

Rock River Aero Modelers Society

Newsletter

February 2012

AMA Chapter #669

www.rrams.net

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Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Rock River Aero Modelers Society will be on Tuesday, February 7th, 2012, at 7:00 PM at the Turtle Community Center.

ROCK RIVER AERO MODELERS SOCIETY, INC.

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE : 1/2/2012 CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

OLD BUSINESS: MMS to approve minutes and treasures report from the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Al and Bob have suggested that we have a check off list for new planes and or pilots before flying. This is a safety issue. There is a need for trainer pilots to be up on this before taking a plane up for the first time. A check off list should be available in the storage box. It has been determined that we are farther from the Beloit airport than from the Rock county airport. There is also a need to watch what altitude you fly at especially as it applies to sailplanes. We should also have a spotter when flying if at all possible. Common sense needs to be the rule of the day. Larry suggested that we also expand our membership to include people who are interested in plastic models, giving them a place to meet like minded people with the potential to come over to the flying side of the hobby. Other types of users such as R/C cars are not allowed as per the new lease. We would have to approach the township for an exception or an addition to flying activities. Bob has asked for a whole year's list of events and activities to be set. Larry, Matt Plewa and Pat Ryder volunteered to put a list together. MMS to form this committee.

RAFFEL: \$20.00 WINNER: John Stott SPLIT: Donated \$20.00

SHOW AND TELL: Bob King had a plane for show and tell but the recorder ran out of tape so I don't have a description.

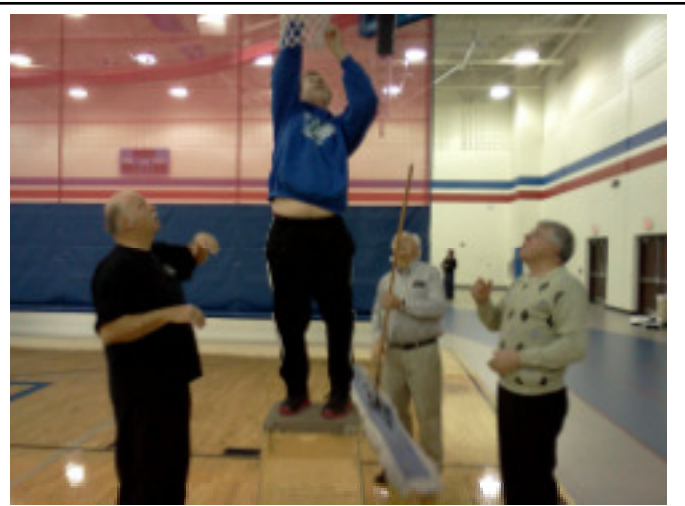
MEETING ADJOURNED: 7: 45PM

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Larry Nitz

Craig Field House Fun-Fly January 8, 2012



Larry Nitz scored a 3-pointer and the best altitude of the day with his Guillows rubber powered free-flight.



It took the whole crew and a few tools to carefully remove the entangled little free-flight from the net. The R/C guys were pretty envious of that flight.

Safety First

By Al Austin, Safety Coordinator

Several members of our club have found that flying electric powered sailplanes is a lot of fun indeed. So far, I know of four in the club, and others have expressed interest in getting one. John Stott started it all at our field this season with his Radian from ParkZone. It is a very big foam airplane, comes ready to install your receiver and battery, flies great, and is affordable. But, it flies very high. A test we did using an onboard altimeter showed an altitude of over 1200 ft., and some have flown higher. The AMA rule is that we cannot exceed 400 ft altitude within 3 miles of an airport. According to Google Earth, our field is 5.1 miles from the nearest runway at Rock County Airport, and 5.75 miles from the Beloit Airport. From that perspective, we can fly higher than 400 feet, but we must always yield to full-scale aircraft regardless of altitude. It is common for light aircraft on approach to Rock County to pass near our field, and sometimes they seem quite low. We don't see as many airplanes that seem to be heading toward Beloit Airport, but there are some. So, from the safety perspective our duty is to be sure that we are not near the flight path of any full-scale aircraft so that the tower doesn't get a complaint from a pilot. One answer used by some clubs is to require the use of a spotter anytime we are flying higher than our normal pattern. An approaching plane can usually be heard quite a long way off. These gliders fly so slow that even if flying alone, we would have time to look away to judge the direction of an approaching airplane without losing control of our plane in the process. However, because of the high glide ratio, these sailplanes don't descend quickly. To take evasive action to get out of the way of an approaching airplane can take a little time, and we just have to use our best judgment, and if time permits, plan ahead. Our club is considering making it official club policy to require a spotter when possible while flying a sailplane. I am for it! Stay safe.

IN MEMORIUM



It is with sadness that we note the passing of long-time club member, flying buddy, and good friend, Bob Roth. Bob's declining health has prevented him from doing much flying during the past couple of seasons, but he would occasionally load up his dog and come down to the field to visit. He will be missed.