



# 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**

**June, 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 the HOT weather is here and it's time to make sure that we stay hydrated at the field during the long hours of flying and socializing. I think that I have found a water that will not jam up the vending machine like the bottles we have been using over the past few months , and they are 20 ounce bottles!

Keep an eye on your fellow flyers too, the last thing anyone wants is for someone to fall out from heat stroke or something worse!

Until next month!

*Tony*

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## Minutes for the May 2009, RCRC General Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P. M. on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2008. A quorum of the membership was present.

**Board members present:**

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Newsletter editor.

**Guests:** Stanley Cannon and his two sons.

**New members:** none.

**Board Announcements:**

The cost for club day was \$35.48

The cost for the Electric Fly-in was \$56.27

The cost for the Big Bird Fly-in was \$61.99

**Field Chair Report:**

Tony reported that he had been summoned by Lou Hovatter of the city Parks & Recreation department to discuss the fact that no cooking was allowed at the location. The meeting was precipitated by an inquiry to a councilman of why it was not allowed. Although this is covered under the contract between the city and RCRC which does not allow any commercial activity at the location, it is continually brought up and questioned. Tony hopes this meeting could lead to a review of the contract by the members and constructive comments collected and a proposal to change the contract be presented to the city.

**Publicity committee report:** none.

**Safety Committee Report:** none.

**Treasurers report:**

The treasurer's report was read and approved by the membership with the stipulation that the last 4 reports be reviewed for correctness by the board to determine the cause of the error pointed out by Mary Long.

**Old Business:**

A vote was taken on the motion to supply internet service to the field. This would allow us to have internet capability at the field and allow data from the donated weather station to be available on the internet. The cost to the club would be \$90/month. The motion was defeated.

Tony said they would still install the donated station and have local access.

**New Business:**

Bob Walls presented to the club the details of his Marine Corps Toys for Tots event. The dates will be November 6 & 7 and the entry fee will be a \$20.00 unopened toy or \$20.00 cash.

The proposed by-laws change was presented by Jon Lowe. After a motion was made to approve the bylaws, a discussion ensued. After discussion of the reason for the changes and rationale behind the changes, it was determined that the proposed changes would be published in the newsletter and the vote on the changes would be held at the July meeting.

The program for the evening was presented by Jon Lowe Its subject was the availability to purchase some inexpensive items, such as helicopter models and transmitters from various Asian sources and the quality of such items. Jon had several examples of the good deals and the not so good deals.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

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## Minutes for the June 2009, RCRC Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was called to order on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, at 18:30

**Board Members present:**

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

**Guests:** none

**Old business:** none

**New business:**

The meeting consisted of a discussion on how the board should present a request to the general membership to review the contract the club has with the city and solicit the member's inputs for changes. This request will be presented to the membership at the next General Membership meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:15.

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## The Tale of the Focus Sport

During the Spring, I built an electric Focus Sport. The airplane had an inrunner with a gearbox on it, which worked well. Unfortunately, I made some major errors with it. These were:

1: I took off without checking the ailerons. They were not plugged in. The airplane took off, rolled inverted and crashed. The gearbox was damaged, the wing tube was bent, and there were minor breaks in the fuselage structure. There were also bumps and scrapes which I ignored. I sent the motor back to Mr. Neu, who repaired it for about \$90. I bought a new wing tube from TNT Landing Gear for \$15, plus \$10 shipping. This flight in front of the kibitzers whose names I cannot remember.

2: After some painting and covering and after installing the new wing tube, I was flying again. After several days and about 20 flights, I brought the plane out, and took off in front of an audience. I had checked the aileron, but forgot I needed both of them to fly. Fortunately, there was enough control to land the airplane.

3: Later, in front of Jon Lowe and Gary Courtney, I had a battery pack failure. Fortunately, I had the radio powered from a separate battery, so it should have been a piece of cake to land it. However, it had rained a lot, and I had to land in a lake. This tore out the landing gear. I did a simple repair and brought it back out. It flew well, but when I landed it in the grass beside the runway, it tore out the gear again. I then figured out a complex repair. The next time out, it slightly bent the landing gear, and did no damage to the mounting.

4. A few days later, I had another battery pack problem. On Jon Lowe's advice, I replaced the speed controller.

5. I came out the next day. I had checked the radio battery the night before, and it read about 7.8 volts (this was a LIPO battery). I didn't figure it needed charging, so I brought it out to the field. I took off, turned around, the radio battery died and the airplane was smithereened. (This is not quite true-the wing was almost intact.) The output shaft of the motor was broken, and the brand new speed controller was trash.

I recovered the radio battery (which was in one piece), and measured it. It showed an output of 6.8

volts, and was being pulled down by the voltmeter. I took it home, and prepared to throw it away. I first plugged in a load resistor and waited until the resistor was cold. I then stripped the battery wires, twisted them together and was ready to discard the battery. However, it suddenly got hot, so I threw it into my fireplace. When it cooled down, I made up a coffee can full of salt water and put the battery in it for a day, then discarded it.

The only way I could think of that this failure would occur would be if the radio battery was defective. It had a 2S2P setup. If I assume that one of the cells was not connected, I can account for all of the problems. The 7.8 volts would be the reading if the battery had two cells fully charged hooked in parallel, and a single cell in series. I had noticed that charging seemed to take a long time, with the balancer working overtime.

This crash knocked the wind out of my sails. There was no way to reassemble the wreckage and get a straight flying airplane. However, I had bought a second Focus Sport and a low-KV inrunner to fly it with, so I am going to build the second Focus Sport. I bought this one from Piedmont Models, instead of Central Hobbies. Not much has been done on it; however, I have improved on the landing gear box. I made changes as follows:

1: The blind nuts and landing gear screws are now 10-32. Rick has them in stock. I knocked out the blind nut supports in the existing design

2: I built a stack of 1/8 inch and 1/32 inch plywood and placed it into the landing gear box. The 1/8 inch is 5-ply, which is very strong. Using the holes in the box, I drilled through the existing holes, then through the plywood with a 1/4 inch drill. I mounted the blind nuts in the plywood with CA, then shaped the plywood to fit under the bottom of the box. Then, I put some epoxy on the plywood, and mounted it to the bottom of the box using the 10-32 screws.

3: I drilled two 1/4 inch holes in each gear and placed it in the box, mounting the gear with the 10-32 screws.

This is as far as I have gone. I plan to add a second top to the landing gear box using the 5-ply plywood.

*To be continued. . .*

# 2009 RCRC Youth Membership Drive



*AMA Sanctioned*

*RC Hobbies* PROVIDED DOOR PRIZES FOR REGISTERED PILOTS

RCRC TREY WILBURN FIELD

HUNTSVILLE, AL

GPS 34 41.192 N

86 35.725 W

13 JUNE 2009

ENTRY FEE: FREE

8AM-5PM

INSTRUCTOR PILOTS

MEETING 0730 JUNE 13



LIMITED TO THE FIRST 150  
AGES 10-15 TO SIGN UP  
AMA AND CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP WILL BE  
PROVIDED

[WWW.ROCKETCITYRC.COM](http://WWW.ROCKETCITYRC.COM)

# Mail-in Ballot

## Current article 3, section 3 bylaws

- Section 3:
- (a) Annual membership dues are \$50.00. Additional immediate family membership will be assessed at the rate of 1/2 (one half) times the normal annual dues if the address is the same as the initial member's.
  - (b) Any pilot of miniature aircraft with an active membership in the AMA who is 65-69 years old, and either applies for membership or currently holds membership with RCRC, shall be granted Senior Pilot Status and have their dues to RCRC discounted fifty (50) percent. Applicant must file a membership application with proof of claim.
  - (c) For Pilots of miniature aircraft 70 years old or greater, who currently hold an active membership with AMA and is either a current member, or is applying for membership with RCRC, shall be granted Super Senior Pilot Status and have their dues waived. Applicant must file a membership application with proof of claim.
  - (d) Persons showing an interest in miniature radio controlled model aviation and of an age less than sixteen (16) years and current member of AMA will be granted a no dues Junior Membership. Applicant must file a membership application with proof of claim.
  - (e) Dues will be prorated on July 1 to 1/2 (one half) the normal rate. Dues are non-refundable, except under extraordinary circumstances, which shall be determined by the membership on a case-by-case basis.

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## Proposed article 3, section 3 bylaws

- Section 3:
- (a) Annual membership dues are \$50.00. Additional immediate family membership for each member will be assessed at the rate of 1/2 (one half) times the normal annual dues if the address is the same as the initial member's. To encourage early yearly renewals, yearly dues are due no later than the December general membership meeting. Renewals after that date shall be assessed a \$10 late fee.
  - (b) Persons showing an interest in miniature radio controlled model aviation and of an age less than sixteen (16) years and current member of AMA will be granted a no dues Junior Membership. Applicant must file a membership application with proof of claim.
  - (c) Dues will be prorated on July 1 to 1/2 (one half) the normal rate for new members, and lapsed members who were not RCRC members the previous calendar year. Proration does not apply to family membership. Dues are non-refundable, except under extraordinary circumstances, which shall be determined by the membership on a case-by-case basis.

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## Vote

I am in favor of replacing bylaws Article 3, section 3 with the proposed bylaws. \_\_\_\_\_

I oppose the proposed bylaws and wish to keep the current ones. \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature (required)

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Date

Return this ballot with your vote to the RCRC secretary at P. O. Box 2163 Huntsville, AL 35804. Or, come vote in person at the July membership meeting.



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

To:

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

<u>2009 RCRC Event Schedule</u>					
June RCRC membership meeting – June 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2009 July board meeting - July 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2009					
†	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	8am to 4 pm	RCRC Youth membership drive fly-in	Doug Burfitt	722-8589
	June 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	All day	NARCA pattern contest (see narca.net)		
†‡	July 18 <sup>th</sup>	All Saturday and Sun	RCRC Warbird event	Alan Berard	776-9509
†‡	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 7 <sup>th</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 on the Friday before the event					