



**THE RCRC NEWSLETTER**  
ROCKET CITY RADIO CONTROLLERS, INC.  
HUNTSVILLE ALABAMA



... 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

December 2013

# President's Message

Officers		
<b>President</b>		
Bill Mitchell		256-975-5687
<b>Vice-President</b>		
John Pieczynski		256-651-6487
<b>Secretary</b>		
Aaron Smith		256-585-0152
<b>Treasurer</b>		
David Seymour		256-830-2047
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>		
Fred Herrmann		256-881-1090
Committee Chairmen		
<b>Field</b>		
TBD		256
<b>Programs</b>		
TBD		256
<b>Publicity</b>		
TBD		256
<b>Safety</b>		
TBD		256
<b>Web Editor</b>		
Bob Sorrells		256-651-6865
Flight Instructors		
James Whitbeck	By Appt.	256-541-6123
Pete Wick	By Appt	256-883-7571
Mike Norton	By Appt	256-653-6632

### President's Message

Hello all! I am excited and honored to serve as the President of RCRC for 2014. Kudos to Jim Fowler, Basil Cooper and Paul Webb for the excellent job they did as board members. And welcome John Pieczynski, Fred Herrmann, David Seymour and Aaron Smith as new members of the board. I am looking forward to a great year of flying and events at our club.

It's hard to believe Christmas is around the corner. I hope everyone has their RC wish list ready to send to Santa. I've got mine ready to go!

One of the first things I would like to address is membership meeting attendance. It is very important for the club to have a quorum at our meetings. Plus you may have a great idea or suggestion to help better our club and the best way to voice that idea is at our meetings. We all lead very busy lives and I know it's not possible for every member to attend every meeting, but please make an effort to attend some.

If you have any questions comments or suggestions please feel free to contact me, and I hope to see you at the December 17 meeting.

Happy Flying

Bill

---



**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with all Board members present and a total of 20 members present, making a quorum.

The minutes of the October and November Newsletters were approved as written.

The President commented to the membership that the memorial plaque for Bob Vanderzyl has been placed on the wall with those of other passed members.

He also commented on the Wounded Warrior donation and that "Hoot" Gibson had recently joined the Club and that more would be said on these subjects later.

The Treasurer made the report for Oct-Nov finances which was approved. The Club has a loss of \$834 for the year. He further said that the Board had responded to Mr. Gibson's inquiry for membership by granting him a lifetime membership in recognition of his significant contributions to aviation and space science. Gibson is, among other things, a Leader Member of AMA which has given him a membership through 2099. He lives in Murfreesboro, Tn. and comes to Huntsville about once a month to speak at Space Camp so we look forward to seeing him at the field flying his ducted fan jet.

The Vice President reported on the contribution to the Wounded Warrior project. We received a thank you letter for our part of the AMA total of some \$75,000 raised for this purpose. He also commented on the FAA proposed rulemaking for UAVs in the public airspace which drags on, now estimated at 2015 completion.

There were no further Committee reports.

---



**Old Business**

Bob Walls reported on the results of the Toys for Tots event, which had a disappointing turnout of only 13 pilots. Pilot fees totaled \$220 plus two toys. Donations for snacks were \$47. Expenses totaled \$142.70, which Bob will absorb except \$ 20 for the AMA Sanction fee. Bob had a number of Toys for Tots give away items which were left from the Event which were available for those attending and additional donations will be welcome. The final total for the donation to the Marine Corp will be reported by Bob at next month's meeting.

The President brought the revised field regulations to the attention of the members for a vote to approve since a quorum is present. A motion was made and seconded to approve the revised flying field regulations as presented in the October 2013 RCRC Newsletter. After a brief discussion the motion to approve passed.

There was no new business from the floor.

This being the Club's annual business meeting to elect new officers for the year 2014, the ballots mailed in October were gathered and counted. A total of 26 ballots were cast, the majority for the nominated candidates with only one write in for the Vice President. Accordingly, the new officers are:

President	Bill Mitchell
Vice President	John Pieczynski
Secretary	Aaron Smith
Treasurer	David Seymour
Newsletter Editor	Fred Herrmann

We wish the new Board well and look forward to seeing continuing progress for the enjoyment of the Club by the membership.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

---

**December 2013 RCRC BOD Meeting**  
**Minutes**

The meeting came to order at 7:00 PM and all board members were present.

The upcoming Club day, scheduled for May, was disused and preparations to notify the Huntsville media regarding the event were discussed.

Fred introduced his idea to launch a new "Officers Section" on the webpage which will include a brief bio of each officer, as to better inform club members of who we are. AKA - who to complain too. :)

Fuel levels were discussed and it was deemed that we are good for at least 3-4 months before we need to reorder. Bill presented an AMA "Certificate of Appreciation" for our Club day event last year and he plans to present this at the next club meeting.

Just a reminder, renew your AMA and Club memberships prior to year end.

Merry Christmas to all! May Santa bring you all a new plane this year!

Regards,  
A Smith.

---

---

**The Editor's Corner**

I'm going to be doing a new section from the "Editor's Corner" where I plan on talking about specific aspects of our very diverse RC hobby. These topics will cover such interests as First Person View (FPV), Electrics, Ducted Fans, and Helicopters and just about anything that happens to pop up in my head!

If you'd like to contribute an article to the newsletter please send me an email with your attached article. My email address is: [fherrmann@comcast.net](mailto:fherrmann@comcast.net)

This month I've decided to put together a piece called:

**Meet your 2013/2014 RCRC Officers**

**Bill Mitchell – President**



I am currently a contractor for NASA and work at the Marshall Space Flight Center. I have always loved anything to do with aviation and I started my journey down the RC path about 25 years ago. I have several types of aircraft that I fly at our club that range from sailplanes to sport speedsters, nitro and electric powered. And I occasionally fly helicopters.

I try to fly at least once a week usually on the weekends. If you have questions, comments, suggestions regarding the club or RC flying feel free to contact me.

## John Pieczynski – Vice President



It all started when I was 8 years old. I bought my first .049 engine. I had trouble starting it, when one of the neighbor kids came over and told me that the neighbor across the street heard that I had a model airplane engine and told the neighbor kid to have me bring it over and that he would give me a hand. It didn't take him long to get it going and the sound of that engine running, and the smell of the exhaust changed the future of my life. Even though I never did put that engine into a plane, I have been hooked on modeling since then. My first plane was a Cox control line. I flew that for many years, in all types of weather. I grew up in Iowa, so I flew through all 4 seasons. Yes, even in the snow and freezing temperature.

I have flown control line, free flight (motor, rubber, hand launched), and Radio Control. Over the years I have belonged to many clubs, held the office of president and vice president in several. I have been a flight instructor for many years in different clubs. I was on a special committee when I belonged to the Palomar RC club in San Marcos, California. It was a committee for the county of San Diego RC clubs. We did a number of things, but most of all we looked for flying fields, and ways to keep the ones we had. I also did research on model airplane noise and how to reduce it.

I have owned a hobby shop that sold RC planes, boats, cars, and equipment and accessories, and I was also a Kraft Radio dealer, as well as selling other hobbies. I have competed in contests, and am presently a contest director. I have belonged to AMA for fifty years. My one goal since the very first

engine run is to help and encourage others in the hobby. I do not believe in charging others for my knowledge, I believe in paying forward. This is a hobby, not a business, and I try to have others see it that way. I believe that this hobby is to be enjoyed by all that are in it and by those that sit in the bleachers and watch and dream.

## Aaron Smith – Secretary



Hey everyone. I've lived my entire life in the Huntsville area and I'm married with two children. I'm employed with BBVA Compass bank, Consumer Credit Card Risk Management. Currently 11 years with the company. I fly a variety of planes but prefer anything fast. I've wrecked my fair share of planes by folding up the wings, or getting flutter from a high speed dive. Some of you have had the privilege of witnessing these spectacular crashes.

If you have any questions for me, please feel free to email me at [aws36@hotmail.com](mailto:aws36@hotmail.com).

If you have any complaints you'd like to run by me, feel free to use my other email address:

[file13@wedontcare.com](mailto:file13@wedontcare.com).... Just joking! 😊

## Dave Seymour – Treasurer



I started flying RC with the Atlanta club in the '60s

using a galloping ghost system. This is my third year as your treasurer and I enjoy assisting RCRC members. I love to build things like furniture, computers, and sport/scale planes. My flying abilities are quite limited so I tend to build trainer-like planes. You can usually find me at the field Saturday or Sunday mornings when the weather cooperates.

**Bob Sorrells – Webmaster**



Hello, I'm Bob Sorrells, the "webmaster" for the RCRC website. My interest in RC's dates back to when my dad bought me a blue and yellow Cox PT-19 when I was young, which started my life-long interest in our hobby. I grew up in Memphis, and got my degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Memphis, and masters of Engineering Management at Christian Brothers University. My first job was at Dover Elevator in Walnut MS, population 450. My wife and I loved Walnut and its small town life. I've always had a strong interest in computer programming, then eventually website programming where I currently specialize in complex custom e-commerce and database-oriented websites. We eventually moved to the Huntsville area and have lived in Arab since 1992. Our first place in Arab we had 20 acres, and I built my first serious RC kit. I tried to learn how to fly RC during my first flight, which as you can imagine didn't end so well, but nobody got hurt, and it was a lot of fun with the kids. I was also a volunteer soccer referee for 10 years and board member with Arab's American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). Lessons learned from that successful organization is that the referee should never slow down the game, or interfere with the fun and safety of the players or be a rule nitpicker. Fast forward to 2004... Perry Hughey re-introduced me to the hobby in 2004, and I've

been here ever since. All three of my kids have been RCRC members. My latest area of interest is hex copters, and first-person-view (FPV) flying. I really enjoy the RCRC folks. We have a critical mass of people who are focused on the right things... fun and comradery of this enjoyable hobby.

**Fred Herrmann - Newsletter Editor**



As the father of three daughters and six grandchildren I find that I'm one of the busier retired guys I know. I retired from Marshall Space Flight Center after doing science and engineering for 30 years. I've been flying radio control since I was 14 which is about 45 years now and I enjoy every aspect of radio control modeling including ducted fans, First Person View (FPV), foamies, helicopters, gliders and kit building as time permits. If I had to narrow it down to one I'd probably pick scale models. In addition to RC I also have several other hobbies including N scale railroad modeling and astrophotography which I've been doing since the mid 1990's. Please visit my website at: <http://owlmountainobservatory.com> to see some of my images.

I'm an afternoon "frequent" flyer so if you ever need flying advice, help, fuel or club information just ask! I'm always happy to bend your ear. ☺





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

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

**2013 RCRC EVENTS**

Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 PM	RCRC Membership Meeting	Bill Mitchell	256-975-5687
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	7:00 PM	RCRC Board Meeting	Bill Mitchell	256-975-5687
Huntsville Appreciation/Club Day May 14, 2014 Vice President				
Big Bird June 14, 2014 TBD				
War Bird/Wounded Warrior July 19, 2014 TBD				
BPA Pattern August 8-10, 2014 Gary Courtney				
AMA Pattern September 12-14, 2014 Jon Lowe				
Toys for Tots November 7-8, 2014 Bob Walls				

