



Thermals

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Soaring Association

July 2016

AMA Chartered Club 1245

Volume XXXX Number 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bob Pederson

This past week some club officers had a very useful and successful meeting at the sod farm with FAA and DIA personnel to show them how we operate and our limits of flight near DIA.

Summary of meetings with the DIA drone advisory committee representatives

Attendees:

John Lovins

Jim Monaco

Bob Pederson

Rick Hansen - AMA VP in charge of AMA Government regulations stopped by on his way cross country.

Rick McCaskill - AMA Dist 9 AVP

Michael Valencia – FAA Tower Manager

Brady Allred – FAA Tower Ops Manager

Chad Hudgins – FAA Tracon Traffic Management Officer

Bill Dunn – FAA Tracon Airspace and Procedures

Bruce Goetz – DIA operations manager

Jim gave the guys a short explanation of the models we fly and how we run our contests. It seems the FAA and DIA guys thought we competed for altitude when we actually are competing for time + landing accuracy. This may have been the biggest single revelation in their thinking that we could have imparted.

John launched his Egida for a demo of F3J launch technique to give the FAA an idea of how far away we fly. I was listening to the crowd as John launched and there was a significant gasp as his plane launched. John flew out to the limits of his vision to show the group our area of operations. We got the usual questions on how far away can we control our models (more than we can see) and are they autonomous (no)? We clarified that we do not operate autonomously like the drones can and we don't have the equipment aboard that would allow us to operate that way.

Most of the discussion was on safety and our proximity (or lack there-of) to full scale aircraft traffic patterns I sensed a general feeling of satisfaction on the part of the airport personnel and the FAA rep that we are not near any traffic route under normal circumstances. Also Jim was careful to point out that even under emergency conditions with a commercial aircraft, our see-and-avoid practices would prevent any conflict. We stressed how we operate on a See-and-Avoid strategy at all times using timers as a second pair of eyes for each pilot. We made sure that FAA and tower personnel recognized how far (in time and distance) we fly our planes away from commercial traffic. This put our operations in perspective as we watched A/C land to the south at DIA.

It was also brought out that we have no conflict from GA aircraft since we are in/close to Class B airspace where they are not allowed to fly. Jim noted that we had one instance of a helicopter overfly our field so we should remain vigilant to these kinds of operations.

Rick Hansen pointed out there are ~85 AMA chartered clubs out of ~2500 that have operated in Class B airspace for years without incident. AMA made sure FAA was aware of this safety record. We also got questions from the FAA on whether we have been visited by local law enforcement and how that worked out (We have and it was OK).

Since last November, the club has been attending and participating in the DIA Drone Working Group meetings. The next meeting will be July 8th at DIA and we will be there to represent RMSA

Is anyone up for a fun fly in August? Our last one was well attended and many members said they wanted to do it again. How about **August 6th Saturday**. Bring out anything that you think you can fly and we'll make a day of it. The club will cover the expense of drinks and maybe some hot dogs and hamburgers. Bring shade and a chair and lets have some fun. We'll set up some winches and just enjoy the day.

Our next F3K contest will be Saturday July 9th and I will be the CD. Pilots meeting is at 8:30 Entry fee is \$5.00. Please monitor the RCGroups Handlaunch forum and the "Colorado DLG Happenings" thread for the latest info.

The next Open contest will be Sunday July 10th and CD is Jim Monaco.

Lenny Keer will be CDing another F5J event on Saturday July 16th. This event is becoming very popular and well attended.

Refer to http://rmsadenver.com/rmsa_google_cal.html for the latest contest schedule.

Present membership is 40 members. Check

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FlI5m3B2hEJ_B5ATYzHLI9xdCKxH6rHq_H1plpTrino/edit?pref=2&pli=1#gid=1418976727 .

Respectfully submitted

Bob Pederson

(bpedersn@colomail.com)

970-532-3437

RMSA May 2016 contest report – Lenny Keer, CD

The weather can be pretty spotty this time of year, and the May contest was delayed by a week. The weather still wasn't great, with mostly overcast skies, but we were treated to a few glimpses of sunshine and the winds were generally light. It didn't look like a good thermal day, but there were patches of lift around. We used the F5J format for this contest and had a pretty good turnout. It was good to see long time club member Wayne Angevine flying a contest, and his scratch built Bubble Dancer flew great and was very competitive with the modern moldies. In F5J flying, the launch height is decided by the pilot, based on how good he thinks the conditions are, and higher launches are penalized by more launch penalty points. Reid demonstrated the best judgment for launch height and flew very consistently for the win. John Lovins and Jim Rogers had a tight race for 2nd place, with John prevailing.

This contest was unique in that we were experimenting with allowing string launched models to compete in the electric format. I would say that it was mostly successful. A winch was set up at one end of the flight line and never caused any problems for the rest of the fliers. We did have a minor glitch with the altitude logger though. The Altis can be set to automatically record the altitude of a winch launch, and it had worked great in the testing I had done. For some unknown reason though it was not working in Jim Roger's model. I'm sure it's something simple and we'll figure it out with some more testing. We decided to just estimate the winch launch height for this contest, which seemed to work OK.

We flew 6 rounds and finished up about 2:00, just as some rain showers were moving in. Everyone seemed to enjoy the strategy that the F5J format allows. We will have another F5J contest in October, and I will also organize some F5J fun flies between now and then, so come on out and give it a try.

RMSA - Overall Results

[F5J 5/15/2016]

Rank	Name	Score	Pcnt	Raw Score	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6
1	ROBERTS, Reid	4982.8	100.00	5868.5	1000.0	1000.0	885.7	988.7	994.9	999.2
2	LOVINS, John	4825.3	96.84	5532.6	948.5	707.3	900.3	1000.0	1000.0	976.5
3	ROGERS, Jim	4813.0	96.59	5362.0	968.1	847.5	549.0	1000.0	997.4	1000.0
4	KEER, Lenny	4634.4	93.01	5346.7	727.3	1000.0	1000.0	949.9	957.2	712.3
5	ORMSBEE, Bowdie	4581.8	91.95	5065.7	1000.0	991.3	804.8	811.7	483.9	974.0
6	ANGEVINE, Wayne	4572.1	91.76	5289.6	922.8	717.5	792.0	942.9	969.5	944.9
7	MONACO, Jim	4472.0	89.75	4771.7	915.1	556.9	1000.0	299.7	1000.0	1000.0

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F5J Fun Fly --- Saturday, July 16th 9:00AM

This will be a fun electric soaring event. No entry fees, no awards. Just bragging rights. Any electric sailplane can be used, and each model will need an F5J altitude logger, such as the Altis V4 or CAM-F5J.

I do have a few spare loggers to lend out if needed, so don't let the lack of a logger stop you from joining the fun.

The F5J task is 10-minute duration and landing, flown man on man. Each pilot decides his own launch altitude based on the conditions. Launch penalty points are subtracted based on the launch altitude.

Lenny

RMSA 2016 Contest Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Description
Thu Feb 18 Sun Feb 21	F3J in the Desert	Schnepf Farms, Queen Creek, Az.	
Sat Mar 5 Sun Mar 6	F3J in the South	Dallas Tx.	
Sat Mar 5	Pro-Am Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD Jim Monaco
Sun Mar 6	DLG Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD Bob Pederson
Mar 12 - 13	Arizona Open F3K	SAGE Field Marana Az.	CD Charles Martin
Sun Mar 20	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD Jim Rogers
Sun Apr 3	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD Jim Monaco
Fri Apr 8 and Sat Apr 9th	Red Rocks Utah F3K TS Qualifier	St. George Ut.	CD Jon Lemon
Sun Apr 10	DLG Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD Reid Roberts
Sat Apr 23	Central California F3J		
May	IHLF Handlaunch	Poway, Ca	
Sat May 7	F5J	RMSA Club Field	CD Lenny Keer
Sat May 14	DLG Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD TBA
Fri May 28 Sun May 30	F3J in the Rockies F3J Tour event	RMSA Club Field	CD Jim Monaco
Sun June 12	DLG Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD
Sat June 18	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD
Sun June 25	F3J Chicago		CD
Sat July 9	DLG Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD
Sun July 10	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD
Sat July 16 Sun July 17	Blue Skies over New Mexico	Moriarity, NM	
Sat Aug 13	DLG Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD
Sat Aug 20	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD
Sun Sept 11	RMSA/PPSS Challenge Cup	RMSA Club Field	CD Jim Monaco
Sat Sept 17 Sun Sept 18	Blue Skies over Colorado F3K	RMSA Club Field	CD John Lovins
Sat Sept 24 Sun Sept 25	Masters Open Contest	Muncie Indiana	
Sat Oct 9	F5J	RMSA Club Field	CD Lenny Keer
Sun Oct 16	DLG Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD
Sat Oct 22 Sun Oct 23	F3J Virginia		
Sun Nov 6th	Open Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD
Sun Nov 13	DLG Contest	RMSA Club Field	CD
Sat Nov 12, Sun Nov 13	F3J SOCAL		
Sat Dec 10	RMSA Awards Banquet	TBD	

Note: Additional contests and regional events may be added as the schedule matures. Fun Flies at the RMSA field will be added after the present schedule is firmed up.

Rocky Mountain Soaring Association - 2015

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**
\$ 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

% Mark Howard

19015 W 62nd Ave

Golden, Co. 80403

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 has 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



President:	Bob Pederson	970-532-3437	e-mail to: bpedersn@colomail.com
Vice President:	Jim Monaco	970-405-5818	e-mail to: mailto:blayne@whistleanddrum.com
Secretary:	Bob Rice	720-581-3099	e-mail to: briceflyer@q.com
Treasurer:	Mark Howard	720-273-2208	e-mail to: howard4113@msn.com
Past President:	Jim Monaco	303-818-7576	e-mail to: jim@monacocasa.com

Member Support

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

Chief

Instructor:

Field Manager Steve Sunken 303-477-6184 flyingdogtwo@comcast.net

Scorekeeper & Jim Monaco 303-464-9895 jim@monacocasa.com

Web master

Librarian: Tracy Cochran 303-934-8838 Tcochran@idcomm.com

Newsletter: Tony O'Hara 303-948-2576 tonyoco@q.com

Winch Master

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

Battery Masters

Skip Miller

Mike Verzuh

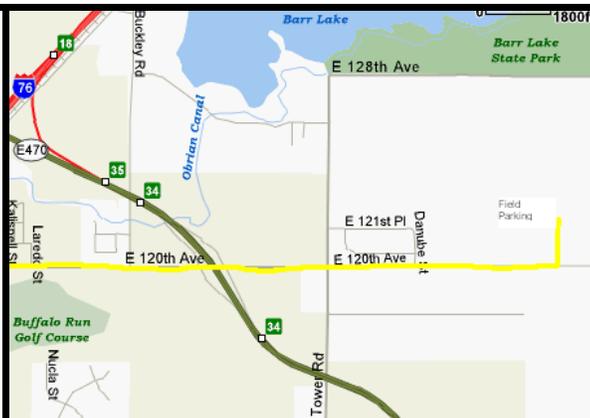
Cody Remington

John Lovins

Jim Rogers

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
1860 S Vrain St
Denver CO 80219

First Class Mail

Forwarding Address Requested