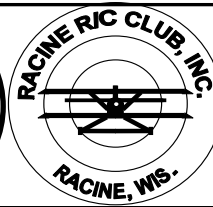




# THE FLIGHTLINE



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

**RRCC April Issue**  
**NO MEETING APR 2020!**

**WE ARE ON THE WEB**  
**www.racinerclub.com**

**Club Officers**

**President**

James Litwin  
262-637-2787 (Cell 262-939-7926)  
president@racinerclub.com

**Vice President**

Roger Nickolaus  
414-761-1907 (Cell 414-405-8004)  
vp@racinerclub.com

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Ed Witt  
262-764-6344  
secretary@racinerclub.com

**Field Chairman**

“Hoss” Hossalla  
414-651-0968  
field@racinerclub.com

**Safety Officer**

Dan Pozel  
262-939-0548  
safety@racinerclub.com

**Tractor Chairman**

Eric Armantrout  
262-498-1035  
tractor@racinerclub.com

**Compost Director**

Jerry Rose  
262-639-6711  
compost@racinerclub.com

**Webmaster**

Justin Francisco  
414-484-4574  
web@racinerclub.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Dennis Vollrath  
262-639-6362 (Cell 262-994-6342)  
newsletter@racinerclub.com

**NOTE: DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS, THERE WILL BE NO RRCC MEETING UNTIL MAY, OR LATER, DEPENDING ON WHEN THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE RELEASED.**

**Racine R/C Club Meeting Minutes**

Sunday: March 15, 2020

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: R/C Flying Field

**Open Meeting - Welcome - New Members & Guests – None**

**Minutes - Last Meeting –Reports As Published**

**President – Jim** opened meeting by reminding everyone that gate padlock codes were changed as of March 1<sup>st</sup>. Current code is on bottom of your 2020 membership card.

Jim then reviewed the winners of the club awards for last year handed out at the banquet held on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Since Smalley was not in attendance at the banquet he was presented with his awards.

**Awards were:**

**Craftsmanship – Hoss**

**Instructor – Hoss**

**Sportsmanship – Smalley**

**Golden Propeller – Smalley**

Jim then directed Larry Petricek to discuss the results and future direction of the annual Milwaukee Area RC Club association. The association had a profit of \$1600. To improve upon this performance for next year the association will go to electronic no-

tification and registration to save postage expenses. Additionally starting time will be moved up to 8:30AM as most participants were set up and ready by this time.

Jim concluded by quickly highlighting that your UAS registration was extended by the FAA to the end of this year. No action on your part needs to be taken until then for extension beyond 2020.

**Vice President** – Roger summarized the banquet indicating that 39 members and guests were in attendance. All who attended agreed that the food was good.

Comment was made to inquiring next year to alternatives to the menu. Availability of Roma Lodge next year might be an issue as Kewanee Club whom we piggy-back on did not book this year.

The lodge accommodated us this year, but probably not next year unless we again piggy-back on a larger group. It is understandable that it is not worth their while to staff for a small group like us.

**Secretary / Treasurer** – Membership was reported as follows:

Regular - 13  
Senior - 27  
Junior – 3  
Non-Flyer – 2  
Total - 45

**Safety Officer** – Dan had nothing to report

**Field Chairman** – Hoss had nothing to report. The mowing sign-up sheet was circulated.

**Newsletter Editor** – Denny had nothing to report but did have extra copies of last month's Newsletter

**Tractor Chairman** – Eric indicated new blades for tractor were ordered cost-

ing \$110 which was already approved.

**Compost Director** – Jerry indicated that there are still 16 open slots to be filled for this year's compost calendar. No action to be taken at this time, as most are in fall time frame and may be filled by prior members who have not renewed as of this date.

**Web Master-** Justin indicating that he would be staying after meeting to assist members with the "Band" site.

**Old Business-** None

**New Business** – Justin introduced an opportunity for the club to reach out to the Boy Scout community at a Regional Jamboree being held September 26<sup>th</sup>.

This year the location would be spacious enough to allow not only static displays but also ample area for flight demonstration. Again, this is a great opportunity to introduce youth to the hobby we enjoy and hopefully kindle interest and passion for flight.

**New Pilots** – None

**Show & Tell** – None, but Hoss took a moment to recognize Buzz for all the fine pictures he takes of the Club's many events.

Denny also indicated he was taking orders for A123 packs. (These orders have been completed, and all A123 packs have been paid for and picked up. DennyV)

**Raffle Drawing** – None

**Close Meeting** – The meeting was closed at 1:30PM

# NO APRIL CLUB MEETING

## JIM'S CORNER

Since our last Newsletter and club meeting, things have certainly changed. Carnivorous 19, and the "Social Distancing", hospitalizations, etc., have certainly changed the landscape.

Many, including myself, who are in the more vulnerable group are practicing the "Social Distancing" probably more to the extreme, and as such I have avoided even going to the RC field to visit and watch others.

Others who don't feel as threatened are enjoying the nice weather we are experiencing and getting in some socializing and flying. Everyone has to decide what is best for themselves.

There are many RC flying fields located on public park land, and those fields have been shut down. We have not been advised to do that by Mt. Pleasant.

We will see what the month of May brings us as to limitations, or recommendations of group gatherings.

The Village of Mt. Pleasant has advised us that they are cancelling the normal opening date of the Compost Site. We were to staff the compost site starting on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. At this time it is uncertain when it will open. Obviously there were club members who had signed up for working on days now cancelled.

This year we are not giving a pass to those individuals who have had their dates cancelled. Last year it was done due to the site being in operation. This year it is not even open, and we simply

don't have enough people to staff the site, much less allowing the early picks to get a pass.

At the same time we are not going to re-pick the entire schedule so those displaced individuals can pick their work dates. Those who were displaced will need to pick some of the vacant slots in the schedule.

I hope everyone understands the dilemma we are in. If your compost site date has been cancelled, contact Compost Site Director Jerry Rose to reschedule.

In past years we have had a problem with birds trying to build nests under the north end of the shelter overhang. They made a mess and it was unsanitary. The metal screening that had previously been put up was taken down, and sheet metal put up covering all the potential nesting areas that they would try and build their nests on. Hopefully they will get the idea and build their nests elsewhere.

I sincerely hope you all are taking appropriate measures to stay safe for yourself and your families and friends. This will pass and we will have a nice summer to look forward to enjoy.

**Again, NO club meeting this month of April.**

Stay Safe,  
Jim Litwin  
President

Also note:  
The RRCC members that have visited our flying field have noticed that new security gates have been installed. Eventually, the gate will be padlocked, with the details of the lockbox to be worked out.  
DennyV

## **PODIUM EMBLEM**

For those of you who have not been to a club meeting for several months, you will not have seen the new club emblem attached to the speaker's podium. We used to have one that was white with a blue club emblem.

Well, now we have one in full color, cut in relief, and quite substantially made. Rich Smentek, who made our large colored emblem for the outside of the club shelter, made a smaller one for our speaker's podium. Quite nice, and I might add, took a lot of work. Thanks Rich!!



Years ago, your editor designed and built a wind anemometer and contributed it to our club. That microcontroller unit ran on a pair of 6 Volt alkaline batteries that cost around \$15.00 good for 1 year. A little while back, your editor found a solar panel on Amazon for not much more than \$15.00 to power the anemometer. Your editor also contributed that solar panel for the RRCC club.

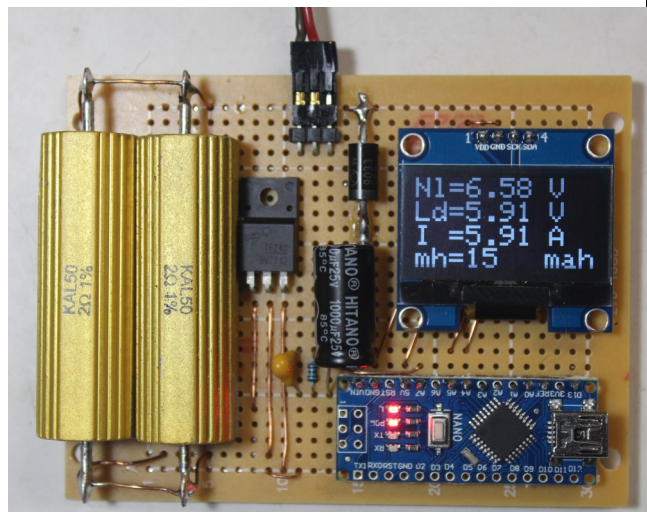
## **Dennys Stuff**

Well, with all of us being somewhat grounded with the current corona virus issue, that resulted in needing some projects to keep busy.

And, naturally, your editor turned again to a couple of electronic projects that will be used for our RC hobby.

The first project involved another microcontroller project that is used to measure the milliampere hour capacity of our receiver battery packs. This project has the feature that the battery meter project is able to send the battery test voltages and currents to the PC via the use of the

standard USB cable between the battery meter project, and the PC. Here is a photo of the finished unit.



Note the display on this unit. It is showing the voltage of the battery under no load, the battery voltage under load, the actual discharge current, finally the total milliampere hour capacity discharged to this point. The test current is six Amperes, a current value that matches the currents pulled by our servos in our larger models.

The cost of the materials is around \$25.00. If there is any RRCC club interest, I could build up a few of them for the club members. There would be an added \$20 for a printed circuit board for the project.

The microcontroller cycles the 6 Amp current "ON" for exactly one second, repeating every few seconds.

Shown is a copy of the test results as sent to the PC.

**Low Cost Rcv'r Batt Test**

**Date: 04/05/2020**

Batt NL = 7.07 Batt Ld = 6.49 mah = 2  
 Batt NL = 6.78 Batt Ld = 6.25 mah = 39  
 Batt NL = 6.70 Batt Ld = 6.19 mah = 75  
 Batt NL = 6.66 Batt Ld = 6.16 mah = 111  
 Batt NL = 6.65 Batt Ld = 6.14 mah = 147  
 Batt NL = 6.63 Batt Ld = 6.13 mah = 183  
 Batt NL = 6.62 Batt Ld = 6.11 mah = 218

(Deleted to save newsletter space)

Batt NL = 6.41 Batt Ld = 5.80 mah = 1198  
 Batt NL = 6.38 Batt Ld = 5.77 mah = 1232  
 Batt NL = 6.34 Batt Ld = 5.74 mah = 1265  
 Batt NL = 6.30 Batt Ld = 5.70 mah = 1299  
 Batt NL = 6.23 Batt Ld = 5.63 mah = 1332  
 Batt NL = 6.15 Batt Ld = 5.55 mah = 1364  
 Batt NL = 5.99 Batt Ld = 5.41 mah = 1396  
 Batt NL = 5.60 Batt Ld = 4.92 mah = 1427  
 \*\*\*\*End Test\*\*\*\*  
 Batt NL= 5.53

**And - - - - - A second project!**

Some of the RRCC membership have purchased one or more of my "VoltSagger" projects that consisted of a microcontroller and an LCD display all mounted on a printed circuit board.

This project allowed monitoring the number of flights on your model, and also monitored the receiver voltage from your receiver battery supply.

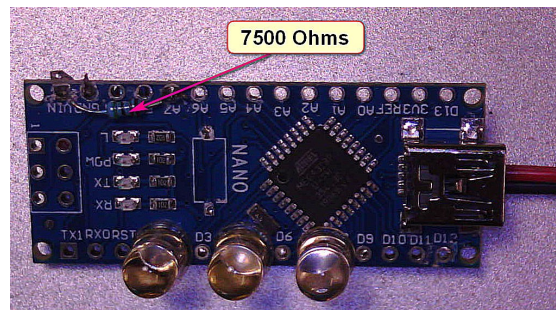
Well, your editor decided to determine just how simple (And Cheap!) one of these voltage monitors could be made. Turns out, its about \$5.00, not counting the servo lead that plugs into a spare channel on the receiver.

This latest project uses what is called an Arduino Nano microcontroller, a \$3.50 unit that contains everything from a built

in voltage regulator, to a USB port that plugs into your PC for programming.

This latest VoltSagger project allows mounting everything on the Arduino Nano. The required parts list includes three LED's, 5 resistors, and one capacitor. That's it. I've built 5 of them.

This unit measures the receiver battery voltage 5000 times per second, and first flashes the flight counts, then flashes the minimum voltage. Here is a photo of the 1/2 by 1 3/4 inch finished unit. If anyone is interested, I can make more.







Here are photos of how DennyV builds those A123 receiver battery packs both for himself and for the RRCC members. First, the two cells are glued together with a length of 1/4 inch triangle balsa stock. Do not just CA the cells together, that dangd CA will run all over the place, even gluing the cells to your work bench. (Don't ask) Worse, it can migrate to the plus and minus terminals of the cell, making it near impossible to solder. Make certain the cells are laying flat, so the CA doesn't drift to one end. Don't use to much CA, that Balsa should soak up any extra CA.

After many years of servicing these items at work, one of the prime areas is the security of the battery lead out wires. The photos show how those servo plugs are spliced into a red and black pair of #16 fine stranded wire. That #16 wire is then soldered on the battery with a 100 Watt temperature regulated soldering iron with its 3/8 inch diameter tip. Take it from me, nothing else works as well as that Weller iron. I've tried them all.

The lead wires are secured with some 1/2 inch wide fiberglass tape from Ace Hardware. The servo lead shrink tubing came from Harbor Freight. The 85 mm shrink tubing covers everything else. I also squirt some pure alcohol on the solder joint immediately after soldering to cool off the A123 cells.

The 85 mm shrink tubing came from [www.radicalrc.com](http://www.radicalrc.com), their SKU Part No: PS085, at \$1.00 per foot. RadicalRC also sells the super flex #16 wire at \$4.50 for 40 inches, their SKU No: WS48016RBPk.



Wow, Hoss! For those that have not personally seen this model, the workmanship and finish is spectacular. Denny V

# COMPOST ROSTER 2020

Date	Time	Worker	Date	Time	Worker	Date	Time	Worker
04/08/20	12-2		06/24/20	12-2	Carl Bergquist	09/09/20	4-6	Eric Armantrout
04/08/20	2-4		06/24/20	2-4	Ray Fisher	09/16/20	12-2	Craig Manka
04/08/20	4-6		06/24/20	4-6	Ray Fisher	09/16/20	2-4	Craig Manka
04/15/20	12-2		07/01/20	12-2	William Wampler	09/16/20	4-6	Eric Armantrout
04/15/20	2-4		07/01/20	2-4	William Wampler	09/23/20	12-2	Stephen Knackert
04/15/20	4-6		07/01/20	4-6	Matthew Holl	09/23/20	2-4	Rich Smentek
04/22/20	12-2		07/08/20	12-2	William (Oz) Miller	09/23/20	4-6	
04/22/20	2-4		07/08/20	2-4	Tim Hady	09/30/20	12-2	Bill Flannery
04/22/20	4-6		07/08/20	4-6	Trygve Smalley	09/30/20	2-4	Bill Flannery
04/29/20	12-2	Stephen Knackert	07/15/20	12-2	Matthew Holl	09/30/20	4-6	Bill Flannery
04/29/20	2-4	Rich Smentek	07/15/20	2-4	Justin Francisco	10/07/20	12-2	Ronald Schroeder
04/29/20	4-6	Raymond Redlin Sr	07/15/20	4-6	Justin Francisco	10/07/20	2-4	
05/06/20	12-2	Jim Hiett	07/22/20	12-2	Roger E Olsen	10/07/20	4-6	
05/06/20	2-4	Jim Hiett	07/22/20	2-4	Roger E Olsen	10/14/20	12-2	Larry Petricek
05/06/20	4-6	Dan Pozel	07/22/20	4-6	Raymond Redlin Sr	10/14/20	2-4	Larry Petricek
05/13/20	12-2	Edward Witt	07/29/20	12-2	Dennis Vollrath	10/14/20	4-6	Larry Petricek
05/13/20	2-4	Edward Witt	07/29/20	2-4	Dennis Vollrath	10/21/20	12-2	Roger Nickolaus
05/13/20	4-6	Edward Witt	07/29/20	4-6	Trygve Smalley	10/21/20	2-4	Roger Nickolaus
05/20/20	12-2	Tim Hady	08/05/20	12-2	William (Oz) Miller	10/21/20	4-6	
05/20/20	2-4	Rich Smentek	08/05/20	2-4	Charlie Reich	10/28/20	12-2	
05/20/20	4-6	Dan Pozel	08/05/20	4-6	Daniel Fucile	10/28/20	2-4	
05/27/20	12-2	Jim Litwin	08/12/20	12-2	Gary Bokowy	10/28/20	4-6	
05/27/20	2-4	Jim Litwin	08/12/20	2-4	Charlie Reich	11/04/20	12-2	
05/27/20	4-6	Jim Litwin	08/12/20	4-6	Daniel Fucile	11/04/20	2-4	
06/03/20	12-2	Carl Bergquist	08/19/20	12-2	Gary Bokowy	11/04/20	4-6	
06/03/20	2-4	Ray Fisher	08/19/20	2-4	Charlie Reich	11/11/20	12-2	
06/03/20	4-6	Trygve Smalley	08/19/20	4-6	Daniel Fucile	11/11/20	2-4	
06/10/20	12-2	Buzz Paricka	08/26/20	12-2	Wayne Greisen	11/11/20	4-6	
06/10/20	12-2	Helmut Schmidtke	08/26/20	2-4	Wayne Greisen	11/25/20	12-2	James Strelitzer
06/10/20	2-4	Buzz Paricka	08/26/20	4-6	Wayne Greisen	11/25/20	2-4	James Strelitzer
06/10/20	2-4	Helmut Schmidtke	09/02/20	12-2	Ronald Schroeder	11/25/20	4-6	James Strelitzer
06/10/20	4-6	Roman Kirykowicz	09/02/20	2-4	Ronald Schroeder	12/02/20	12-2	Steven Navone
06/17/20	12-2	Jerry Rose	09/02/20	4-6	Raymond Redlin Sr	12/02/20	2-4	Steven Navone
06/17/20	2-4	Jerry Rose	09/09/20	12-2	Darrel (Hoss) Hossalla	12/02/20	4-6	Steven Navone
06/17/20	4-6	Roman Kirykowicz	09/09/20	2-4	Darrel (Hoss) Hossalla			