

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

**January, 2009**

Officers		
President Tony Coberly president@rocketcityrc.com		882-7193
Vice President Jon Lowe vicepresident@rocketcityrc.com		464-0802
Secretary John Roberts secretary@rocketcityrc.com		883-8722
Treasurer Skip Andrews treasurer@rocketcityrc.com		851-6015
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Mike Norton	By appointment	653-6632
Tony Coberly	By Appointment	882-7193
Rick Grim	By Appointment	503-5847
Pete Wick	By Appointment	883-7571
Bill Mitchell	By Appointment	650-5181

# Prez Sez

Well it seems to have been raining for about 45 days now, but lets not forget to try to get out to the field between the dark clouds and head for the skies!

I would like to thank Jon Lowe, our new VP, for running the December meeting while I was out of town on work. I have been getting very positive remarks about his ability to run everything very efficiently and keeping everyone in order, but he then proceeded to test the membership and inform everyone with a very good program. Lets keep the meetings upbeat and if you have ideas for programs, or you if you would like to do a program yourself, let Jon know.

Swap Meet is coming up on 1-31-2009 so if you need tables let me know. If you have some time and don't mind helping the club out, give me a call and I can always find something that will help the club!

We do NOT have a CD for the War Bird, so if you are interested, let a Board member know!

*Until next month!  
Tony*

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## Rocket City Radio Controllers December Membership Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on December 16, 2008 at 1900. A quorum of the membership was present.

**Board members present:** Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor

**Guests:** None

**New Members:** None

**Field Committee Report:**

Cost of shelter roof replacement or repair will be presented at the January meeting. The television set in the clubhouse will be fitted with a digital converter. The field chair also requested help with the swap meet on Jan 30 & 31.

**Publicity Committee Report:** no report

**Safety Committee report:**

Jon mentioned that the biggest safety issue was hands in props. He also reported that according to AMA statistics that injury level was no different for electric or IC engines.

**November minutes:**

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published in the Newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's report was not available.

**Old Business:**

The Park flyer proposal was presented to the membership

The proposal before the membership was that such Park Flyer membership be the same cost as a non voting member. A different color card would be issued and such member would be restricted to the flying of airplanes limited to the park flyer category. This category of membership would only have voting rights on issues related to park flyers.

After the presentation of the proposal there was a discussion and a call for a vote.

The proposal did not pass

**New Business:**

The Toys for Tots event collected \$970.00.

The proposal for the 2009 41st Annual RCRC AMA Pattern Contest was presented. The contest will be held September 12 and 13th 2009. The field will be closed to public flying September 11th at 12:00pm and reopen by 3:00 on September 13th.

After a brief discussion a motion for vote was made and seconded. The proposal was passed by the membership

**Program:**

The program was presented by Jon Low the subject was the presentation of a multiple answer test on various functions and capabilities of computer radios. Jon then explained each of the correct answers in detail and answered many other questions that various members presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:45.

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## Minutes for the January 2009 RCRC Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was called to order on January 6th at 18:30

**Board Members present:**

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, News Letter Editor

**Guests:** Alan Berard

**Old Business:**

Alan Berard returned the advance and the money earned from the Toys for Tots event to the club treasurer. The final financial summary result for the event was reported. The event earned \$970.00 and the club donated an additional \$220 for a total donation to Toys for Tots of \$1190.00 .

**New Business:**

John Williams has proposed that the leaky roof on the sunshade be repaired or replaced. The cost to replace the roof using 12' lengths of steel roofing , sealant etc. with the club members doing the labor is \$2200. The extra 2 foot overlap will prevent the leaks that we now have from reoccurring. This proposal will be presented to the general membership.

The feasibility of adding a weather station and camera to the club area was discussed. The possibility of doing this was mentioned to Tony Coberly by Ed Hood. Tony did some investigation into the requirements and costs for this type of station to be in place. This will be presented to the general membership at the next meeting not as a proposal but to determine actual interest level.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:30

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


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## Program for January meeting

Gary Courtney will present a program on the Phoenix 8. This is one of Don Lowe's designs, and is currently available as a kit.

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From the January 2009 AMA Insider  
From the Northern Utah Radio Control Aircraft Club

## Give Me Exponential Rates

by Matthew George

I wanted to take a few minutes and talk about the use of exponential rates as supported by most of our RC transmitters. After getting back into the hobby over the last several years, I'm surprised at the slow adoption rate (no pun intended) of using exponential rates.

I have even heard recommendations that you shouldn't use exponential rate features on your radio. I can tell you by experience, that any pilot serious about becoming accomplished in aerobatics will make his life much harder if he tries to fly precision maneuvers without incorporating exponential rates into his control surface throws. I am of the opinion that almost any aircraft should be set up with exponential rates on the control surfaces. You will immediately see an improvement in your flying once you understand and start dialing in exponential rates for all your aircraft. Trainers to unlimited IMAC birds, gliders, sport planes, flying lawn mowers, etc ...

What is the definition of using an exponential rate on a control surface? Exponential rate is where the servo movement is not directly proportional to the amount of control stick movement on your transmitter. Over the first half on the stick travel, the servo moves less than the stick. This makes control response milder and smoothes out level flight and normal flight maneuvers. Over the extreme half of the

stick travel, the servo gradually catches up with the stick throw, achieving 100% servo travel at full stick throw for aerobatics or trouble situations.

All the newer radios support this feature and the best part is the fact that no physical change is required on the aircraft. It's a simple matter of programming your radio to use exponential rates on some or all of your control surfaces including your throttle.

Have I convinced you to give expo rates a try? It's not scary; I promise. Pull out your transmitter manual and start reading. It's usually a simple matter of scrolling through your on-screen setup menu and finding the option to set expo for each control surface.

There is only one caveat I know of, if you have a Futaba radio, make sure to dial in your exponential rates as a negative number. All other radios use positive numbers when setting up expo rates.

I would start by static checking your control throws after you dial in some expo. Start with your ailerons and dial in about 30% expo for channel one. Now watch your aileron control throws as you move your stick on the radio. You will notice a soft, easy movement while you are at the center of the stick and as you move the stick to full left or right, the controls will begin to move faster to their current end-point setup. This will make your aileron response much more soft at the center of the stick and you will be doing full, slow rolls all across the field. When you need some quick aileron for a quick correction or faster aileron roll, you will still have the throw you need when the stick gets to its extreme position. It will make your flying much smoother. If you are using the newer faster servos, you will see much more effect by using expo rates.

So how does Matt have his radio set up? There is no exact formula, but this may give you a place to start:

My expo setting on my Composite ARF 330S for precision non-3-D flying are below. Keep in mind I have a lot of throw in my control surfaces even on low rates, so you will want to experiment and find the best settings for your aircraft. (Note: I'm using a Futaba radio, so these numbers are listed as negative. For other radios—JR, Airtronics, etc.—you would dial in positive numbers.)

Aileron: -50% (left and right)

Elevator: -40% (up) -20% (down)

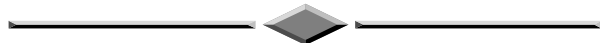
Throttle: -38% (this smoothes out the throttle response across the whole stick movement)

Rudder: -80% (left and right)

If you are skeptical, start with lower numbers, 0% would equal no exponential at all. Try a different setting after each flight and get to a point where you see your flying get smoother.

You have heard all the top aerobatic pilots' names: Frazer Biggs, Quique Somenzini, Mark Leseberg, Christophe Paysant-LeRoux, Chip Hyde, Mike McConville, Bill Hempel, Kenny Lauter, Jason Noll, Jason Schulman, etc. I'm not even in the same league as these pilots, but guess what all these pilots have in common? Yep, they all make heavy use of exponential rates when setting up their radios.

So pull out that radio manual and start dialing up that expo! You will be glad you did and your friends will be asking you what you did to improve your flying.



### Photos from the Web

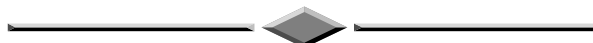
This is a jet trainer. I assume it would be used to get a turbine waiver from AMA, but I do not know that. In any case, it seems to me to be a waste of a good engine.



The model below is a Monocoupe. It was the first two-place, enclosed cabin monoplane built in America. There were 870 built of several different models. (The facts are from the Monocoupe Club web site at <http://www.monocoupe.com/home.html>.)



The following plane is the Stryker from Parkzone. It looks like something Tony Coberly might want (although it probably cannot hold enough batteries for him).



*If any of you readers have an idea for an article, write it and send it to [newsletter@rocketcityrc.com](mailto:newsletter@rocketcityrc.com). Warning – it will be published!*

Indoor facility!  
Concessions on  
site!

# Rocket City Radio Controllers Swap Meet 2009

Door and  
Raffle prizes  
**ALL DAY!**  
Radios!  
Kits!  
Tools!

## Sponsored by RC Hobbies

### NEW LOCATION!

Alabama A&M University  
Agribition Center  
4925 Moores Mill Rd NW  
Huntsville, AL 35811

### Jan 31 2009

Table Rental \$10 ea.  
Entry Fee \$5  
8AM-3:30PM

Vendor setup 6:30AM

CD: Tony Coberly

Call or Email for table

reservations!

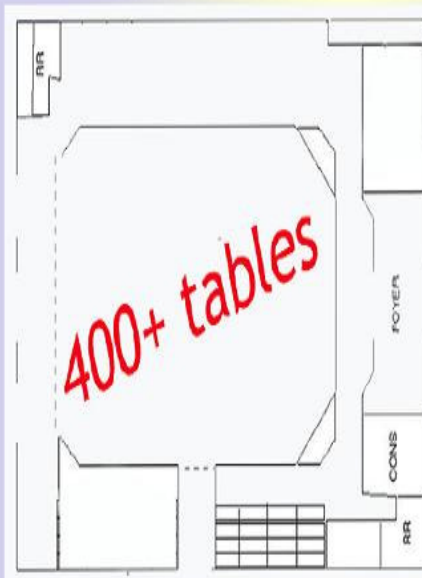
256-508-2339

[swapmeet@RocketCityRC.com](mailto:swapmeet@RocketCityRC.com)

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

Directions:  
From Nashville take I-65 South to I-565  
East through Huntsville until I-565 ends  
and becomes HWY 72. Left on Moores Mill  
Rd. at bottom of hill at traffic light. Agri-  
bition center is 1/4 mile on the left.

From Birmingham take I-65 North to I-565  
East through Huntsville until I-565 ends  
and becomes HWY 72. Left on Moores Mill  
Rd. at bottom of hill at traffic  
light. Agribition center is 1/4 mile on the  
left.



Over 45,000 Sq Ft!





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

To: \_\_\_\_\_

AMA chartered  
 club since 1964  
 Number 715  
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**January, 2009**

2009 RCRC Event Schedule

**January RCRC membership meeting – January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**February board meeting - February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**

	Jan 31st	All Saturday	Swap Meet at A&M Agribition Center	Tony Coberly	882-7193
†‡	April 25 <sup>th</sup> (If rain, Apr 26 <sup>th</sup> )	All day and night	Electric fun-fly	Tony Coberly	882-7193
	May 9 <sup>th</sup>	All day	Club day	Wayne Gladden	881-6048
†‡	May 16 <sup>th</sup>	8am to 8 pm	RCRC Big bird event	Mike Norton	653-6632
†	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	8am to 4 pm	Fun-fly	Doug Burfitt	722-8589
†‡	July 18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup>	All Saturday and Sun	RCRC Warbird event	VACANT (Volunteer, anyone?)	
†‡	Aug. 8th and 9 <sup>th</sup>	All Saturday and Sunday	RCRC Ballistic pattern event	Gary Courtney	881-7009
†‡	Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup>	All Saturday and Sunday	RCRC AMA Pattern event	Bryan Kennedy	(770)335-2228
†	November 1 <sup>st</sup>	All day	Toys for Tots fly-in	Bob Walls	830-2352

Events held at Wilbourn Field unless noted otherwise  
 † Field closed to non-participants during this event  
 ‡ Field closed to non-participants from noon onward the day before the event