

NEWSLETTER



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

P.O. Box 2163

Huntsville, AL 35804

February 2019

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Bob Templeton 256-479-7378

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Al Blair 269-277-0879

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Jonathan Wimsatt 256-431-6840

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Gene Hauck 256-684-5111

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Field Maintenance

Clint Bestor besthome@peoplepc.com

Programs

Al Blair 269-277-0879

Public Relations

Bob Templeton 256-533-3316

Safety

Al Blair 269-277-0879

Web Administrator

Bob Templeton 256-479-7378

Flight Instructors

By Appointment:

John Pieczynski 256-651-6487

John Tubb 401-450-9669

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We've had quite the weather activity so far this year. Everything from almost 70F sunny day to an almost-happened blizzard. If you've ever wanted to know what the conditions were before you head to the field...now you can! We have completed the installation of the new weather station at the field and all data is available online. See below for details!

Please remember that more than 150 members use our facilities. There has been a case where the quad racing field was left in disarray. There have also been pit tables left out in the elements. It's perfectly fine if you move items to suite your needs, but make sure you put them back where they belong when you're finished with them. Everyone in the club is responsible for the care of everything we own and use to ensure it stays in good condition.

In recent months, I've received reports of crazy ads, popups, and suspicious content when users are attempting to access our website. I have investigated this personally and I can assure you it is not our website that is presenting these sites. This problem exists when someone clicks a link that's given to them when they try to find the site via a Google search. While most of the time, this is fine, I have seen that sometimes, the search engines present bogus sites at the top of search results. For the most reliable and safe access to our site, please add the site URL to your bookmarks or favorites and access it directly without using a search engine. <http://rocketcityrc.com>

The next club meeting is Tuesday February 19 at 6pm.

Fly well, fly safe!!
Bob Templeton
President - RCRC





Club Meeting Minutes from January 15, 2019

Meeting called to order at 1801. Quorum was present

Old Business

- Treasurer's report was given by Gene Hauck. Passed.
- Safety report was given by Bob Templeton. Passed.
- Previous meeting minutes and newsletter content. Passed

New Business

- AMA Leader member program: John P. shared the various programs that AMA offers.
- Skillshare at STEAM works about doing a share, talk/lecture at their event at the Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment Center February 21 6-8pm. Contributors welcome. Information will be supplied at the February club meeting.
- Weather station and other field improvements were discussed.
- Notes for the next newsletter discussed.

Meeting Adjourned: 1832

A Board of Directors meeting was not held for February 2019





For Your Info

Fuel Foaming

Have you ever had a problem with glow fuel foaming? How do you know when your fuel is foaming? Have you ever had a plane that every time you took off the engine would run for a minute or so and then stop? You land and look everything over, find nothing wrong, then refuel and take off again. The same thing happens after a minute or so, the engine quits. By now you believe that your fuel is bad, so you try a new gallon of fuel, the same thing happens, after a minute or so after take off the engine quits. By now you are ready to buy a new engine. Well don't do that, at least not now.

It is time to trouble shoot. Take the wing off and look in at the fuel tank. Remove the tank, check the fuel lines, are there any holes in the line? If there is replace the line. If not reinstall the tank. Is the tank wrapped in foam or is it wedged in place in the formers that make the fuselage? Some of today's ARF's use a method of holding the fuel tank in place by pressing it in an opening in the formers. Well this causes the tank to vibrate when the engine is running; causing the fuel to shake violently. At first there is no room in the tank to form air bubbles in the fuel, why? Because the tank is full to the top with liquid and there is no air space. Now you take off and start flying. As you fly, the level of liquid in the tank starts to lower. At some point there is enough room at the top of the tank to form foam. Foam is tiny air bubbles in the fuel. When the amount of air bubbles reaches a certain point, the mixture of air to fuel changes and causes the engine to quit. This is what is happening with your engine, quitting after a minute or so in the air.

There are some ways of curing the foaming problem. The most common solution is to wrap the fuel tank in foam. But if the tank is pushed into the opening of the formers, that would mean that you would need to cut away some of the former to leave room for the foam. In some models that is not possible because there is not enough room to remove the material. In this case what do you do? Well after some research I have found that you can add an additive to your fuel to keep the fuel from foaming. Where did I find this information? On a Pylon racing website. It seems that they have been using this additive for years to get more power out of their fuel. All fuel foams to a certain extent, but in most cases, it isn't enough to kill the engine. But for pylon racers that little amount of air in the fuel is enough to change the engine power after they are in the air. So they add something to the fuel to eliminate this problem. They add one spray of ArmorAll to a gallon of fuel. Yes, AnnorAll, liquid that protects plastic in your car. Buy the spray bottle.

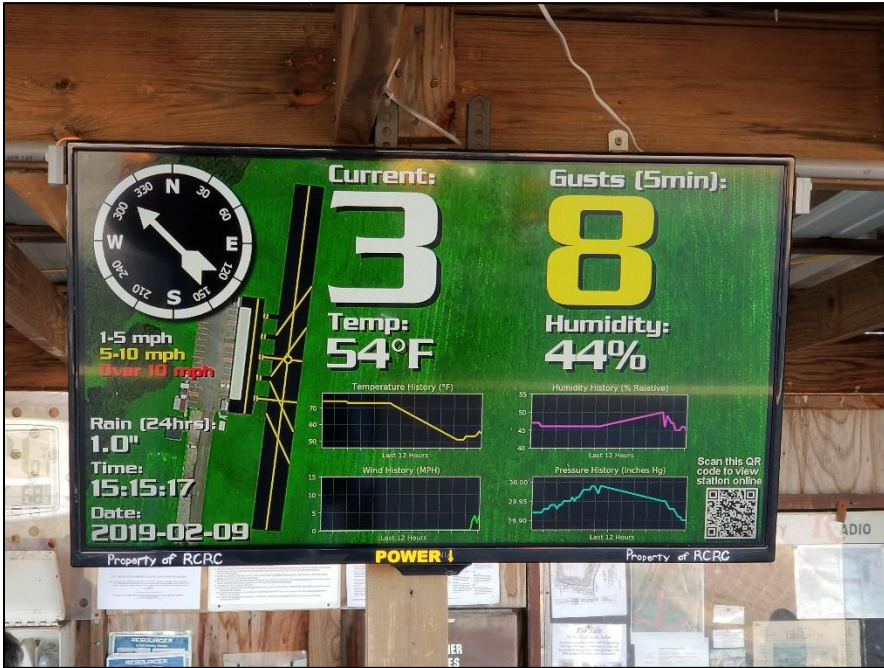
I know that this sounds nuts, but it works. Or at least it solved the problem that I had with two planes. ARF's are great time savers, look great, but sometimes they have problems. So don't get rid of the plane, figure out what is wrong and look for solutions to fix the problem.

John W. Pieczynski
256-651-6487





Meet RCRC's New Weather Station



Features:

- 32" Display that can be seen from pilot stations
- Sensors: Wind Speed, Wind Direction, Rainfall, Temperature, Humidity, and Atmospheric Pressure
- 12-hour history graphs for Wind, Pressure, Temp, Humidity
- Speed indicator color changes based on wind speed.
- Motion sensors will ensure that the display remains active while the facilities are in use and turn off the display after 15 minutes of no activity.
- Online access. Check the current conditions before heading to the field! The station uploads the latest data to Weather Underground every five minutes.
- Direct power and wiring...no batteries to replace!

If you are the first one to the field for the day you may need to power on the display. There is a small but clearly-marked power button on the bottom of the unit. Links for online access have been added to the menu on the RCRC website. If you have any questions or problems, Bob Templeton is the POC for this effort.

Direct link to the current conditions at the field:

<https://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KALHUNTS256>

