



# THE FLIGHTLINE



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

**RRCC November Issue**  
**November 14, 2021 Newsletter**

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

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## **Editors Note:**

Our secretary/treasurer had a very bad accident that resulted in several broken ribs among other issues. As a result, there are no October minutes available for this November newsletter (Get better Bob!).

## **JIM'S CORNER**

Fall is here! No snow yet, but the cold winds are howling. Right now the winds seem to have cut down on some of the flying. The field was cut yesterday (as I write this article) and it will probably be the last time for the year.

Wood cutting party is scheduled for this weekend, so we should be good for the upcoming winter season.

As a reminder, the Club's Annual meeting is Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at the field. We will be voting on the proposed By-Law changes (Shown elsewhere in this newsletter) and for next years' club officers.

There will be paper ballots for each. There is still time if you are interested in being a club officer. At this time, all current officers have agreed to stand for reelection. Nominations can be made at the meeting prior to the vote.

At this meeting we will have to deal with a situation where a member did not appear for compost duty. Details will be presented at the meeting.

For those of you who are / were thinking of a new building project for this winter, you will have noticed the lack of available planes, motors, and receivers. It seems that a lot of inventory is stuck in containers on ships stranded off shore.

On the larger planes a \$100 container fee has been added to the cost of the planes. Vendors just passing along the increased cost as they develop. In spite of that, there will be some really great new planes at the field this spring based on the purchases members have made recently.

Also remember, next year's membership dues schedule will be voted on at the December club meeting, and dues can be paid after the meeting.

Signing up for Compost Site duty will start at the January meeting, and not before.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped make this a great flying year. The field maintenance, the spring shelter tear down and fall set up were done quickly and easily with all the help, special events like the picnic and open house Fun Fly, and the general on goings all make this a successful and enjoyable club to be a part of. Thank You.

The stove fire will have the shelter warm, so see you at the Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Fly Safe & Have Fun  
Jim Litwin  
President

## **2022 PROPOSED FIELD RULE & BY-LAW CHANGES**

There are two (2) proposed changes to the Club By-Laws for membership consideration. Shown below are those proposals. In each case, shown first is the current language, followed by the proposed change. The actual changed language is shaded or highlighted, however you can view it. These proposed changes will appear in this month's newsletter (Oct) and again in the November newsletter, and then voted on at the November 14<sup>th</sup> club meeting.

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### **CURRENT WORDING** **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 1.01 ELIGIBILITY**

- B. At the time of application/renewal, all regular members and senior citizen members shall be obligated to sign up to work at least two (2) shifts at the Mt. Pleasant compost site. Compost Site duty dates may be selected by the member prior to the opening date of the compost site for the season. After that date, the Compost Site Chairman may assign any member a duty date, if the member has not selected a duty date. The member is responsible for working the Compost Site assignments.

### **PROPOSED WORDING** **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 1.01 ELIGIBILITY**

- B. At the time of application/renewal, all regular members and senior citizen members shall be obligated to sign up to work at least three (3) shifts at the Mt. Pleasant compost site. Compost Site duty dates may be selected by the member prior to the opening date of the compost site for the season. After that date, the Compost Site Chairman may assign any member a duty date, if the member has not selected a duty date. The member is responsible for working the Compost Site assignments selected or assigned. The Club will not be involved in date changes or replacements.
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## **CURRENT WORDING**

### **SECTION 1.02 CLASSES OF MEMBERS**

There shall be the following classes of members:

- A. Regular Member – A regular member shall be nineteen (19) years of age or older. Dues rate to be \$70.
- B. Junior Member – A junior member shall be under nineteen (19) years of age, or a full-time student under twenty-two years of age. Special junior rate to be \$1.00 .

## **PROPOSED WORDING**

### **SECTION 1.02 CLASSES OF MEMBERS**

There shall be the following classes of members:

- A. Regular Member – A regular member shall be eighteen (18) years of age or older. Dues rate to be \$70.
- B. Junior Member – A junior member shall be under eighteen (18) years of age. Special junior rate to be \$1.00 .

## **Dennys Stuff**

Things have been rather slow around here for your editor. Some RRCC members are aware I've been working with vision problems over the past summer.

After many visits this past summer to my ophtamologist along with visits to a retina specialist on Hy 50 near I94, vision in my right eye presently tested out at 20/40, with my left eye at 20/30. That limits what I can fly for the time being.

Seems just about everyone in our RRCC club has gone to those A123 battery packs for receiver power. Those LiFe packs are a close second, but my experience has shown that these plastic bagged LiFe battery packs have a significantly higher failure rate than the aluminum cased A123 packs.

I have assembled a LOT of two cell 2300 and 2500 mah A123 receiver packs for our club members over the past 10 years or so.

Normally, the Lithium based battery packs such as the LiPo's, LiFe and A123 packs use a white "JST" connector for the required balancing of the cells during the charge cycle.



When I built up those battery packs years ago, the white JST connectors were very difficult to find. Now, everyone sells them, including [www.digikey.com](http://www.digikey.com), even Amazon has JST kits for all sizes from two pins to six pins.

Most people in our club are just happy with the packs I built up using a servo type balance plug. However, I have a supply of the three pin white JST balance plugs on hand. And, I will make an offer to replace any of the servo connector balance plugs with the white JST plugs, at a half dollar per pack.

While we are at it, most people in our club are aware that these LiFe, A123 and LiPo battery packs absolutely **MUST** be balance charged. Charging a LiPo battery while NOT balance charging is a big risk of a LiPo fire. A fully charged LiPo on fire can easily burn down your house.

So, just what is "Balance Charging?" and what is going on during that process?

The old NiCad and NiHD battery packs by design automatically balanced each individual cell during the charging process. The same applies to those lead acid batteries used in just about everything else.

The nature of these Lithium cells involves heating up the cell if the charger keeps going during the charging cycle on these battery types.

The Lithium type cells operate very differently when the charger keeps going after one or more cells is fully charged.

As an example, the A123 cells hold about 3.4 Volts DC per cell while being charged at perhaps 5 Amps. These cells hold that 3.4 Volts DC up until the cell is nearly fully charged.

If you keep charging that A123 cell at 5 Amps **AFTER** it is fully charged, all hell lets loose.

**The problem is, when an individual**

**A123 cell in a string of A123 cells hits full charge at 3.60 Volts DC, it becomes an open circuit to the charger.**

So what happens when one cell hits 3.60 Volts, the voltage on that cell starts climbing up, far past the 3.60 Volt limit, while the other cells stay at the 3.4 Volts DC. This can and will cause permanent damage to the A123 and LiFe cells.

But, doing the same thing to a LiPo can cause the LiPo cells to go into a thermal run away, where it starts heating up internally, causing a faster chemical action resulting in more heat. Heating up results in a faster chemical action, again and again. And, once the temperature hits perhaps 500 degrees F or so, you have a fire. If the battery was fully charged, the LiPo battery turns into a blow torch, with flames going several feet or more.

Years ago, I blew up a two cell A123 pack by using a DC supply not designed for that purpose. The voltage on that pack hit 7 Volts per cell, resulting in the cell blowing off its top.

There was no fire, but I had internal dust from the cell sprayed all over my computer desk. That stuff is like printer toner, that made a real mess to clean up.

Shortly afterward, I designed my own A123 charger to charge my battery packs. Still have that thing, it works well. Later on, I picked up a pair of high powered Cellpro PL8 chargers that have been in use now for many years.





# Log Splitting day!



09/22/21	4-6	Bill Flannery	Gerald Bublavý	
09/29/21	12-2	Douglas Karge	Bruce Napieryowsk	
09/29/21	2-4	Douglas Karge		
09/29/21	4-6	Douglas Karge	Gerald Bublavý	Herbert Ludowieg
10/06/21	12-2	Buzz Paricka	Pete Luks	
10/06/21	2-4	William (Oz) Miller		Ron Dixon
10/06/21	4-6	Jim Houtsinger	Gerald Bublavý	
10/13/21	12-2	Trygve Smalley		
10/13/21	2-4	William (Oz) Miller		Ron Dixon
10/13/21	4-6	Stephen Knackert		Herbert Ludowieg
10/20/21	12-2	Trygve Smalley		
10/20/21	2-4	William (Oz) Miller		Ron Dixon
10/20/21	4-6	Stephen Knackert	Donald Parkinson	
10/27/21	12-2	Buzz Paricka	Dennis Krzyzanek	
10/27/21	2-4	Buzz Paricka	Dennis Krzyzanek	
10/27/21	4-6	Trygve Smalley		Herbert Ludowieg
11/03/21	12-2	Stephen Knackert	James Martinich	
11/03/21	2-4	James Martinich		
11/03/21	4-6	James Martinich		
11/10/21	12-2	Paul Willems		
11/10/21	2-4	Pete Luks		
11/10/21	4-6	Jim Strelitzer		
11/17/21	12-2	Paul Willems	Michael Stein	
11/17/21	2-4	Michael Stein		
11/17/21	4-6	Jim Strelitzer	Michael Stein	
11/24/21	12-2	Paul Willems		
11/24/21	2-4	Pete Luks		
11/24/21	4-6	Jim Strelitzer		
12/01/21	12-2	Steven Navone		
12/01/21	2-4	Steven Navone		
12/01/21	4-6	Steven Navone		