



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

JULY 2012

President's Message

Officers		
President		
James Fowler		256-882-1784
Vice-President		
Basil Cooper		256-883-9220
Secretary		
Paul Webb		256-325-2741
Treasurer		
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Basil Cooper		256-883-9220
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Tom Sutherland		256-714-8496
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James Whitbeck	By Appt.	256-541-6123
Pete Wick	By Appt	256-883-7571
Mike Norton	By Appt	256-653-6632

Now it is July and officially summer. Triple digit temperatures may be here for a while. Stay hydrated when on the flight line.

We did hold the final voting on the junior member age Bylaw change at our June membership meeting even though a quorum was not present. The change was approved by a large margin, however just 22 members voted including only eight absentee ballots. That is a bit discouraging since approximately 100 ballots were mailed.

In AMA President Bob Brown's column in July's Model Aviation magazine, he mentions the AMA, and therefore we, have issues with the FAA regarding the pending legislation. He states: *"It is becoming apparent that the FAA interpretation of the recent Congressional Act is not the same as that of the Academy. We have problems and every member of the Academy should realize this."*

In another column in the same magazine, Rich Hanson, the Government and Regulatory Affairs team leader, indicates that Congress's confidence in community-based safety programming is not necessarily shared by the FAA. He states: *"I can't stress enough how important it is that AMA members continue to validate the strength and effectiveness of our community-based program through unwavering compliance with the AMA Safety Code and related programs."* For our AMA chartered club that at least means full compliance with the club's regulations and restrictions. The club can't afford to be the cause of an incident, national or otherwise.

The board needs your attendance at the July membership meeting. The first draft of the events for 2013 will be submitted for approval. There will be a program and door prizes.

Fly in the zone and fly safe.
Jim

June 2012 General Membership Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:00 PM.

All Board members were present.

A quorum was not present.

There were no guests or new members attending.

The minutes of the last meeting and the prior month were approved as written.

The Treasurer's report was made and approved with no comments.

The President reminded the Membership that the 2013 Club Event schedule will be made at the July BOD Meeting. He commented that the proposed schedule will initially be similar to that for this year. The suggestion was made from the floor that one pylon race be scheduled instead of two that are in this year's schedule for various reasons.

The Vice President reported on the Farley Church flying demonstration which was made by two of our members recently. The demo was well received but crowd control was a concern with excited children encroaching on the designated flying field. The suggestion was made that future demos be held at our field which is better suited for keeping spectators safely away from the aircraft.

The Vice President also commented on the War Bird gathering at our field June 9. There were 8 to 10 pilots and a dozen planes including a pink P-51.

There was no Field, Publicity, or Safety report.

Old Business:

The vote on the Bylaw change ARTICLE THREE, MEMBERSHIP, Section 3(b) was conducted and the change was approved. The Bylaws will be changed accordingly and distributed appropriately.

New Business:

Don Peck reminded everyone of the pylon race scheduled for this weekend and will appreciate help from volunteers late Friday to set things up.

There being no other business from the floor, the Program Chairman showed selected scenes from the Joe Nall Flyin DVD and held a drawing for door prizes with the meeting being adjourned at 7:45 PM.



REQUEST for PROGRAMS for MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

If anyone has a program they would like to present at one of the membership meetings, please get in touch with Vice President Basil Cooper,

Phone: 256-883-9220.



July 2012 BOD Meeting Minutes

The July 3, 2012 RCRC Board of Directors meeting was called to order by the President at 7:00 PM.

All Board members were present except the Vice President. There were no guests attending.

The proposed event schedule for 2013 was discussed and agreed to by the Board. The schedule is published elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Statement of Certification recording the adoption of the June 19 Bylaw change was signed by the President and Secretary. Copies of the revised Bylaws will be made available to new members. The new Bylaws can also be accessed by the Membership at the rocketcityrc.com website.

A proposal by a member to place a recycling container in the pit area for collecting aluminum cans to generate revenue for the "Recycle for Rover" program at the Animal Shelter was unanimously approved by the Board. The membership will be requested to cooperate in this project by maintaining careful segregation of disposed items to the correct designated containers.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.



At the Field

As previously indicated, this “At the Field” column will address general observations and anything else that comes to mind. If you have any ideas for a topic, notify any officer and they will pass it along to the newsletter editor.

The War Bird event was to have been held in June, but as previously reported, the contest director had a conflict with his work obligations and the event was cancelled.

The June Pylon Race event was held on 23 June with a total of 11 flyers participating. The contest director, Don Peck, has provided a summary of the event elsewhere in this newsletter.

With the high temperatures we’ve been experiencing over the last several weeks, I know the media has been reminding all of you of the many possible heat related injuries and their symptoms. We’re not going to repeat them here, but we are going to nag everyone to be aware of the potential for injuries associated with high temperatures and to take all necessary precautions.

Complaint Area:

If you’re thin-skinned, or don’t like blunt criticism of yourself and others, you may want to skip this paragraph. Our Field Chairman, John Williams, spends a lot of time ensuring the field is maintained and the pit area is safe and serviceable. It is not his job, or anyone else’s, to pretend they are your mother and pick up your trash or clean up your trash or clean up your mess. If you generate any waste or trash, put it in the proper receptacle. Broken parts, paper towels, crashed airplane residue, soda cans, water bottles, food wrappers, etc. go in the numerous trash cans strategically placed in the pit area. Smokers can place their cigar and cigarette butts in one of the three “Smokers Outposts” that reside in the pit area. If you’re a smoker you know what they look like, use them. Five cigar and four cigarette butts, three paper towels, four food wrappers, and several balsa pieces thrown on the

ground on one Saturday morning is not simply disgusting, it’s unhygienic, disrespectful to everyone else in the club, and just plain lazy.



Flying Field Regulations

This month we’ll continue our review of the Flying Field Regulations with the fifth rule:

5. Aircraft and Radio equipment inspections are required before the first flight of the day. Perform a radio ground range and controls performance check as a minimum requirement. First flights of repaired or new airplanes require inspection by other than the owner if there are other flyers or spectators present at the field. If possible, these test flights should be conducted when no other aircraft is in the air.

While this regulation is very straight forward, it’s really four rules in one. The first part requires you to inspect your aircraft and transmitter before the first flight each flying day; as in a preflight inspection routinely conducted on manned aircraft.

The daily radio range check is the second rule. It’s also AMA National Model Aircraft Safety Code item B.2. for new or repaired aircraft. And, rather than present a technique here, which most of you could find fault with, consult your transmitter manual for your proper procedures. A thorough preflight and radio range check help ensure your aircraft will have as many landings as it has take-offs.

The third part of the regulation requires that first flights of repaired or new airplanes be inspected by someone other than the owner if there are other flyers or spectators present. Now this one is really tough to justify, especially since model aircraft pilots’ egos can be just as big as manned aircraft pilots’. While no one wants to have their work “second guessed” and all of us know how to build and repair an airplane, it’s a good idea. Even in

manned aviation an A&P's critical work is often inspected by an IA. Also, since we have this rule in place, if it isn't followed, and an injury or damage incident occurs, the club's and your own AMA insurance would likely be void for noncompliance. Since we are a very litigious society, insurance companies are always looking for ways not to pay. The fourth part of the regulation suggests that first flights of new or repaired aircraft should be conducted when no other aircraft is in the air. It's not so much that other aircraft will be in your way, but they can create distractions that prevent you from concentrating fully on that critical first flight. Other aircraft engines can prevent you from detecting tell-tale noises from your engine or control surfaces. If it's a busy day all that's required is that you ask the other flyers if you can "have the air" for a few minutes to conduct a first flight.

JUNE 23 2012 RCRC Club-40 Pylon Race (Tim Batt – Don Peck)

We had a low turn out I think due to the heat but the heat wasn't all that bad because we had a nice breeze all day. It could have been much worse! Still all eleven of us had a great time. You should have heard the cheering going on the two times we had a single airplane heat. It was hilarious!

Going into the A Main and B Main race we had to have a tie breaker between Ernie Duffey and Mike



Talley. Mike got a bad start and handed the A Main spot to Ernie.

Final Results:

A Main

1st Greg Doe 1:32.70

2nd Randal Bosworth 1:33.32

3rd Jim Andrews 1:34.59

4th Ernie Duffey 1:59.72

B Main

1st John McGowan 1:34.45

2nd Mike Talley 1:34.63

3rd Tim Batt 1:49.06

4th Brad Clayton 1:37.09 with one cut

Thanks guys for coming out and supporting the RCRC Race.

Thanks Tim Batt of NARCA and for all the pylons, scoring, stop watches, electronic starting clock, "offering to loan pylon officials tents; (which RCRC doesn't have), computer pilot registration forms and more! Tim worked as CD and PA flight line director. I was the paper CD of the event and would like to recognize these RCRC volunteers who worked helping at the event. John Williams, John Pieczynski, David Seymore, Carolyn Peck, Molley & Brad Clayton (Decatur daughter and pilot), Gary Courtney and Ernie Duffey for unloading pylons at NARCA.

In closing, you should know that our RCRC facility and clubhouse are the greatest, particularly the access ramp. I worked hard to provide the best RCRC image I could to our friends from out of town. Hopefully November 17 Club-40 Race will have a bigger turnout. As Tim Batt says...Thanks guys for coming out and supporting the RCRC race Don Peck CD





Pylon Race Inspection

PROPOSED 2013 EVENTS

(To be Voted on at the July General Membership Meeting)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>CD</u>
Club Day	May 19	Vice President
Big Bird	June 7 & 8	TBD
Pylon Race	June 22	Don Peck
Capt. Trey Wilbourn Memorial Military Aircraft Fly-In	July 27 & 28	Jim Minninger
BPA Pattern	August 17 & 18	Gary Courtney
AMA Pattern	September 20-22	Jon Lowe
Toys for Tots	November 2 & 3	Bob Walls
Pylon Race	November 16	Don Peck



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

TO:

AMA CHARTERED
CLUB SINCE 1964
NO. 715

July 2012

2012 RCRC EVENTS

	17 Jul	7:00 PM	RCRC Membership Meeting	Jim Fowler	(256) 882-1784
	7 Aug	7:00 PM	RCRC BOD Meeting	Jim Fowler	(256) 882-1784

RCRC Event Schedule

*	21 Jul	All Day Sat	Big Bird Fly-In		
*	18-19 Aug	All Day Sat All Day Sun	BPA Pattern	Gary Courtney	(256) 603-3329
*	14-16 Sept	All Day Sat All Day Sun	AMA Pattern	Jon Lowe	(256) 464-0802

*	3-4 Nov	All Day Sat All Day Sun	Toys for Tots		
*	17 Nov	All Day Sat	Pylon Race	Don Peck	(256) 539-5217

* Field closed to non-participants during this event.

*** Field closed Fri before event at noon .