



# THE RAMS HORN

The Official Newsletter of the Rainbow Aero Modelers Society  
Metro Milwaukee Area Franklin, WI Founded Nov. 6, 1980

AMA—Academy of Model Aeronautics Club #1264, Operating for Public Benefit, Milwaukee County RC Flying Field, S.70 & W. Oakwood Rd.

*Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2010 - 7PM  
WaterStone Savings Bank 6560 S. 27th Street  
(formerly Wauwatosa Savings Bank)*

**VOLUME 31 - Number 4, April, 2010**

**NOTE: The field will be closed to all open flying during the clean up and aircraft event activities.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** by Tom Ryan

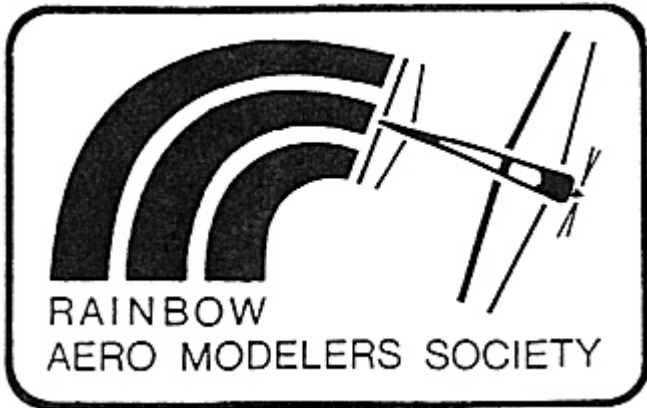
**Meeting Went Well?** To help what could be a down year in our area, I asked for all the Presidents and their Editors of local RC clubs to meet and discuss as a group some ideas on what we can do to make things better. We did just that on Saturday March 20th and I believe that we got everyone who was there in agreement that we need to support each other's summer events. To me, that was a very good first step. **Russell Knetzger** did a good job on putting this all together on a very short notice. The RAMS and SWARM were well represented in that meeting, as were new clubs now forming and some who are still developing. Hopefully this meeting will be a good first move in making us all more united in support of each other.

**We're getting Closer !** The winter snow is all but gone and the spring rains will start. The process of more activity at the field will also start as we make ready for a fun-filled season that is just around the corner. Our first event this year is scheduled for Saturday April 17th. It's a Spring field clean up with a field lunch for those who show up. We are also contemplating a fun event with our aircraft, possibly involving balloons (how's that for mixing work with fun and food?) It will be nice to start the 2010 season with a tidy field and parking lot.

**Commentary.** I've said "*the economy is bad*" (like you don't already know that!) But our hobby isn't. Sport / Model Aviation is still the best recreational activity for the buck. Those coming into our hobby are looking for an alternative to high price recreational events. Those of us already in it enjoy the fellowship this hobby brings, and at a very low cost. Events like the EAA, where costs can run into the hundreds, can't come close to the fun and excitement our local Fly-Ins offer! Our Fun Fly and Picnic are great low cost family events. Our field is a great place to go to be with friends and enjoy model aviation without breaking the bank. Where else can you go and spend the day with friends enjoying your hobby, and the great outdoors, for the cost of glow fuel? Once you're a member, there are no green fees; no hidden charges or monthly user fees! No launch fees, no parking charges. Model Aviation is a great hobby bargain regardless of what you fly or how often you fly. At our field, the only requirement is that you be safe and have fun! Of course, going home without a crash is optional. This is your club, your field, and it's shared with your friends. It's you who make us what we are.

*The Prez, Tom Ryan*

**Pilot Profile This Issue: Ken Ceranski**  
*(Read past 60 profiles at [www.rcslot.com/rams](http://www.rcslot.com/rams))*



Founded Nov 6, 1980 Club #1264 Academy of Model Aeronautics

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**MEETINGS-7PM**

First Wednesdays  
\*WaterStone Sav.Bk  
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Terms of Office are  
Feb.1-January 31

**All Flight  
Instruction is  
Without a Fee to Club Members**

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**Have YOU**  
paid your 2010Dues?  
If not, this could be your  
last newsletter.

**2010 DUES NOW PAYABLE**

*(Expiration was Dec. 31, 2009)*

Bring \$20 to the April, 2010 Meeting or mail to:  
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# Happenings at the Meeting

**RAMS Club, March 3, 2010**

by Craig R. Manka, Secty.-Treas.

Photos and some notes by Russell Knetzger, Editor

In spite of a buffet of nice warm baked beans, hot dogs, coffee, soft drinks, and cake, (a regular meeting feature since the holidays), March attendance was down to 28. That compares with 35 and 40 among the holidays. Pre-spring blahs? Membership renewal and field license issuance is also just poking along. Craig Manka reported 66 paid club dues, out of 105 at the close of last year. That's 63%. Similarly Jim Hatzenbeller reported 78 field licenses issued so far this year, compared to 137 all last season. That's 57%. But the grass is turning green, and a few whifs of 70 degree weather have occurred, so pilots are likely just getting a slow start this year.

President Tom Ryan announced the new Cub Cadet lawn mower, in safe home-storage all winter, will be coming to the field soon. It has a 50 inch cut-width, with driver-proof hydrostatic transmission. Nevertheless, Tom asked that only Field Manager Chuck Beauchamp drive it, until Chuck specifically trains other pilots to use it. A companion used Murray rider, donated by Tom, needs a belt check before it cuts, and Beauchamp will do that.

Snazzy reflectorized Handicap Parking Space signs were shown by Tom. Special ordered out of Illinois, they were worth the wait. The Loading Zone is to have a 10 minute loading use, then please vacate for the next user. Flying alone is permitted at our field, but use that privilege judiciously, Tom cautioned. Injuring yourself, or feeling ill, when you are alone, is riskier. Remember if you do call "911" to let the answering operator know you are in Franklin. Your call is likely to be picked up in Racine County, and it speeds help to tell them where you are. Also, remember as isolated as our field is, just a short drive east along rural Oakwood Road brings you to the new Wheaton Franciscan Hospital and emergency clinic at 27<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Modified Pit Benches Likely

In discussing and defeating 9-16 the proposed rule change last month of not starting engines under the cloth canopies, discussion leaned toward modifying the wing restraint-style engine starter pit benches halfway to the flight line. These were constructed by Bob Kabella while he was field manager. Making them less "tippy" was one point, and club carpenter Duane Gagnon said he would develop changes, and possibly add 2-3 sturdy new ones.

## Auction Swap Meet Results Reported

Bill Flannery, delegate of the RAMS to the Milwaukee Association of Radio Control Clubs, reported that the RAMS earned \$10 each for the two members who volunteered at the event, January 3, 2020. They were

Marv Anderson (alt. Delegate) and Chuck Beauchamp. About 40 pilots from 20 area clubs volunteered for 2-hr shifts to run activities at this 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual. Paid attendance is typically 600-800, and 140-170 tables get rented to display sale items. The raffle this year had \$1725 worth of prizes, including 1.4 GHz radios. Profit, of \$1200-\$2400 a year, pays for matching grants made by the Association to member clubs for field improvements, charity gifts, and youth activities. The RAMS are regular grant recipients due to our continuing field work. Ken Huber and Russell Knetzger are longtime officers of the Association, Russell since its founding 32 years ago.



*Above: Among the most beautiful and most recognized planes of all time is the P-38 Lockheed Lightning of WW II fame. Last issue the above model by Marv Anderson was incorrectly identified as coming from a partially built plane for sale at Greenfield News & Hobby. Actually, Marv built all of it from a kit. Originally a \$899 list price kit, but gathering dust on a top shelf, it was sold to Marv for \$350.*

Raffle Winners at the March meeting were John Thomas of an EZ wire bender; Craig Manka of a prop balancer assembly; Larry Johnson of a 3 tube set of CA glue; Duane Gagnon of a "sanding glove"; Earl Evans of a set of Loctite products; and Christine Ryan (for Tom) of a set of landing gear snow skies. Prizes are purchased each month by Craig Manka, and are valued at \$60-\$90.

# GREENFIELD

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# Models at the Meeting

RAMS Club, March 3, 2010



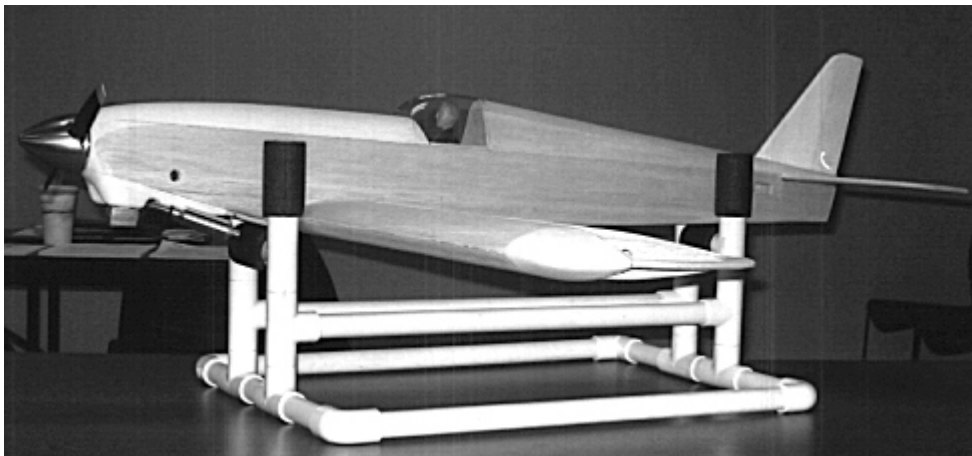
***Above:*** Duane Gagnon and his 1970's "Smoothie" kit by Balsa USA (\$70) that he is now building. This bottom view shows the inverted .52 cu. in. Magnum 4 stroke engine neatly cowled in, and the "smooth lines" of the wings. The plans call for a 2 stroke .35-40 cu.in engine.

***Below:*** A side view of the Smoothie showing its fuselage lines are as "smooth" as the wing plan form. Gorgeous balsa workmanship is evident even in this distant photo. It will be a loss when that balsa is covered over. Notice also the inexpensive but effective plastic-pipe saddle for transit in a vehicle.



***Above:*** Rich Kegel and his completed Sterling kit of a Fokker DVII shown uncovered at the January, 2010 meeting. The kit is 30 years old, had many small parts and plastic parts had gone brittle. The Saito. 62 4-cycle engine is now nicely obscured by the cowling mesh. Wing area is 950 sq. in., with 1.5 lbs. lead in the nose to balance. The Williams Bros. machine guns require assembly of 30 individual parts!

You won't see workmanship like these photos if you don't renew your membership. This could be your last newsletter if you don't renew soon.



# Pilot Profile: Ken Ceranski

by Russell Knetzger

Ken, 56 and a member since 1986, is like several other aviation modelers in our club: he is building a full size plane at his home. He lives with his wife Sandra in NE Muskego. The plane will be powered by a modified Volkswagen car engine, though it is probably 3 years away from completion. If he can retire at age 58, that may speed the day to its test flight.

A graduate of West Allis Central High School in June, 1971, on August 6<sup>th</sup> he enlisted in the US Air Force and took Basic Training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas. By 1972 he was in Da Nang, Viet Nam with its "wet-hot" weather, as a bomb and ammunition loader on McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantoms. Ken handled 20mm cannon rounds to 500-pound bombs.

**U.S. AIR  
FORCE**



After his 4 years of service, Ken added one year with the Air Force Reserve, the old 440th Transport Wing at Milwaukee's Gen. Mitchell Field. He used his G.I. credits to attend MATC to learn electronics and instrumentation. That landed him a job with Honeywell Controls, (industrial heat treating ovens at Allis Chalmers, J.I. Case, plus Johnson Wax in Racine.) Military contract work with Louis Allis in New Berlin involved Navy variable speed drives, and de-Gaussing (demagnetizing) for mine fields and mine sweeper ships.



**Above: Artist's rendering of the Thatcher "cx4 Sport Aircraft" being homebuilt by Ken Ceranski. It will be 18 ft. long, 24 ft. wingspan, weigh 850 lbs;125 mph cruise, 65 hsp. hor.4 cyl. Volkswagen engine.**



**Above: Ken Ceranski standing in front of his model of a Cessna 172 (L-19) Bird Dog US Air Force observation plane, holding a Curtiss P-40 War Hawk fuselage , in post-Chinese Flying Tigers nose colors.**

This educational and work background led Ken 30 years ago to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) as the huge "deep tunnels" project was underway. These are 30+ miles of large diameter caverns, several hundred feet under area rivers, where sewage and surplus street runoff is stored during heavy rainstorms. Once the storm ends, the sewage is pumped for treatment through the Jones Island and South Shore plants, before release into Lake Michigan. To lift the 60 million gallons a day of sewage the 300 feet up to each plant, 4000 hsp. Japanese pumps must be instrumented, operated, and maintained. That is where Ken becomes involved, plus other controls on plant operations. MMSD has privatized staff like Ken to Veolia, a French company, who now is his actual employer.

Other interests of Ken include the American Legion post in adjacent Hales Corners, where he has been Commander. Ken's late father, Michael, introduced Ken to control line flying, and Art Schmidt was one of Ken's Milwaukee County RC Field instructors.

**RAMS HORN**, April, 2010, Russell Knetzger, Editor  
Rainbow Aero Modelers Society, Franklin, Wisconsin

# Area R/C Clubs Confer

Saturday, March 20, 2010, Wauwatosa Public Library  
by Russell Knetzger

At the suggestion of Tom Ryan, RAMS Club Pres., but more in his other capacity, that of Associate Vice President for District VII of the AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics), the Milwaukee Association of Radio Control Clubs convened a gathering of its member and affiliate modeling clubs to hear Tom as the keynote speaker. Affiliate clubs cover RC boating, control line, free flight and plastic models. Of the 23 clubs invited, all but 3 (the plastics) were there. Tom asked for Presidents and Editors, since they can be the most influential. Of the 40 holding such positions, 38 attended. Association President Scott Jones of Happy Hobby chaired the meeting.



***Above: Sampling of club representatives; rt. to left, Astro Wings, Grafton; Lakeland, Oconomowoc; ABC R/C Tn. Concord; Bong Eagles, Milw. & Racine; Rubicon Flyers near Hartford. Dell Fisher's giant electric in foreground.***

To encourage proper instruction of newcomers to each club, the RAMS voted \$80 at their March meeting to reprint its Instructor handbook. One copy was given to each club. Attendees enjoyed some free time to meet each other and consume refreshments. The conference lasted from 9:30AM to noon.

***Below: sampling of diversified models exhibited at the March workshop. Lower rt.: Dell Fisher's wing tip from his large electric (he's seated upper left); RC sailboat Sheridan Park-Cudahy, MARKS yellow float plane lower left, helicopters right, Darrell Hossalla's yellow-orange jet, top center behind tugboats.***



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Tom's main themes were: strengthen each other's clubs by attending their announced events; retain viability within each club by encouraging diversity. For example, try electric, consider combat, helicopters, winter indoor flying, etc. After Tom's keynote talk, clubs took turns describing their operations. Dates for all events in 2010 were distributed, along with directions on how to find each club's field.

