

# THE **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

February 2015

## President's Message

Officers		
<b>President</b>		
Daniel Baldwin		256-541-1061
<b>Vice-President</b>		
John Pieczynski		256-651-6487
<b>Secretary</b>		
Susan Seaford		256-479-4363
<b>Treasurer</b>		
Jan Pieczynski		256-651-6487
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>		
Tom Wimsatt		401-222-0658
Committee Chairmen		
<b>Field</b>		
Paul Webb		256-325-2741
<b>Programs</b>		
John Pieczynski		256-651-6487
<b>Publicity</b>		
Tom Wimsatt		401-222-0658
<b>Safety</b>		
John Pieczynski		256-651-6487
<b>Web Editor</b>		
Bob Sorrells		256-651-6865
Flight Instructors		
Pete Wick	By Appt	256-883-7571
Bill Mitchell	By Appt	256-975-5687
John Pieczynski	By Appt	256-651-6487
Bic Green	By Appt	256-476-0290
Dan Baldwin	By Appt	256-541-1061
John Tubb	By Appt	401-450-9669

Welcome fellow flyers. It looks like we will have six more weeks of winter according to the infamous Ground hog. We all probably are suffering from cabin fever but flying season is just around the corner.

We have some exciting events upcoming in the near future. Drone Day on March 14 looks to be a huge event for all. The local TV stations are interested and we should get a lot of public exposure and interest. Please come to the February meeting to get all the latest facts.

The North Alabama Swap Meet sponsored by RCRC is scheduled for May 1 and 2nd. Friday May 1 will be setup from 12noon till 4:00 pm, Sales start 900am on Saturday. Tables will be \$15 and \$5 city tax for a total of \$20 per table admission is set at \$5 and a snack bar will be provided. Auctions will be at 12noon and door prizes every hour. Registration can be done on line at our web site rocketcityrc.com and click in the swap meet link and pay pal.

The City landscape Dept. Has responded to our request for cutting the grass around the runway. They have agreed to cut it for our Drone event but have not yet commented to a continuous maintenance program due to lack of staffing. We hope, with the expansion of John Hunt Park, the city will take ownership of this as well.

Hope to see all at the meeting on Feb 17th, come early for pizza and fellowship.

Fly Safe and have fun

Dan Baldwin  
President, RCRC

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## **Club Meeting Minutes**

### **January 20, 2015**

The club meeting was conducted on January 20th at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call showed all officers present and a quorum was present. Guests were welcomed. Rick Chambers of R/C Hobbies gave a presentation on lithium batteries (details in Addendum below). The minutes were approved as they appeared in the Newsletter. The treasurer's report showed \$5921.31 in checking, \$5176.08 in money market and \$815 in the Mike Wingo Scholarship Fund. Because of the service charges the latter account was incurring, a motion passed to change to a type of account with no charges.

The Safety Report was given by John Pieczynski considering safety when building. John Williams gave the Field Report reminding members to plug the golf cart back up to the auto-charger after each use.

Old business: The president talked with SWDA and they have no problems with our plans. They still need access to the field for sampling. The Master Plan for John Hunt Park will be coming out soon. It was voted to proceed with the SWAP meet (flyer is attached) and volunteers were solicited.

New business: Drone Day is planned for March 14 (flyer is attached). Nick Damron from MCR Aerodyne Inc. is heading that up. There will be large corporations participating. Members and guests with AMA membership may participate. The City of Huntsville is handling the documentation of liability coverage for the corporations. Eric Enchelmayer is the contact for the city. It was voted to have concessions and close the field for that event.

Arrangements for ordering of RCRC clothing have been made. The purchase price needs to be paid up front. The door prize value has been increased to \$60. One ticket will be \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5. After an auction of some used items, the meeting was adjourned.

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## **Club Meeting Attachment**

Rick Chambers of RC Hobby Barn, gave a talk on Lithium Batteries. The focus of the discussion was proper storage and care of lithium batteries.

Storage: Rick pointed out that it is best to store batteries at a voltage between 3.7 and 3.9 volts per cell. Rick said "expended batteries" are more stable and that it is best to store batteries in an expended state, to ensure long battery life. When storing for longer periods, 3 months or more, refrigeration is also recommended.

Fully charged batteries, stored for one to two weeks, will begin to degrade. They will swell and loose performance (due to increased internal resistance). LiPo batteries work best and last the longest when rapidly discharged (in use) rather than slowly discharged (i.e., charged battery storage).

Charging: Balancing cells is an important part of the LiPo battery charging process. The balance plug and corresponding connection on the charger should always be used when charging LiPo batteries.

Disposal: LiPo batteries are landfill-safe once completely discharged.

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## **New Members for January 2015:**

Hal and Sandy Blair. Welcome!!

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## **Minutes of Board of Directors meeting held February 3, 2015**

All officers were present. The president reported that the club will continue to need a service to mow the inner area of the flying field. Plans were made for Drone Day, March 14. Quite a few large entities have committed to flying. Vendors will be charged \$20 fee for their sites. Non-vendor pilots will be charged a \$5 registration. On line registration is available through the club website. John Pieczynski and Don Peck will do compliance and pilot registration. John Pieczynsk will be the CD. Dan Baldwin will do concessions, BBQ sandwiches. The club will need to purchase a city permit. Also several instructors will be available.

The Swap Meet on May 2 was discussed. Table setup will be 12 to 4 pm on May 1. Tables will be available for \$20 with 120 available. \$5 admission will be charged. Concessions will be the same as above. Club Day will be from 9-3 May 9. Other events will be discussed in more detail later. John Pieczynski is revising the Rookie Tips material. Putting together a new member kit was discussed. There are currently 4 glow planes with Tactic transmitters available for instruction.

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## **Safety**

Safety comes in many forms. Some are so simple that we ignore them. The radios that we use have two types of trims. One is the old style manual trim that you can see when you look down at your transmitter. At a glance you can see what position it is in. The other is the electronic trim, which is a switch that you move either up or down, left to right. It moves an electronic zero point inside of your radio. The advantage of the last one is that if you bump it or someone is looking at your transmitter it cannot be changed while the transmitter is off. The manual trim type can be accidentally changed.

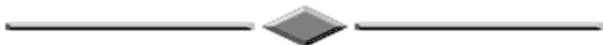
After starting your engine and moving to the pilot box, give your plane a last once over visual inspection while you stand there. Check to make sure that all surfaces move, move in the correct direction, and that when in zero position they are straight with the flying surface.

## Safety (Cont.)

The new Taranis radios that a few of the pilots are getting have something new with the trims. On the name brand radios that we all use, when we reverse the direction of the stick surfaces, the trim also reverses. This is not so with the Taranis radio. If you reverse a stick direction you must also reverse the trim direction. If you don't you are in for some exciting flying!

Fly safe, fly smart, THINK

John





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

**TO:**

**2015 RCRC EVENTS**

<b>2015 RCRC EVENTS</b>					
	February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	CD: Dan Baldwin	256-541-1061
	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 PM	RCRC Membership Meeting	CD: Dan Baldwin	256-541-1061
	March 14 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	International Drone Day	CD: Dan Baldwin	256-541-1061
	May 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	All Day	Swap Meet	CD: Dan Baldwin	256-541-1061
	May 9 <sup>th</sup>	9 am – 3 pm	Club Day	CD: John Pieczynski	256-651-6487
	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Big Bird	To be determined	
	July 11 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	War Bird	CD: John Pieczynski	256-651-6487
	August 8 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	BPA Pattern	To be determined	
	September 12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	AMA Pattern	To be determined	
	November 14 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	Toys for Tots	To be determined	

The field will be closed to members on Friday at noon before all field events, except Club Day and Toys for Tots. The field will be released back to the club by CD when the event is finished.

**ALABAMA'S  
BIGGEST  
AND BEST**

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



**North Alabama  
SWAP MEET  
and AUCTION**

**2 May, 2015  
9 AM to 3 PM  
Jaycee Building  
Huntsville, AL**

For more information Contact:

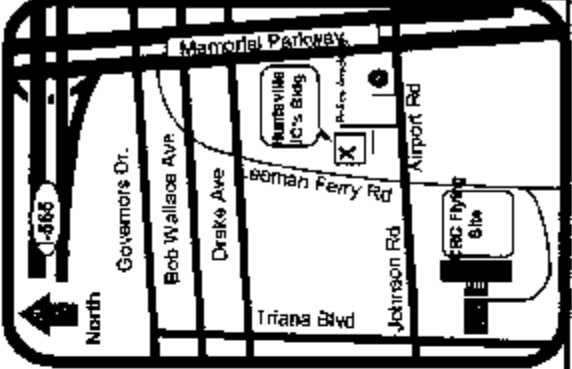
**Dan Baldwin  
256-541-1061  
president@rocketcityrc.com**

**COME JOIN THE FUN!  
BRING SOMETHING!  
Look and buy!  
TO SWAP OR SELL!**

**Refreshments  
Available**

**Dealers with Sale Items  
Setup 1 May, 2015  
10AM to 4PM**

**\$5.00 Admission  
\$20.00 All tables  
Call, E-mail, go to RCRC  
Web page to  
Reserve Tables**





**March 14, 2015 | Free Admission**



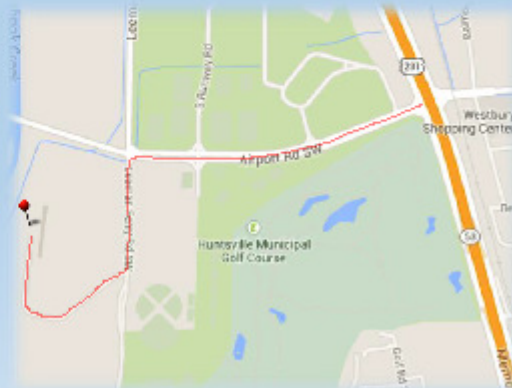
**WHAT:**

International Drone Day is a day to connect Huntsville with Unmanned Systems, explore their possibilities, and get hands on with many different platforms. All are welcome to come fly, explore, and be inspired.

**WHEN.** 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
March 14, 2015

**WHERE:**

Leeman Ferry Rd SW to the Rocket City RC Airfield



For booth or event information please contact Nicholas at 256-541-4251 or at [nicholas.damron@gmail.com](mailto:nicholas.damron@gmail.com). Updates will be published through Twitter @Unmanned\_Adv and posted to the "International Drone Day Team Alabama, USA" Facebook page.

\*In order to operate personally owned Unmanned Systems at the airfield, Operators must possess an Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) membership.