

# THE **ROCKET CITY RADIO CONTROLLERS, INC.** **RCRC** NEWSLETTER



... an AMA Award of Excellence Club!

*Proudly serving the Huntsville community at the Captain Trey Wilbourn Model Airplane Field.*

P.O. Box 2163

Huntsville, AL 35804

JUNE 2012

## President's Message

Officers		
<b>President</b>		
James Fowler		256-882-1784
<b>Vice-President</b>		
Basil Cooper		256-883-9220
<b>Secretary</b>		
Paul Webb		256-325-2741
<b>Treasurer</b>		
David Seymour		256-830-2047
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>		
John Williams		256-656-9499
Committee Chairmen		
<b>Field</b>		
John Williams		256-656-9499
<b>Programs</b>		
Basil Cooper		256-883-9220
<b>Publicity</b>		
Bill Mitchell		256-975-5687
<b>Safety</b>		
Basil Cooper		256-883-9220
<b>Web Editor</b>		
Tom Sutherland		256-714-8496
Flight Instructors		
James Whitbeck	By Appt.	256-541-6123
Pete Wick	By Appt	256-883-7571
Mike Norton	By Appt	256-653-6632

It is June but not officially summer until toward the end of the month. However, for me it has been summer for a month or more.

During our June membership meeting we will be holding the final voting on the junior member age Bylaw change. Come to the meeting and vote. However, if you are unable to attend please send in the absentee ballot. (See May newsletter)

On June 15 a few of our pilots will give a flying demonstration, weather permitting, for the Farley Baptist Church at their final day of vacation bible school. Whereas this particular demonstration is not considered a club event, future demonstrations of this type could be, if enough members are willing to participate. Years ago the club did have demonstration events for schools, youth organizations, etc. Is anyone interested in doing this again? Let us know.

A reminder: Anyone who flies on the club's airfield must be a current member of the AMA and a current member of the club or have been issued a valid guest card. This includes all family members regardless of age and all persons on buddy boxes. These requirements are covered in article 1 of our field regulations and in our Bylaws and in the agreement with the city of Huntsville and in our articles of incorporation with the State of Alabama. Also provided in article 1 of our field regulations is the penalty for not complying with these requirements.

Fly in the zone and fly safe.

Jim

## **May 2012 General Membership Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President at 7:00 PM. Four board members were present. A quorum was not present. There was one guest, Wayne Gladden Jr.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved, as well as those from the prior month.

The Treasurer's report was made and approved with no comments. The Treasurer's report for April was also approved again.

The Field Committee Chairman reviewed the condition of the cold drink machine which was recently repaired. A problem continues to exist with the ability of this machine to dispense most bottled water. A discussion regarding this subject resulted in the suggestion that Desani brand water, which uses a more substantial plastic container, might work satisfactorily. The Field Chairman indicated that a trial would be made to confirm this suggestion. The Field Chairman also reported that some spraying had been made for weed control.

The Safety committee had no report. A member advised the attendees that another member recently removed one or more fingertips at the field by inattention while starting his plane. Some discussion followed regarding this recurring problem and reminding all to be alert to avoid future injury.

Publicity and Web Editor had no report.

### **Old Business:**

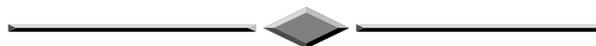
The Vice President reviewed the decisions made by the Board regarding the War Bird and Big Bird events coming up and reported on in the April newsletter. There were no comments from the floor.

The ballots for the voting for the Bylaw change are attached to the May newsletter and the vote will be at the June Membership Meeting.

### **New Business:**

The Vice President reviewed a request from Farley Community Church to provide a demonstration of RC flying on June 15. This had been shared with the membership by the Newsletter Editor by e-mail earlier with two members responding. Others interested were encouraged to respond. The Vice President suggested that the Board would consider the question of making this a Club activity or individual members and make its decision known appropriately.

There being no other business from the floor, the Program Chairman showed a DVD of selected scenes from last year's Joe Nall Flyin and held a drawing for door prizes with the meeting being adjourned at 8:00 PM.



## **June 2012 BOD Meeting Minutes**

The June 5, 2012 RCRC Board of Directors meeting was called to order by the President at 7:00 PM.

All Board members were present. There were no guests attending.

The President reported that the Club can maintain a current roster of members with the AMA, as requested by it, on the AMA website in the members-only section. The Newsletter Editor will handle this.

The request from Farley Community Church was discussed. The Vice President will contact Donna Callaway and let her know that the Club cannot provide an organized group to give the flying demo on June 15 but several members have indicated that they will respond with appropriately sized electric small airplanes suited to the space provided, weather permitting. The Church will be invited to arrange for interested children to come to our flying field at some agreed to date for a more complete

demonstration of a variety of sizes and types of RC aircraft.

Our grass cutting contractor's schedule was discussed and the President will contact him to specify the schedule to be one cutting every other week, equally spaced, at \$125 each.

The Field Chairman reported that the handicapped ramp needs to be water-sealed. The Club Treasurer will purchase the material and the Field will apply. A call for Club volunteers to help with this and several other maintenance items.

A request to consider installing man cooling fans under the roof of the pit shed was briefly discussed with no decision made at this time. The Treasurer expressed concern for the Club financial condition as our revenues continue to inadequately cover our expenses. He is studying past financial and membership records to provide a basis for corrective actions, which may be recommended to the Membership, considering our fall in membership in recent years. Our savings account is at the lowest level it has been in several years.

The Field Chairman reported his concern about the continuing failure of some of our members to comply with the Club rules regarding sign-in and in some instances meeting the requirements for flying at the field. These are in some instances a violation of our agreement with the City and could jeopardize the Club's standing. This problem will be addressed as a general concern with the membership and hopefully all will respond favorably and avoid the need for more severe action on the part of the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

## At the Field

As previously indicated, the "At the Field" column will address general observations and anything else that comes to mind. If you have any ideas for a topic-notify any officer and they will pass it along to the newsletter editor.

RCRC club member, Dick McCann has graciously donated the latest version of RealFlight RC flight simulator to the club. It has been installed on the computer in the clubhouse. This is a reminder to the new members just learning to fly and maybe some who just need some brushing up; this is a great way to hone your skills without losing your airplane. Many thanks, Dick.

As addressed in our March Newsletter, electric flight has definitely arrived. This is evidenced by the majority, if not all of the club's resident pattern flyers recently switching from high nitro content glow fuel burning reciprocating engines to high voltage, amperage, wattage consuming electric motors. In fact, Former RCRC president Gary Courtney recently hosted Andrew Jeskey, a four time national champion and a three time US F3A team member, to a days flying at the field and both were flying electric.



**Left to Right: Mike Wingo, Andrew Jeskey, and Gary Courtney**

There has been some talk at the field concerning the need to mow the grass adjacent to the runway and at each end of the pit area during the weekend. This concern is based on the mowing interfering with one of only two days available for flying by those

members whose work schedule precludes their flying on weekdays. Weekend mowing has become necessary due to the change from weekly to bi-weekly mowing of the “close-in” grass as a cost containment initiative. The mowing contractor has had to schedule other weekly customers on weekdays, requiring RCRC mowing every other weekend. The inconvenience is only for an hour, or so, every fourth weekend day, so please be patient.

Most visiting spectators probably feel out of place when visiting the field because they may not know anything about the hobby, don't know anyone at the field, and are pretty much ignored while they're there. As I go about getting ready to fly I focus on what I'm doing so I won't forget a critical step, like pulling out my antenna when flying on 72 MHz; I ignore most things around me. But all of us must remember that those spectators are important to us for a couple of selfish reasons. First, any one of them could be a potential new member; and we need their prospective dues money to keep the club going. Second, they're members of the public and we need as much goodwill as we can get in backing for the field as SWADA starts moving back north with a second layer of trash on previously closed land. So, if you see someone standing at the fence looking at the airplanes say hello to them and engage them. Ask them if they fly, if they have any questions, anything to make them feel welcome. It only takes a few minutes. You never know, they may be Howard Hughes' long lost relative and want to donate some money to the club.

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## Flying Field Regulations

This month, the review of the Flying Field Regulations continues with the fourth rule:

4. *Transmitters will not be operated for any reason without the proper Frequency Clip attached to the transmitter. When in*

*possession of the frequency clip, the flyer or flyers will deposit his/her RCRC permit in the corresponding slot on the frequency board and retrieve your RCRC permit at the completion of your flight or use. If others are waiting for your frequency, restrict your use to twenty minutes or one flight. Frequency Control Clips will not be removed from this site. Any transmitter turned on without the frequency clip that causes an accident and/or damages is the responsibility of the offender. Wide band radios are prohibited at this site..*

Bottom line on this one is that even if you are using a 2.4 GHz system you must still have a frequency clip on your transmitter BEFORE you turn it on. It's a good habit to get into because it helps ensure you also sign in on the Pilot Log, as required by regulation #3, discussed last month.

With the growing use of 2.4 GHz systems, this rule may seem a bit archaic to some of those new to the hobby/sport. But there are still enough 72 and 50 MHz radios in use at the field for the regulation to remain viable and necessary.

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## Big Bird Fly-In

An informal Big Bird Fly-In will be held on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. The field will be open for general flying just as it would be on a normal Saturday, but flyers are encouraged to bring their Big Birds to show off and fly informally. A Big Bird is defined as 80 inches or more single wing, 60 inches or more bi or tri-plane, or quarter scale. There will be no organized contest and no prizes. So dust off those Big Birds and bring them to the field.

Huntsville, Alabama - Rocket City Radio Controllers Inc.  
Invite you to be their guest June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the John Hunt Park / CAPT  
Trey Wilburn Model Airplane Field for their

[www.rocketcityrc.com](http://www.rocketcityrc.com)



*We provide the 15%  
Mach 7 for your  
engine and you enjoy  
the race for the pure  
thrill of racing! We  
love racers.....*

## Annual Club 40 Pylon Race



**June  
23rd, 2012**

**Club 40 Racers**

**600' x 55'  
Paved Runway**

**Use of legal model, motor, and  
scoring rules will apply. These will  
be the final rules Dist. V agreed**

Site: John Hunt / Wilburn Park, RCRC  
Flying field

GP **GPS Info:** 34 41.192 N  
86 35.725 W

**AMA Class "C" Sanctioned Event #12-1295**

Registration \$15.00  
Free overnight camping w/110  
hook-up

Registration 7:00 AM  
Races start at 9:00 AM  
Food decided by NARCA April 28<sup>th</sup> event

CD: Don Peck  
Phone: 256-539-5217  
E-Mail: [donpeck2@aol.com](mailto:donpeck2@aol.com)  
Website:  
[www.rocketcityrc.com](http://www.rocketcityrc.com)

**DIRECTIONS:** Memorial Parkway - 431/231 South  
Turn West (R) on Airport Rd. from Memorial Pkwy.  
Turn left on Leeman Ferry Rd.  
The gate entrance will be on your right.



RCRC NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
P.O. Box 2163  
Huntsville, AL 35804

TO:

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AMA CHARTERED  
CLUB SINCE 1964  
NO. 715

June 2012

**2012 RCRC EVENTS**

	19 Jun	7:00 PM	RCRC Membership Meeting	Jim Fowler	(256) 882-1784
	3 Jul	7:00 PM	RCRC BOD Meeting	Jim Fowler	(256) 882-1784

**RCRC Event Schedule**

*	23 Jun	All Day Sat	Pylon Race	Don Peck	(256) 539-5217
*	21 Jul	All Day Sat	Big Bird Fly-In		
*	18-19 Aug	All Day Sat	BPA Pattern	Gary Courtney	(256) 603-3329
		All Day Sun			
*	14-16 Sept	All Day Sat	AMA Pattern	Jon Lowe	(256) 464-0802
***		All Day Sun			
*	3-4 Nov	All Day Sat	Toys for Tots		
		All Day Sun			
*	17 Nov	All Day Sat	Pylon Race	Don Peck	(256) 539-5217

\* Field closed to non-participants during this event.

\*\*\* Field closed Fri before event at noon .