



THE FLIGHTLINE



AMA CLUB 668 SINCE 1968
RACINE RADIO CONTROL CLUB INC SINCE 1968

RRCC May Issue
May 19, 2024 Newsletter

WE ARE ON THE WEB
www.racinerclub.com

Club Officers

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Racine R/C Club Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: R/C Flying Field

Open Meeting - Jim opened the meeting at 1:00PM. 22 members in attendance.

Welcome - New Members & Guests – None.

Minutes - Last Meeting – There were no changes to the published minutes.

Reports

President- Jim Litwin informed membership that Thursday the 18th was the last day Menet Aero, the drone company, would be using the site to the northwest of us to test their drones. They are not renewing their agreement with Mt. Pleasant. They are moving to a new site closer to their office in Oak Creek. I'm sure they will be missed. NOT!

Members found that a compost site worker, closing on Saturdays, didn't properly chain the gates, effectively leaving them open. Met with Mt. Pleasant DPW and should now be remedied. This actually happened twice so the village continues to investigate.

Advised that a "STOP" sign in the big plane area has been replaced along with the windsock on the flagpole and new sign posts made which the "No Flying" notices are attached.

Vice President- Roger Nickolaus had nothing to report.

Secretary/Treasurer-Bob Johnson reported our checkbook balance remains strong and we are well positioned for any planned or unplanned club requirements.

Current membership as of this newsletter.

Senior Members	32
Open Members	10
Junior Members	<u>3</u>
Total	45

Wisconsin non-stock corporation filing has been completed for 2024 and we are sponsoring two softball teams again this year for the Mt. Pleasant recreation program.

Newsletter Editor - Dennis Vollrath had nothing to report.

Field Chairman - Trygve Smalley was unable to attend. Our field has been rolled. It will be a couple of weeks before any grass cutting will need to be done.

Tractor Chairman - Eric Armantrout was not able to attend. Our mower is running well. The tractor battery may need replacement.

Web Master-Ron Hayes had nothing new to report.

Safety Officer-Darrell Hossalla had nothing new to report.

Compost Director- Chuck Roberts was unable to attend.

Old Business- Nothing to discuss.

New Business – None

New Pilots – None

Show & Tell – Denny Vollrath discussed how soldering tips can wear out prematurely due to not using temperature regulated soldering irons. When a soldering tip gets too hot it degrades rapidly. Denny displayed temperature regulated soldering irons that control the temperature of the soldering iron tip. (He’s measured temperatures over 1000F on some of those irons.

He also showed a new clamp he designed and 3D printed that can be useful when assembling. Denny also found a good alternative to Exacto knife blades. They are basically sharp surgical knives that can be purchased at a very reasonable and competitive price at Amazon.

Raffle Drawing – Mike Stain won the club raffle and donated all to the club for a total of \$24.00. Thanks Mike!!

Close Meeting – Jim closed the meeting with a reminder the next club meeting will be May 19th at 1PM, at the field club house.

JIM'S CORNER

Spring is certainly upon us. Some warm days, wind and rain spoiling what could be a nice day. All of this has made flying a little challenging. We’ve noticed a low number of people at the field, probably due to the weather conditions, but there have been some days where it has been great.

The spring rains have made the grass at the flying field grow kike crazy. As I write this newsletter, we have cut it twice, and probably again this week for a third time before this newsletter is published. Our Field Chairman, Tryg will have a signup roster at the May club meeting on the 19th for anyone who would like to assist with the field grass cutting.

At the May 19th meeting we will also be

discussing the tear down of the shelter walls. This probably will occur on Saturday, June 1st, weather permitting. Tear down is faster than putting them up, and has been as short as 1 ½ hours.

As you are all aware, manning the “Compost Site” on Wednesdays is our rent payment to the Village of Mt. Pleasant for the use of our flying field. Be sure to check the roster elsewhere in this newsletter to see when you are to be staffing the compost site, and insure you are there. Somebody not showing up really puts us in a bad position with the Village.

As many of you are aware, 10 club members will be headed down to Woodruff, SC for the giant RC event called Joe Nall. The event runs from Friday, May

10 thru Saturday, May 18th. An expected 1,200 to 1,500 RC pilots and 15,000 visitors will be on hand. Numerous flight lines all occurring at the same time:

Main line flying (Giant Scale).

Electric model line.

Float flying off a pond.

3-D flying.

Control Line flying.

Helicopter flying.

Drone racing.

Night Flying.

There is something for everybody. A great way to get you re-motivated, plus a

lot of vendors selling all that stuff “you need”!

When you come to the field, take a look at the top of the tree trunk standing in the middle of our driveway/parking lot. Our resident goose has nested there again, and little ones will be appearing soon.

Again, our next club meeting will be at the field on Sunday, May 19th at 1 PM. Hope to see you then.

Fly Safe & Have Fun
Jim Litwin
President

Dennys Stuff

I've previously mentioned in the RRCC newsletter that there is a column in www.RCGroups.com for the Spektrum nX series of transmitters.

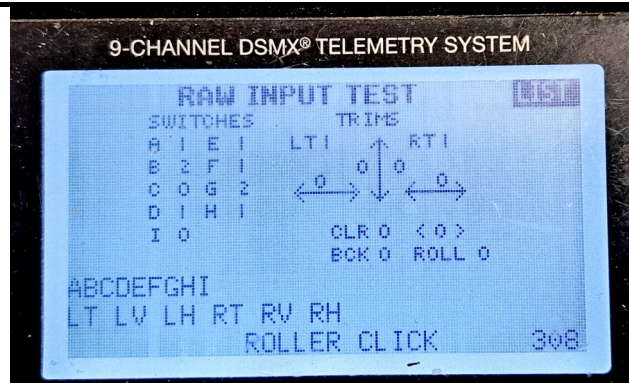
I just found a useful tidbit there on what has existed for more than a couple of years on our Spektrum transmitters.

Take a look at the photo of my old DX9 to the right. This is a screen of the Raw Input Test of the transmitter. To activate this screen on most of the newer Spektrum transmitters, hold down the “Clear” and the “Back” top two buttons just to the left of the LCD screen, then turn on the transmitter.

This screen will show up. The screen shows that my DX9 has switches “A, B, C, up to I”. As you flip those switches, the LCD screen shows the transmitter response under the “Switches” location. As an example, switch “G” is in position “2”.

Same for the trim switches of the two joy sticks on the right, under “Trims”.

To exit the screen, just press the transmitters roller bar. This might be useful if



you have a suspicion that your transmitter might have a switch issue.

As most of the RRCC group is aware, your editor flies only Electric models, ranging from small foamies to a 50 cc class 4500 Watt electric model I plan on returning to the air this year. This model is powered by 36 A123 cells and weighs in at 23 pounds. The power system hauls this model straight up out of sight.

Its flight counter currently has 142 flights on it, but the model wasn't flown for the past two years.

More on that subject: Your editor has been using a pair of Cellpro PL8 chargers along with a Honda 1100 Watt generator for field charging these electric

models. Those PL8 chargers are 10 years or more old, and have been causing a few operational issues lately. Worse, Cellpro closed their doors abruptly without warning a year or two ago.

My two PL8 chargers didn't always start up to programmed charging rates after recharging after a flight. I had to watch them when initiating a charge routine, wait two minutes, and if it didn't start properly, start over again. Both of them did it.

So, your editor bit the bullet, and purchased a new field charger. The photo shows the new charger, an ICharger model 4010 DUO.

This is a very high powered charger with dual channels, allowing it to charge two different battery types at the same time.

I have to admit, programming this thing the first time around was a real pain in the ***. Took two hours to figure everything out, even using the manual downloaded from the Internet. But, I finally got it working as desired, it is far superior to the old Cellpro PL8 chargers.

This charger wasn't cheap at Amazons



price of \$350.00, but if it lasts 10 years like my old Cellpro's, I'll be lucky to still be flying model airplanes!

The photo at the right shows this new charger as installed in a Harbor Freight aluminum/cardboard case. The HF case comes with dividers, but I used my Creality K1 printer to 3D print dividers, along with the required holes to clear the various wiring and cables associated with the charger and power supply.

The little red box is DennyV's hour meter that shows the total number of hours on the Honda Generator. Right now, it's about 450 hours since I bought the generator a few years ago.

Dennys Stuff (Computer Memories)

(Yeah, a bit off topic for RC stuff)
Just about everyone now days has a computer for their household. They can range from an inexpensive laptop to expensive gaming PC's.

And, all of them have what's called a "USB" port, or a number of USB ports.

My desktop PC has two USB ports in the front panel, along with four more USB

ports in the back. Plus a 4 to 1 USB adapter for four more USB ports.

These USB ports are universal devices that allows the user to plug in a wide variety of devices into your PC.

Things like programming your Aura Gyros, updating your Spektrum transmitters are just a couple of items that come to mind.

But, there are also other things that can be plugged into them. External memory and external DVD drives comes to mind. Some laptop PC's do not come with an internal DVD drive, but I picked up an external DVD drive from Best Buy for something like \$50.00 that allows my laptop to read and write to CD's and DVD's.

As a reminder, I got hit with a ransomware virus 5 years ago on my PC that completely locked it up, preventing any access to any of the files on my PC. That included all my photos, and countless electronics projects accumulated over the past decades.

It was locked up so tight, I had to buy a brand new computer, the one currently being used to write this newsletter.

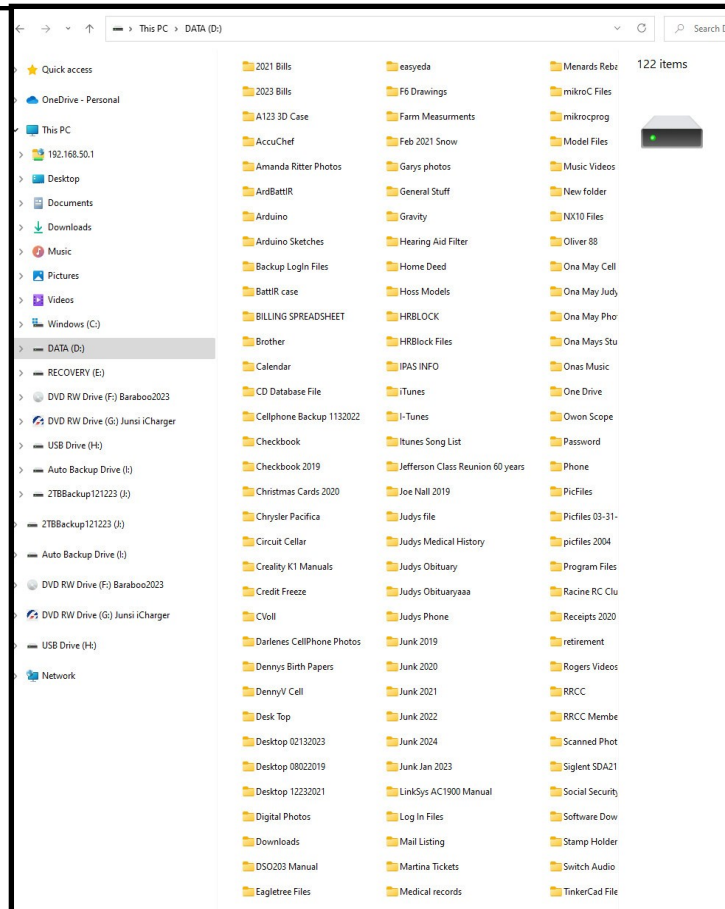
Just by pure dumb luck, two weeks before getting hit with that virus, I'd picked up an external USB 1 TeraByte hard drive, and had backed up everything to it.

So, it took a full day to restore all of the programs to the new PC, and several hours to copy all of the photos, electronic projects, video and audio music files to the new PC.

For those not to familiar with PC's, you can look at your computer files manually by pressing the "Windows" Icon on the lower left of your keyboard, then pressing the letter "E".

You will get a screen something like the photo on the right. My PC has drives "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", "H", "I" and "J" on it.

The C, D and E drives are internal, the other drives are plugged into the PC's USB ports.



The screen dump above shows the various folder contents of the PC drive "D".

You can click on any of the other drives on the left side of the screen to look at the information on any of the other drives. And, you can click on the stuff on the right to see what's in them.

If you have any important, unreplaceable stuff on your PC or Apple computers, it would be wise to back them up with one or more of those external drives.

I have a half dozen of them, and regularly copy all the PC files to the backup drive every few months. Since these drives are not plugged into the computer full time, no virus can get to them unless you plug them into the PC.

The process of backing your files to an

external drive isn't hard to do. If you are interested in the process let me know.

The photos at the right are two of Denny's external hard drives that plug directly into the PC USB ports. The top unit is a 2 Tb (2000 Gigabyte) SSD (Solid State Drive) for about \$130 or so, the bottom is a 2 Tb external drive with an internal spinning disk that goes for some \$70.00 or so.

The SSD drive plugs directly into a type "C" USB port with a standard USB cable.

Two brand names of these drives are Western Digital, and SandDisk. Those are the only brands I will buy. Best buy and Amazon has everything you need.

DennyV RRCC editor.



New Member Steves Bipe. That model responded very well to Steves transmitter commands!

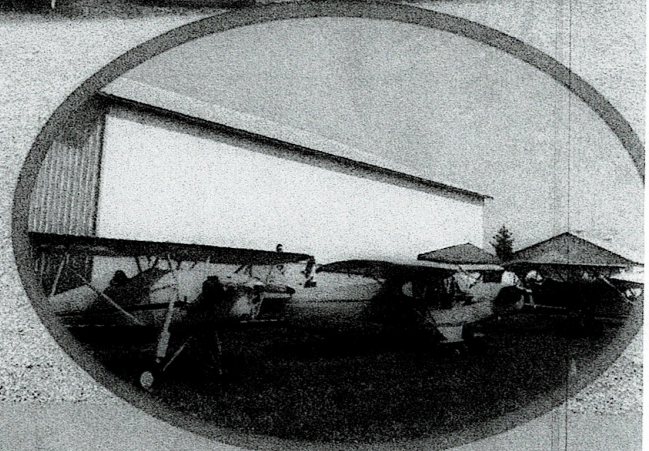
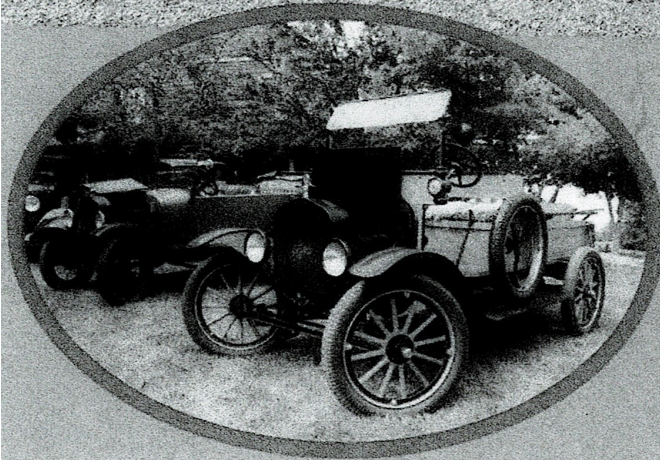
2ND ANNUAL WINGS

&

WHEELS

JUNE 8, 2024

- 10:00 AM
- AVIATION
PRESENTATION-11:00
- LUNCH-12:00
- CAR SHOW
- AIRPLANE RIDES



**11711 4 1/4 MILE RD
FRANKSVILLE, WI 53126**

FOR INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE EVENT, CONTACT
JIM KRUEGER 414-520-8060
JUSTIN NIEMYJSKI 414-406-3690

RAIN OR SHINE

AIRPLANE RIDES WEATHER PERMITTING
SOME EVENT DETAILS MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

***Niemyjski Airfield is a private airport. You
must have prior permission to fly in. Please
contact Justin for more information.

Compost Duty Roster

05/08/24	12-2	Chuck Roberts	Helmut Schmidtke	
05/08/24	2-4	Dennis Krzyzanek	Helmut Schmidtke	
05/08/24	4-6	Chuck Roberts	Helmut Schmidtke	
05/15/24	12-2	Tim Brehm		
05/15/24	2-4	Rich Smentek		
05/15/24	4-6	Tim Brehm		
05/22/24	12-2	Terry Peterson		
05/22/24	2-4	Jason Fisher		Steve Knackert
05/22/24	4-6	Trygve Smally		
05/29/24	12-2	Trygve Smally		
05/29/24	2-4	Steve Knackert		
05/29/24	4-6	Justin Francisco		
06/05/24	12-2	Mat Holl		
06/05/24	2-4	Steve Knackert		
06/05/24	4-6	Justin Francisco		
06/12/24	12-2	Mat Holl		
06/12/24	2-4	Steve Knackert		
06/12/24	4-6	Justin Francisco		
06/19/24	12-2	Jerry Rose		
06/19/24	2-4	Ray Fisher		
06/19/24	4-6	Ray Fisher		
06/26/24	12-2	Jerry Rose		
06/26/24	2-4	Jerry Rose		
06/26/24	4-6	Dan Pozel		
07/03/24	12-2	Jeff Lee		
07/03/24	2-4	Jeff Lee		
07/03/24	4-6	Jeff Lee		
07/10/24	12-2	Doug Krage		
07/10/24	2-4	Ray Fisher		
07/10/24	4-6	Ray Fisher		
07/17/24	12-2	Mat Holl		
07/17/24	2-4	Jason Fisher		Steve Knackert
07/17/24	4-6	Dan Pozel		
07/24/24	12-2	Steven Navone		
07/24/24	2-4	John Boldt	Steven Navone	
07/24/24	4-6	Steven Navone		
07/31/24	12-2	Chuck Roberts		
07/31/24	2-4	Jason Fisher		Steve Knackert

01/21/24	Sunday	Club Meeting		07/22/24	Mon-Sun	EAA Kid Venture
02/18/24	Sunday	Club Meeting		08/03/24	Saturday	Bong Eagles Free Flight
03/02/24	Saturday	Awards Banquet		08/03/24	Saturday	Marks Float Fly
03/17/24	Sunday	Club Meeting		08/04/24	Sunday	Circle Masters
04/01/24	Monday	Change Lock Codes		08/10/24	Saturday	Electrons Boy Scouts
04/06/24	Saturday	Model Engine Collector		08/15/24	Thur-Sat	Fon Du Lac War Birds
04/14/24	Sunday	Club Meeting		08/18/24	Sunday	Fon Du Lac Fun Fly
05/19/24	Sunday	Club Meeting		08/18/24	Sunday	Club Meeting
06/01/24	Saturday	Shelter Tear Down		08/24/24	Sat-Sun	Circle Masters Demo
06/01/24	Saturday	Circle Masters		08/25/24	Sunday	Open House
06/08/24	Saturday	Fon Du Lac Fun Fly		09/07/24	Saturday	Electrons Fly/Swap
06/09/24	Saturday	Club Meeting		09/08/24	Sunday	Watertown Demo
06/22/24	Saturday	Sky Ranch		09/14/24	Sat-Sun	Electrons Pattern
07/06/24	Saturday	Bong Old Timers		09/22/24	Sunday	Club Meeting
07/06/24	Saturday	Pebble Creek Flyers		10/05/24	Saturday	Shelter Set up
07/07/24	Sunday	Electrons Scale		10/19/24	Sat-Sun	Maker Faire
07/13/24	Saturday	Astrowings Charity		10/20/24	Sunday	Club Meeting
07/20/24	Saturday	Rams Helicopters		11/17/24	Sunday	Club Meeting
07/21/24	Sunday	Electrons Electric fly in		12/15/24	Sunday	Club Meeting
07/21/24	Sunday	Club Picnic – No Meeting				

Tentative 2024 Schedule