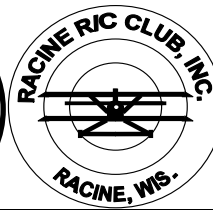




# THE FLIGHTLINE



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

**RRCC November Issue**  
**November 13, 2022 Newsletter**

**WE ARE ON THE WEB**  
**[www.racinerclub.com](http://www.racinerclub.com)**

#### *Club Officers*

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#### **Racine R/C Club Meeting Minutes**

October 16, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: R/C Flying Field

**Open Meeting** - Jim opened the meeting at 1:00PM.

**Welcome - New Members & Guests** – Jeff Lee, our newest member, was present. Most of us know Jeff as he's been flying at the field for some time now. This was his first meeting, however. There were 15 members present. No guests.

**Minutes - Last Meeting** – There were no changes to the minutes from the last meeting.

#### **Reports**

**President-Jim Litwin** received a text message from James Bucholtz which read as follows.

*Hi,*

*I'm a teacher at Horlick High School and run the aviation program. I was wondering if I could bring about eight students to come out and use the airfield to fly our R/C plane and drones sometime this month? Please let me know. Thank you.*

*After talking with Roger Nickolaus, I sent the following response and have heard no response.*

*James,*

*We are an RC model airplane flying club and would like to assist you in your endeavors, but there are several issues.*

*Under agreement with Sylvania airport (located on the I94 west frontage road) and by our own club rules, we do not allow the flying of any rotary aircraft (drones, helicopters, etc.) of any kind at our flying field.*

*Anyone flying fixed wing aircraft must have an AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) membership to comply with our insurance requirements and the*

*landowner of the land we fly on, which is the Village of Mt. Pleasant.*

*If you can comply with these parameters, we should be able to schedule something for you.*

*Jim Litwin*

We are missing a key to the compost site gate and shed. If you recently did your compost site duty and did not return the key, please do so.

**Vice President-** Roger Nickolaus had nothing new to report.

**Secretary/Treasurer-**Bob Johnson  
Current membership as of the May meeting.

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Senior Members | 41       |
| Open Members   | 18       |
| Junior Members | <u>6</u> |
| Total          | 65       |

**General Fund-**Continues to be healthy. We are well positioned to deal with any expenses (planned or otherwise) for the balance of 2022.

**Newsletter Editor-**Dennis Vollrath had nothing new to report.

**Field Chairman-** Hoss thanked Rich Smentek for mowing the field and Pete Redel for trimming. He also thanked those members that helped with putting up the walls on the shelter. Grass cutting will soon stop for the year. There will be a wood cutting work session on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Tractor Chairman-** Eric Armantrout was unable to attend. Jim reported that Eric fixed a starter issue with the mower.

**Web Master-**Justin Francisco had nothing new to report.

**Safety Officer-**Dan Pozel was not present. No known safety issues to discuss.

**Compost Director-**Jerry Rose was unable to attend. Jerry's surgery went well and is home recovering. Compost dates for 2023 are April 5<sup>th</sup>-November 29<sup>th</sup>. Sign up will start after the first of the

year.

**Old Business-** The deadline for Bylaw and Field Rule changes resulted in no proposed changes.

After last month's meeting, we have a full slate of candidates for club officer positions. Elections will be held at next months meeting, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Just because we have a full slate does not preclude anyone from submitting their name for consideration. Nominations will also be accepted prior to the election.

At last months meeting there was a suggestion made that the club invest in the purchase of a defibrillator. This matter was held over to today's meeting.

Jim checked with the state statutes 895.48 (read Immunity Provisions-Note: 895.48.3. Reference maintenance, etc.)

We are not an organization required to make a defibrillator available, but we do take on some liability with respect to maintenance, testing etc. if we do get one.

On Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> Jim spoke with the Southshore Fire Department Battalion Chief, Michael Wienke who is in charge of all Emergency Medical Services (Rescue Squad) about the appropriateness of us having a defibrillator.

The discussion quickly moved to the facility where it would be housed and whether it would be an inside location. Jim indicated we had a storage area, but it is not heated. He indicated that there are thermal controlled cabinets the units can be stored in. When I advised him, we have no electricity at the site he immediately said "that in his professional opinion, we should not get a defibrillator".

Personally, as a prior upper management officer with the Sheriff Department, we acquired portable defibrillators around 1987 and immediately found they needed to be kept in the patrol station and checked out at the start of every shift. They could not be kept in the

squads stored outside due to temperature range issues (hot and cold). Batteries and the electrode pads deteriorating and would not work.

Jim checked what the current situation is and they are still operating in the same manner. The defibrillators can not be kept in the cold or hot temperatures.

Our president did some internet searching of portable defibrillators and found nothing that can be kept at the field.

Note: As mentioned above, liability does raise its ugly head. If we have a defibrillator and are unable to keep it maintained in a proper environment, we do not have immunity for our failure if it is in fact needed and does not work properly. After further discussion Roger Nickolaus motioned that we do not pursue the purchase of a defibrillator and Trig Smalley seconded the motion. The defibrillator will not be pursued.

### **JIM'S CORNER**

We have had some nice weather lately for flying, shelter setup, and wood splitting, but we all know it will be coming to an end with the onset of winter, but it sure was enjoyable.

The RRCC members split up about 4 cords of fire wood for the winter, so the shelter should be nice and warm, so get a plane ready with ski's and do some flying off the snow!

Our November meeting this month is the Club's annual meeting where we vote on issues.

This year we had no proposed By-Law or Field Rule changes so no voting on those issues. We will be voting for club officers. There has been a change in circumstances, so you will see a change in the candidates for club officer positions. At this point the candidates will be:

**New Business** – Justin joined the Silver Eagle Flying Club in Burlington, and they are interested in a winter fun fly with us. We need to think about facilities for the 2023 banquet.

Roger invested \$300.00 to fix his log splitter. Since his splitter is used for our log splitting a motion was put forward to reimburse Roger \$150.00 for his investment and passed.

**New Pilots** – None

**Show & Tell** – Denny designed a meter that monitors current draw from multiple servos for servo balancing.

**Raffle Drawing** – Jeff Lee won the raffle. Not bad for his first meeting!!!

**Close Meeting** – Jim closed the meeting with a reminder the next club meeting will be Sunday November 13th

**President** ..... Jim Litwin  
**Vice President** ..... Roger Nickolaus  
**Secretary/Treasurer** . Bob Johnson  
**Newsletter Editor** ... Dennis Vollrath  
**Safety Officer** ..... Darrell Hossalla  
**Field Chairman** ..... Trygve Smalley  
**Tractor Chairman** ..... Eric Armantrout  
**Compost Director** ..... Chuck Roberts  
**Web Master** ..... .. Ron Hayes

As we have mentioned numerous times, club members can be nominated for an officer's position at the time of voting, and anyone interested in running for one of the club officer's positions is encouraged to step forward.

When you are at the field and glance towards the south where the larger planes are staged, you may notice a change in the safety fencing. There is no denying that there is a growing number of larger planes in the club. (Probably because

as we get older, we need bigger planes so we can see them, just kidding)!

We have been seeing some major congestion which had some safety concerns, so a decision, with the approval of the board of directors of the club, was made to move some of the fencing to the east and enlarge the pit area for the larger planes.

Operationally the area will be used in the same manner as before, with all planes started and taxiing out to the flying field facing away from people. A big thank you to those members who helped make this fencing move. It really went fast!

As I write this article, I keep thinking about some comments I heard yesterday when I was working the compost site. It was a VERY busy day with 541 cars on a Wednesday. Unheard of before.

People were waiting in line to get rid of their leaves, etc., and a comment I heard numerous times was that the compost site should be open more days in the week. Some commenters did say they

were going to contact the Village Hall and /or go to a Village Board meeting. We have been lucky so far, but another compost day has been discussed before by the Village.

Of course for us that is not good news. It means one less day of flying, and then members who can't fly as much as they want or when they want, not returning as club members, which in turn means fewer members to fulfill our compost duty requirement's, which in turn jeopardizes being able to retain the flying field. It's just a spiral downwards. But, all we can do is wait and see, and work with what we have.

We have had a good and relatively safe flying season, so thank you to everyone for your efforts.

Our November 13<sup>th</sup> Club meeting being held a week early so that the deer hunters can do their thing.

Fly Safe & Have Fun  
Jim Litwin  
President

## DENNY'S STUFF

Your editor has invested in three new Spektrum receivers that have a built in Gyro Function. The Spektrum receiver part number is the AR8360T unit. Along with other 8000 series Spektrum receivers, this unit also has the built in Altimeter function that allows the receiver to send the altitude information back to the Spektrum DX9 and nX series transmitters.

These transmitters can then be programmed to provide an audio verbal indication on how high your model is currently flying. I also have Pitot tubes on two of my models (The 12 year old Twist, and the 10 year old Kantana). The air-

speed indicator is programmed to provide a verbal speed indication every five seconds.

The maximum speed of the Twist is 64 MPH, the max speed of the Kantana is 73 MPH. Maximum altitude is around 300 feet.

I do know that the RRCC club members that have installed the Aura Gyros in their models are quite happy with them.

But, for me, I prefer a single unit gyro where the receiver has both the standard RC functions **AND** the gyro functions built in to the receiver. Since the receiver also contains the gyro function, the user

can set up the surface centering with the usual sub trim commands, along with the normal trim functions on the transmitter. A simple command from the transmitter resets the gyro to the new center adjustments on the rudder/elevator/ailerons.

These AR8360T's appear to have the same features as the Aura units. But, the Spektrum receivers are programmed directly from the Spektrum transmitter. There is no PC computer required, in fact, no PC can be used.

I've programmed my AR8360T's with a three position switch. **They are 1) "Inactive", 2) "gyro gain" controlled by a Spektrum transmitter knob, and 3) "fixed gain"** for the third position. That fixed gain can be set to any value desired with 1X, 2X and 4X multiples.

Many more functions are available using multiple transmitter switch commands, such as knife edge, loops, and a whole lot more. I may play with those next year.

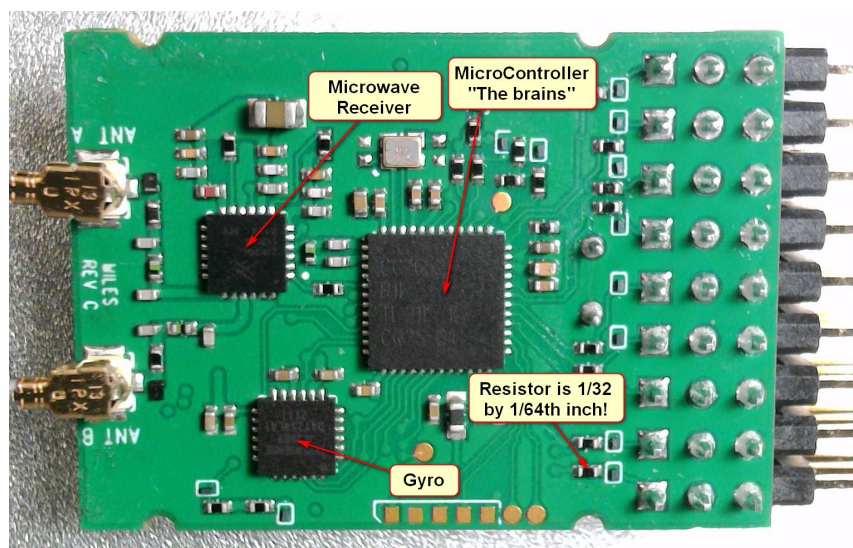
I've tried using the Gyro in flight with the Kantana, but am so used to flying without one, I have not been using the Gyro during routine flying. That may change in the future. So far, I've got around 25 flights with the Kantana with the AR8360T receiver.

The Gyro really does help on landings though. I've set up the Gyro for a landing mode, with a LOT of gain. In fact, so much gain the model will oscillate at full throttle. So, on landing, throttle back and I flip the mode switch to "landing mode". The transmitter responds with a verbal

"Landing Mode" active, and those bouncy landings are simply **GONE**.

All was not well with those AR8360T's though. I bought three of them on two different orders. And, the third one quit working after a few minutes.

Horizon Hobbies was contacted for an Return Authorization. After providing their required order number, HH simply indicated they have shipped a brand new



replacement receiver. And, they did not want the old receiver back.

**SO**, Since this receiver is held together with four small screws, it was a simple job to pull the case and look inside. The photo above shows the major parts of the receiver. The large block is the MicroController or MicroProcessor.

The little block to its left is the complete 2.4 Ghz microwave receiver. Everything involved in both receiving radio signals from the transmitter, and sending radio signals back to the transmitter is contained in this tiny chip.

And, the bottom left chip is the Gyro itself. This is a six axis gyro with the main functions of "Bank", "Pitch" and "Yaw" built into it. This chip also has a built in



accelerometer, that records maximum “G” forces on the model during a flight.

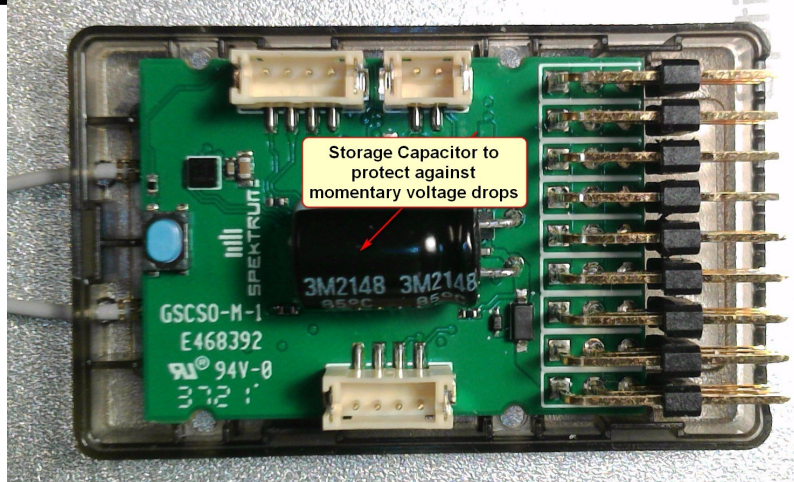
The Microcontroller controls all of the functions of the receiver, from commanding the 2.4 Ghz transceiver chip, plus the gyro chip, plus it also directly drives the servo signals for the servos.

The max “G” force on the Kantana during a simple loop checked out as 5.8 G’s.

The amazing part of the 2.4 Ghz receiver chip and the Gyro Chips is their physical size. Both measure 5/32 inch wide, and 1/32 inch high.

The photo on the right shows the top view of the AR8360T receiver. The top of the receiver provides the interconnections to the servos, remote receivers, Pitot tube air speed accessory and so on.

The AR8360T receiver also has features



such as “Panic Mode”, where if you’ve lost orientation of the model, you can push the “Bind” button so the gyro will level the model to straight and level flying.

I might just activate this to see how well it works. It can also be programmed to limit maximum pitch and roll of the model for the new model flyer. You can select just how much roll and pitch change is allowed. This is only the top of the list of features for this gyro equipped receiver.







## RACINE RC CLUB 2022 CALENDAR

|             |           |           |   |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| October 1   | Saturday  | Noon      | Deadline for submission of Proposed Field Rule & By-Law Changes                             |
| October 1   | Saturday  | 8:00 AM   | Shelter setup   |
| October 16  | Sunday    | 1:00 PM   | Club Meeting - Flying Field   |
| Nov13       | Sunday    | 1:00 PM   | Club Annual Meeting - Election of Officers; Vote on proposed Field Rule & By-Law changes    |
| Dec 7       | Wednesday | 12 – 6 PM | Last day Club Compost Duty  |
| Dec 18      | Sunday    | 1:00 PM   | Club Meeting - Flying Field – Establish-Membership Dues schedule for next year              |
| Jan 1, 2022 | Sunday    | 9:00 AM   | New Year's Day, "First in the Air" Event & Noon lunch (Electric Sunrise - Gas/Glow 9:00 AM) |

## Compost Duty Roster

|          |      |                    |                    |                |
|----------|------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 09/28/22 | 2-4  | James Houtsinger   | Ed Jenkins         |                |
| 09/28/22 | 4-6  | Arland Matson      | Jeff Lee           |                |
| 10/05/22 | 12-2 | Charles Brzezicki  | Kenneth Dalton     |                |
| 10/05/22 | 2-4  | Charles Brzezicki  | Kenneth Dalton     |                |
| 10/05/22 | 4-6  | Charles Brzezicki  | Kenneth Dalton     |                |
| 10/12/22 | 12-2 | Bruce Napierkowski | Herbert Ludowieg   |                |
| 10/12/22 | 2-4  | Roger E Olsen      | Herbert Ludowieg   |                |
| 10/12/22 | 4-6  | Ed Jenkins         | Herbert Ludowieg   |                |
| 10/19/22 | 12-2 | Donald Parkinson   | Calvin Thomas      |                |
| 10/19/22 | 2-4  | Donald Parkinson   | Calvin Thomas      |                |
| 10/19/22 | 4-6  | Donald Parkinson   |                    |                |
| 10/26/22 | 12-2 | Carl Bergquist     | Tim Brehm          |                |
| 10/26/22 | 2-4  | Tim Brehm          |                    |                |
| 10/26/22 | 4-6  | J Fisher           | Tim Brehm          | Steve Knackert |
| 11/02/22 | 12-2 | Jim Litwin         |                    |                |
| 11/02/22 | 2-4  | Jim Litwin         |                    |                |
| 11/02/22 | 4-6  | Jim Litwin         |                    |                |
| 11/09/22 | 12-2 | Carl Bergquist     | Bruce Napierkowski |                |
| 11/09/22 | 2-4  | John Boticki       | Calvin Thomas      |                |
| 11/09/22 | 4-6  | James Strelitzer   |                    |                |
| 11/16/22 | 12-2 | J Fisher           | Ronald Schroeder   | Steve Knackert |
| 11/16/22 | 2-4  | John Boticki       | Ronald Schroeder   |                |
| 11/16/22 | 4-6  | James Strelitzer   | Ronald Schroeder   |                |
| 11/23/22 | 12-2 | Carl Bergquist     | Roger E Olsen      |                |
| 11/23/22 | 2-4  | Arland Matson      |                    |                |
| 11/23/22 | 4-6  | James Strelitzer   |                    |                |
| 11/30/22 | 12-2 | Ronald Hayes       |                    |                |
| 11/30/22 | 2-4  | Ronald Hayes       |                    |                |
| 11/30/22 | 4-6  | Ronald Hayes       |                    |                |
| 12/07/22 | 12-2 | Steven Navone      |                    |                |
| 12/07/22 | 2-4  | Steven Navone      |                    |                |
| 12/07/22 | 4-6  | Steven Navone      |                    |                |