hunters) hold true to years' passed schedule, they are usually gone by noon. Or at least done hunting by 11:00am, or so. This can usually be judged by the decoys they set out. So, as always, if you happen to show up and the decoys are still out and there is 'not' any noticeable activity by the hunters, be aware that they are still there. Just be patient. They will be leaving soon. Just remember...this is 'their' time to own the skies and we need to respect that.

Have a good holiday season...Steve

Annual Awards Banquet	Jim Monaco
Sunday December 7th, 2008	11:00AM

So far I have not received many reservations. This is always a nice event. Please contact me with your reservations so we are assured of appropriate room.

Thanks - Jim

Once again we are planning our year end Awards banquet. The banquet will be held Sunday December 7th at Cinzetti's Italian Marketplace – the same place we had it last year. All meals are “all you can eat” plus unlimited standard beverage (coffee, soda etc). Note that OJ and Lemonade are NOT refillable. There will be both breakfast and lunch foods available along with some great desserts.

Prices are:

Adults	\$20.00
Kids 4-12	\$ 9.00
Seniors (65+)	\$15.00

Prices include the meal and coffee/tea and carbonated drinks plus taxes and required 15% gratuity.

The entire bill will be on one check for me to pay so please be prepared to pay me at the banquet. Your server will prepare separate bills directly for you for any extras that you order such as cocktails, or juice refills. You can pay me in cash or check made out to me personally. I do need an accurate count by Friday 12/5 so please call me or email me to confirm your attendance as soon as possible so I can get a count to size the reserved area..

Cinzetti's Italian Market Restaurant
281 West 104th Avenue
Northglenn, Colorado 80234
(303) 451-7300

It is in the Northeast corner of the plaza on the West side of I25 at 104th. It is north of the Lowes Home Improvement Store!

We will have a great time – plan on attending with your families!
Jim Monaco (303) 464-9895 or email JimMonaco@earthlink.net

Sod Farm Appreciation-----Jim Monaco

This year we showed our appreciation for the privilege of flying at the sod farm by providing Thanksgiving turkeys to the staff at the farm. I purchased 8 turkeys and provided them to Steve Suntken who took them out to the headquarters building at the farm for distribution. I'm sure in these lean times they were much appreciated. In addition to this token of our gratitude, if you have any interaction with the staff, please take time to thank them for their work and cooperation, it is only through the generosity of the owner and our cooperation with the staff that we are able to have such a great place to fly! For those that do not know, we also provide an annual gift to the owner to thank him for his generosity.

November Contest Report

Garry Slocum

It turned out to be a beautiful day for the last contest of the year. At 7AM it was 32F. It warmed up to a high of 56F by 1PM before it started to cool. We had sunny skies. The winds were light. The scoring was very close, with most people making their times all day. We had 14 participants, 3 flight groups, and 6 rounds. We used the new FAI landing tapes, using AMA Thermal duration format. It was a staggered start, with the downwind winch launching first. Time began with release from the towline till landing. We didn't use skegs. Our task time started at 5 minutes, then 7, then 10 the rest of the day. There were no line breaks, and all F3J gliders launched clean all day.

Do to mechanical difficulties; Jim Asbury had to fly his back-up glider. In round 3, which was a 10 minute round, he made his time, a great landing, and received 977 points. Great job Jim! He will be a strong contender next year. Skip Richards was doing very well until he landed out in round 5. His Supra suffered some wing tip damage as his plane settled on the field side of the road. He made a run to DIA to pick up his wife, and he was done for the day. Jim Monaco earned 1st in the Master's category, with Bruce Martin running a close 2nd. John Lovins won 1st in Sportsman. I won 2nd in Sportsman, with my best flying performance since beginning all this F3J stuff last year.

Tom Gressman was also there to watch, help where needed, and to say good-bye. He will be living and working in Tucson. Nice place to be, but you'll be missed Tom. I'd like to personally thank you for helping me develop in this sport. I won't even try to fly as high as you do, but thanks for your pointers on thermalling techniques.

Thank you to those that set up the winches, and took them down. The retrievers, the timers, the launchers, the flight line callers. Thanks Steve for lugging the trailer out, Jim for scoring and answering my many questions. And thank you everyone for helping me in my first attempt at CD.

Happy Holidays and Happy Flying,
Gary Slocum

RESULTS**Nov Open Contest****Contest Date: November 9, 2008**

Class	Name	Place by Class	RD 1	RD 2	RD 3	RD 4	RD 5	RD 6	Raw Total	Round s Flown	Total	Norm by Class	Norm by Contes	Place by Contes
M	Masters													
M	Jim Monaco	1	942.21	1000.00	985.69	1000.00	994.25	1000.00	5922.16	6	5922.16	1000.00	1000.00	1
M	Bruce Martin	2	969.70	984.53	956.58	995.70	1000.00	1000.00	5906.51	6	5906.51	997.36	997.36	2
M	Steve Suntken	3	984.92	986.43	921.85	767.24	1000.00	982.66	5643.11	6	5643.11	952.88	952.88	4
M	Dr. Danny Williams	4	1000.00	978.68	524.64	998.57	1000.00	1000.00	5501.89	6	5501.89	929.03	929.03	6
M	Bob Lewan	5	994.97	1000.00	1000.00	797.14	995.70	692.87	5480.68	6	5480.68	925.45	925.45	7
M	Phil Jones	6	464.29	998.06	1000.00	1000.00	998.56	998.55	5459.47	6	5459.47	921.87	921.87	8
M	Lenny Keer	7	982.32	926.50	801.45	426.72	998.56	997.11	5132.67	6	5132.67	866.69	866.69	10
M	Cody Remington	8	1000.00	1000.00	998.57	994.29	315.48	735.08	5043.42	6	5043.42	851.62	851.62	11
M	John Kappus	9	1000.00	998.07	538.35	1000.00	994.26	452.31	4982.99	6	4982.99	841.41	841.41	12
M	Skip Richards	10	887.76	994.20	1000.00	982.86			3864.81	4	3864.81	652.60	652.60	13
S	Sportsman													
S	John Lovins	1	908.16	974.81	957.97	987.07	987.07	994.22	5809.30	6	5809.30	1000.00	980.94	3
S	Gary Slocum	2	967.17	963.25	661.36	984.24	969.87	982.66	5528.55	6	5528.55	951.67	933.54	5
S	Hal Remington	3	900.51	988.39	521.74	968.57	967.00	998.55	5344.77	6	5344.77	920.04	902.50	9
S	Jim Asbury	4	331.66	597.68	977.11	359.20	202.60	266.38	2734.62	6	2734.62	470.73	461.76	14
N	Novice													

Potpourri

WANDERER IS BACK!

Art Reis's old 2M poly Wanderer is available again for some new beginner to have, enjoy and learn from! It is old & battered, but flies well and is a complete system ready to fly (including Hi-Start) at no charge to the taker! I only ask that it get's passed on (if still viable!) to some new person when you're thru with it!

Contact Tony O'Hara 303-948-2576 or email me at tonyoco@q.com if you know someone who would benefit from this model.

INFO Sent to BOB RICE

WHO: The Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum and the Mel Harmon Chapter of the Air Force Association

WHAT: are sponsoring a "105th Anniversary of Flight" Celebration

WHERE: at the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum located on the grounds of the Pueblo Memorial Airport (PUB). The museum is located approximately six miles east of Pueblo, Colorado on US Highway 50 East/Colorado 96 East.

WHEN: 20 December 2008 from 10 AM to 4 PM.

COST: Free for persons under the age of 18. All others, \$7.

ATTRACTIONS/ACTIVITIES: Tour the museum free for persons under the age of 18. There will be aviation related movies shown in the museum's theater. The Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum has a collection of over twenty six vintage military aircraft and missiles and is one of the largest military aircraft museums in Colorado.

In addition to the activities at the museum, the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum and the Southern Colorado Rocketeers (NAR Section

#632) will be marking the 40th Anniversary of the Apollo 8 moon launch. Apollo 8 marked the first time that humans left the orbit of

the Earth and traveled to the Moon and returned safely. The launch site is located 9.5 miles South West of Pueblo Colorado on Colorado

Highway 78. Visit the Southern Colorado Rocketeers Website at www.scronline.net for a map to the location.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Call the museum at (719)948-9219 or by email at service@pwam.org. Contact the rocket club at jasonunwin@wildblue.net .

Jason Unwin

Aerospace Education Officer

PWAM

719-948-9219 Museum Phone

www.pwam.org Museum website

For Sale

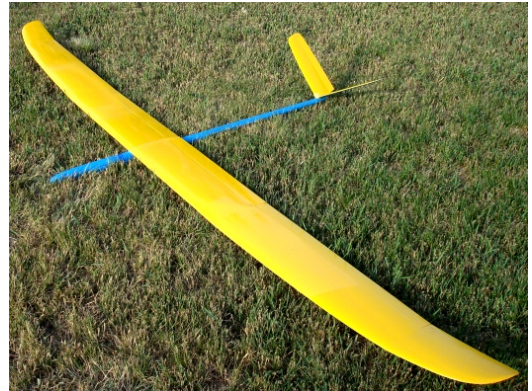
Muller Escape Span 128"

\$250.00 (reduced price)

Yellow with dark blue under wings. This sailplane has had some damage to wings, fuse and V-tail mounting but all well repaired. Can take a full winch launch without problem! This is a "perfect" sailplane for a pilot who wants to graduate to the large full-house composite Open Class F3J plane, or for anyone just looking for a cheap back-up plane! (without paying \$1000-\$2000!!)

It comes ready to fly including NiMH battery & Hitech RX configured for Airtronics Stylus TX. Just plug in crystal and go fly!

Ryan O'Hara 303-638-9913



JR Radio System 12 X 2.4 GHz.

\$1250.00

New in box

Also Pike Giant.

\$950.00

Ready to fly minus receiver. Excellent condition

Call Tom Gressman. 303-246-3194.

Renewal Reminder

It's time to renew your memberships. Renew with the application in this newsletter,
(below)

Or on-line at <http://www.rmsadenver.com>

Rocky Mountain Soaring Association - 2009

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

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
\$ 7.50 Junior - under 17
\$ 35.00 Senior - individual 17 and over
\$ 40.00 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
% Bob Rice
1123 S. Oakland St.
Aurora, CO 80012

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOARING ASSOCIATION FIELD RULES

The sod farm operations take precedence over **ALL** activities. We use the field at the convenience of the owner.

All members will follow **ALL** instructions from **ANY** sod farm personnel without question.

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.

Park only in the designated parking areas Do not park on grass, dirt or roads.

Avoid setting up on newly seeded areas or young grassy areas. The nice grassy areas are better to land on anyway!

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.

Parking and pit areas should be as condensed as possible for the safety of launch and landing.

Establish flight line areas for winch launch, high start launch, and hand launch that are separate for the sake of launch, flight & landing safety.

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.

No aerobatics or speed runs over the parking/pit/Launch/Landing zones.

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.

When entering a thermal occupied by other aircraft, enter in the same direction as the first aircraft

Landing aircraft have the right of way!

In the event of no mechanical retriever, please shag your own chute/line for the flight

Please share the usage of club equipment so that all have equal flight time.

Please be courteous and helpful to your fellow flyers as well as informative to all guests/spectators. Enjoy yourself and others!!

Absolutely no debris or trash is to be left on the field! Please take it home with you for disposal.

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.

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.

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

2008 RMSA Contest/Event Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Description
Sun Mar 9	March Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Steve Suntken
Sun Mar 9	March Club Meeting	Sod Farm	Concurrent with contest
Tue Apr 1	April Club Meeting	TBD	
Sun Apr 6	April Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Mike Verzuh-Intro. to F3J
Sat May 3	Mentor Day	Sod Farm	Don Ingram and Tom Gressman
Sun May 4	May Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Dr. Dan - F3J with Winches
Sun May 4	May Club Meeting	Sod Farm	Concurrent with contest
Sat May 24	F3J in the Rockies	Sod Farm	CD - Jim Monaco
Sun May 25	F3J in the Rockies	Sod Farm	CD - Jim Monaco
Tue Jun 3	June Club Meeting	TBD	
Sat Jun 7			
Sun Jun 8	IHLG	Poway (San Diego) CA	International HL
Sat Jun 7	Mentor Day	Sod Farm	CD - Don Ingram and ?
Sun Jun 8	June Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Bob Pederson
Fri Jun 27			
Sun Jul 6	F3J World Championships	Adapazari, Turkey	GO Cody and Jim
Sat Jun 28	June Handlaunch Contest	Sod Farm	CD - John Kappus
Sat Jul 12	Mentor Day	Sod Farm	CD - Jim DeGroot and ?
Sun Jul 13	July Club Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Bruce Martin
Sun Jul 13	July Club Meeting	Sod Farm	Concurrent with contest
Sat Jul 26	July Handlaunch Contest	Sod Farm	CD - John Kappus
Sun Jul 27			
Sun Aug 3	NATS	Muncie\, IN	US Nationals
Sun Aug 3	Mentor Day - Handlaunch	Sod Farm	CD - John Kappus
Mon Aug 4	August Club Meeting	TBD	
Sun Aug 10	August Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Jim Monaco
Sat/Sun Aug 23/24	Colorado Blue Skies HL Contest	Sod Farm	CD - John Kappus and D&G Jensen
Tue Sep 2	September Club Meeting	TBD	
Sun Sep 7	Colorado Challenge Cup	Sod Farm	This is also the Sept. Open Contest
Sun Sep 14			
Sun Sep 21	F5B Electric World Champ.	Ukraine	GO LENNY!
Thu Sep 18			
Sun Sep 21	World Soaring Masters	Muncie, IN	
Sun Sep 28	September Handlaunch	Sod Farm	CD - John Kappus
Sat Oct 4			
Sun Oct 5	Visalia	Visalia\, CA	
Tue Oct 7	October Club Meeting	TBD	
Sun Oct 12	October Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Dr. Dan
Sun Nov 9	November Club Meeting	Sod Farm	Concurrent with contest
Sun Nov 9	November Open Contest	Sod Farm	CD - Gary Slocum
Sun Dec 7	RMSA Awards Banquet	Cinzettis	



2008 Board Members

President: Mike Verzuh
Vice President: Steve Suntken
Secretary: Bob Rice
Treasurer: John Pearson
Past President: Jim Monaco

970-532-0638 <mailto:mike@verzuh.com>
303-477-6184 <mailto:flyingdogtwo@cs.com>
720-581-3099 <mailto:briceflyer@comcast.net>
303-306-6800 <mailto:JTP1006@earthlink.net>
303-464-9895 <mailto:JimMonaco@earthlink.net>

Member Support

Web Site <http://www.rmsadenver.com>

Chief
Instructor: Mike Verzuh 970-532-0638 303-505-9488 (Pager)
Field Manager Steve Suntken 303-477-6184 flyingdogtwo@cs.com
Librarian: Tracy Cochran 303-934-8838 Tcochran@idcomm.com
Newsletter: Tony O'Hara 303-948-2576 tonvoco@q.com

Winch Master

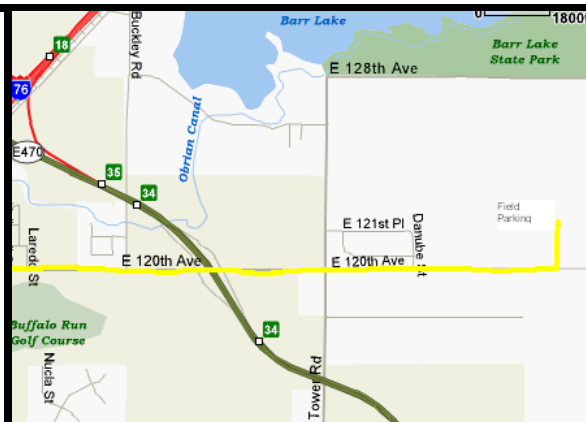
Steve Suntken 303-477-6184 flyingdogtwo@cs.com

Battery Masters

Bob Lewan
Skip Miller
Joseph Newcomb
Cody Remington
Dr. Dan Williams
Steve Suntken

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 20th 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

Forwarding Address Requested

First Class Mail