



# 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, June 2, 2010 – 7PM**  
**WaterStone Savings Bank, 6560 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street**  
*(formerly Wauwatosa Savings Bank)*

## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT*** by Tom Ryan ***Wind and Rain Gone?***

The field is dry, grass cut and we're flying at the field. This very windy spring had slowed activity a bit, but now we're up and flying, and it looks like we'll have another great summer of flying.

***Fun Fly Or Not?*** Jack Spindler, our club Vice President, has been looking at the numbers for our Fun Fly-In, and based on the turn out we get from our own members (about 20% based on last years numbers) the question is: "should we hold a Fly-In this year with such a low membership participation?" Jack tells me that as of today he hasn't decided yet if he'll go forward with the Fun Fly-In. Last year we had a good overall showing but, it was more from the general public than our own membership. With only 20% of the membership supporting the Fly-In, it hardly makes it worth all the effort to put on such an event. The benefit for the club is outstanding in terms of community relations and earned resources, but with an 80% no show from our own members, is it worth putting on a Fly-In this year? Well that'll be Jacks call, and he'll make that call based on what feed back he gets from the membership in a poll he's now doing.

***Commentary.*** Keeping true to my word, I have assigned the officers their area of

responsibility, and agreed to let them run their own show.

## **Volume 31, Number 6, June, 2010**

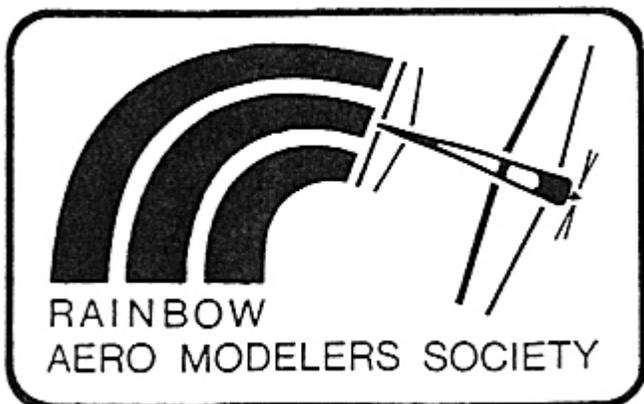
Chuck Beauchamp runs the field maintenance, Chuck Bucci safety; Jack Spindler all special events, and Craig Manka the financial numbers. Jim Hatzenbeller takes care of the field licenses, and Russell Knetzger the newsletter. Should you have any questions or issues in any of these areas, these are the people to go to directly. If you come to me, I will simply direct you back to them.

By having the membership go directly to those in charge of a specific area that they may have a question or concern with, it should stream-line and shorten any response time you may have with those questions or concerns. That also allows these officers to be less dependent on decisions made by a committee, and more able to operate independently of any other influence. They will be better equipped to handle any situation in their area of responsibility. Any unresolved matters can be discussed at our monthly club meetings. This should improve our operational ability for our membership.

So guys, let's get out there and start flying! Enjoy the nice weather, get those sticks moving, and remember... *No one ever crashed into the sky. Altitude is your friend!*

**The Prez, Tom Ryan**

***Pilot Profile This Issue: Shawn Thomas, Sr.***  
*(Read past 62 profiles at [www.rcslot.com/rams](http://www.rcslot.com/rams))*



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

**PRESIDENT**

Tom Ryan cell.414-881-0070  
 PO Box 1111 [tomcat@execpc.com](mailto:tomcat@execpc.com)  
 Milwaukee, WI 53201-1111

**VICE PRESIDENT**

John Spindler 414-425-0857  
 7448 Carter Circle N [kathyspin@wi.rr.com](mailto:kathyspin@wi.rr.com)  
 Franklin, WI 53132

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**

Craig R. Manka 262-681-9169  
 7025 Lambertson Road  
 Racine, WI 53402 [craigmanka@att.net](mailto:craigmanka@att.net)

**SAFETY COORDINATOR**

Chuck Bucci 414-425-2930  
 5720 S. 124<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Hales Corners, WI 53130 [cbandab@hotmail.com](mailto:cbandab@hotmail.com)

**ASSOCIATE SAFETY COORDINATORS**

Marv Anderson, 414-535-0764  
 Dell Fisher, 414-322-2752 Tom Young  
 Mark Meyrose, 262-895-7036 414-327-4705

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Russell Knetzger 414-962-0637  
 2625 E. Shorewood Blvd.  
 Shorewood, WI 53211-2457 [rknetzger@execpc.com](mailto:rknetzger@execpc.com)

**LIBRARIAN**

Russell Knetzger 414-962-0637  
 2625 E. Shorewood Blvd.  
 Shorewood, WI 53211-2457 [rknetzger@execpc.com](mailto:rknetzger@execpc.com)

**RC ASSOCIATION DELEGATE #1**

William Flannery 414-423-0914  
 6008 W. Glen Court [bflannery@wi.rr.com](mailto:bflannery@wi.rr.com)  
 Franklin, WI 53132

**RC ASSOCIATION DELEGATE #2**

Marv Anderson 414-535-0764  
 7511 W. Congress St. [manderson1952@wir.com](mailto:manderson1952@wir.com)  
 Milwaukee, WI 53218

**FIELD MANAGER**

Chuck Beauchamp 414-803-8189  
 S63 W15030 Garden Terrace  
 Muskego, WI 53150 [c7thsign@aol.com](mailto:c7thsign@aol.com)

**FIELD LICENSE ISSUER**

James Hatzenbeller, 414-483-1246  
 4388 S. Pennsylvania Avenue  
 St. Francis, WI 53235 [jimhatzy@aol.com](mailto:jimhatzy@aol.com)

**MEETINGS-7PM**

First Wednesdays  
 \*WaterStoneSav.Bk  
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(\*formerly Wauwatosa Sav.Bk.)

Terms of Office are  
 Feb.1-January 31

Membership Dues  
 \$20 Jan.1-Dec. 31

The Milw. County  
 RC Flying Site  
 Operated for the  
 Public Benefit by  
 the RAMS Club, is  
 on Oakwood Rd.  
 at S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street,  
 in Franklin, WI

Field PilotLicense  
 \$50 Jan.1-Dec.31

Note new street address card for RC Slot to the right:

**- Visitors at Meetings or the Field Always Welcome -**

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**Contact:**

**FIXED WING – Reciprocating Engine**

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**GIANT SCALE CHECK-OUTS:** Marv Anderson, 414-535-0764

**ELECTRIC POWER**

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**ALL TURBINE POWERED**

Jeff Borowski, 414-483-4377 Tom Ryan, 414-881-0070

**HELICOPTER – Reciprocating Engine or Electric**

Chuck Bucci, 414-425-2930 Mark Meyrose, 262-895-7036



***“Now, that pre-flight inspection  
 wasn't so bad, was it?”***

Cartoon drawn by G. Heilmann, reprinted, the Propstoppers  
 R/C Club, Evelyn Nade, Editor, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania

**2010 DUES NOW PAYABLE**

*(Expiration was Dec. 31, 2009)*

Bring \$20 to the June, 2010 Meeting or mail to:  
Craig Manka, RAMS Treas. (see address opposite column)

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# Happenings at the Meeting

## RAMS Club, May 5, 2010

by Craig R. Manka, Secty.-Treas.

Photos and some notes by Russell Knetzger, Editor

Club membership is slowly climbing back to its end-of-year high last year of 105. As of the May meeting we are at 75, which is still 30 short. Field licenses are also making a slow climb back to last year's high of 137, reaching 95 in early May, or 42 short. To encourage new members to join, Craig Manka showed some business cards he had printed with club information on them. Officers and members can each grab some at meetings. Uses can include "tack-up bulletin boards" at area businesses, hobby shops, and gifts to field visitors.

Club discussions were lively on two subjects – the new driveway "anti-speed bumps," and fund raising for the July 10, 2010 RAMS Fun-Fly-In, inaugurated last year.

Safety Officer Chuck Bucci is a proponent of the bumps, which he made out of half-rounds of corrugated black plastic piping, about one foot in diameter. The pipes are dug into the driveway stone so they remain in place. A complaint came from our Portable Toilet service driver, who said the bumps strongly jostle his heavy truck load. Another complaint is the way vehicles and motor cycles are driving around the bumps, thereby packing down the adjacent lawn. Parking change: motor cycle parking along the helicopter shelter fence will be tested.

A main feature of the inaugural 2009 RAMS Fun Fly-In was its raising of \$2400 from area businesses, mostly by then Vice President Mike Lutzenberger, and by Pres. Tom Ryan. That made possible the purchase of the new Cub Cadet riding lawn mower for about \$1800 without a member assessment, or a raise in club dues. It also made possible \$300 in donations to six area charities. But the plan this year of having 20 members each raise \$100 by contacting businesses that they know, is meeting some resistance. About a dozen signed up at the meeting, said Jack Spindler, this year's Vice President and event spark plug. But others have complained about being expected to solicit money. A membership survey will be sent out to gather broad sentiment on the issue, beyond the 27 or 28 who showed up at the meeting.

Field Manager Chuck Beauchamp noted the field edges were still wet as of the May meeting. Additional "pit" tables have been completed (probably led by Duane Gagnon, a carpenter.) He noted water running from the creek onto the field. If helped, he would like to raise the berm a few inches in one place to curtail such overflow. A few picnic tables are beyond repair with spare parts. A motion was passed granting \$250 for new lumber to

construct about 4 tables. Pres. Tom Ryan reported some dissatisfaction with the "Spotter" rule. The rule reads: "Flying Safety. 37. A spotter is required on all weekends and holidays. A spotter is encouraged always."

Russell Knetzger announced the Racine Batten Field display for 2010 Armed Forces Day will not take place because it was never planned in the first place. It was dis-cussed, but never actually approved.

Raffle Winners at the May meeting were: a voltage watch by Marv Anderson; Chuck Bucci of a styro-foam "ultra stand" plane carrier; Dick Eddy fresh back from Florida, of a wire stripper, later a set of Emory sticks; Chuck Beauchamp of a gallon of 15% fuel; Frank Burton of electric propellers(turned back in);Alex Barda, fresh from Israel (his Israeli Air Force 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of soloing), of a lost plane beeper alarm; Mark Meyrose of a Dean's Y harness; Shawn Thomas-transmitter neck strap, later a rotary tool bit set; Earl Evans, a voltage watch; later a propeller; Mark Meyrose and Chuck Bucci, each got a hardwood round stock; Duane Gagnon won twice, each time choosing plane plans; and Jack Spindler of a propeller.

Following the regular membership meeting which adjourned at 9PM, the officers met for 35 minutes mulling over the July 10, 2010 RAMS Fun FI-In. If sponsorship is successful, a program and fence banner will credit the donors.

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# Models at the Meeting

May 5, 2010



**Above:** Duane Gagnon with a rare Lavochkin LA-7 Russian WWII fighter. It looks like a cross between a German FW190, and a USA P-47 Thunderbolt. The 17 lb. ARF is from Top Flight Models of Chicago, has an 80 inch wing span, powered by a 1.80 Saito 4-cycle.  
**Below:** Front view of mock radial engine insert.



**Above:** Steve Ward with his all-electric, all foam version of an F-86 Sabre Jet, Korean Conflict Era. Flight speed estimated at 80 mph. Ducted fan with brushless motor & 2 servos for \$40. Banana Hobby.

## Gordon Wisniewski Dies

by Russell Knetzger

Locally and nationally famous free flight model airplane competitor, Gordy Wisniewski, 89, died May 1, 2010. With fellow Bong Eagles club members Jim Gerszewski, and Tony Italiano, the three visited the RAMS at least twice in the last decade.

They would fly their rubber powered indoor models right within our meeting room. Gordy studied aeronautical engineering, serving during WWII in US Navy flight research at Moffett Field in California. But loyalty led him to return to his father's famous K.K. Avenue appliance store, B. S. Wisniewski.



JOURNAL SENTINEL FILES

Gordon Wisniewski prepares to launch his penny plane, so named because it weighs about as much as the coin.

## Pilot Profile: Shawn Thomas

by Russell Knetzger

Even though **Tim Thomas**, the father of Shawn Thomas, had little contact with Shawn after age 7 due to divorce, Shawn's memories of his father are what have drawn Shawn into modeling at this time. A definite memory of Shawn is watching his father in their basement workshop building models of boats and planes.

Shawn believes his father flew at the MARKS Club site on the sod farms of Wind Lake, and the photo below seems to verify that. Shawn might have ended up there as well, but living on 21<sup>st</sup> & College Avenue, the Milwaukee Co. field at 70<sup>th</sup> & Oakwood Road is more convenient. Furthermore, personnel at Greenfield News & Hobby store pointed him to our club at that field, as did fellow customers Rich Kegel and Duane Gagnon. Prior to the transition to a club and a certified field, Shawn had been doing some Park Model flying.



***Above:** Tim Thomas, father of Shawn Thomas, 30+ years ago, probably at the sod farm being used at the time by the Milwaukee Area Radio Kontrol Society (MARKS Club) as the club's flying site, as they still do today, though on a nearby field. Notice the great similarity of plane choice, son (upper right) compared to father, above. Tim died 12 years ago.*

***Above:** Shawn Thomas with his 72 inch wingspan Hobby Star trainer from Hobbico. The engine is a .60 cubic inch OS Max 2 cycle engine, controlled by a DX7 Spektrum 2.4 GHz 7 channel radio. Flown eight times as of photo shoot at the May, club meeting, its large size should prove an effective trainer.*

Shawn gives great credit to **Rich Kegel** for the early help Rich extended. That included inviting Shawn over to Rich's basement work shop so the two could assemble the large scale R/C trainer that Shawn is pictured with, upper right. **Duane Gagnon** sometimes joined them, and now Duane is Shawn's test pilot and instructor.

Shawn works as a trained Laborer with Union Trades Local #113, for SCS of Wis., a demolition contractor of large buildings, the most famous being of former Milwaukee County Stadium. His 9 years prior work in asbestos removal earned him Wis. DNR certification in that field, which Shawn uses in his current 10 year tenure with SCS. Shawn lives with wife Kari and their three children, Kara 16, Kayla 14, and son Shawn, Jr., age 3.

***RAMS Horn,** June, 2010 Russell Knetzger, Editor  
Rainbow Aero Modelers Society, Franklin, Wisconsin*

### **A History of Model Airplane Engines**

by David R. Janson, Boulder, Colorado

The history of model airplane engines is one of the most compelling episodes in the entire hobby field. Even though there were very early attempts (1910-15) by English craftsmen to build a small model engine, the credit lies with William Brown of Philadelphia, who in the early 1930's designed and built his Brown Jr. engine of .60 cubic inch displacement. It successfully powered the crude model airplanes of Maxwell Bassett, resulting in a totally separate competition category from the rubber powered models of the early thirties era.

The Brown Jr. engine along with later arrivals of the Baby Cyclone 36, the Ohlsson 56, and the Forster 99 among others, solidified the gassies's appeal and rise to the top of the hobby. Miniature spark plugs manufactured by AC, Champion and Auto Lite, later enabled even smaller engines to be

designed and built. The Baby Cyclone's successor, the Super Cyclone .60, the prolific engines of Ohlsson & Rice, William Atwood, J. Danner Bunch, and O.K. Herkimer, as well as a number of others, rocketed the industry right into the middle of the machine tool needs of the United States as we entered World War II in the early forties.

As model engine production ceased, the faithful guarded their engines carefully, and when D-Day arrived in 1945, with the subsequent release of critical metals (aluminum), in less than a year or so model engine manufacturers proliferated as never before. Over 200 different types and sizes of engines came into and left the market during the 1946-1951 years, the "Spark Ignition Era." Literally hundreds of thousands were manufactured and at the top of design, production and priced right were the O&R's.

The gem of the Ohlsson & Rice Corporation was the small Ohlsson 23, class B model engine which was the easiest starting, most reliable, and available everywhere, of model engines. Young and old kids were all building, flying and crashing as never before. One Nathan R. Smith established the best of the spark coils, and every modeler wanted a hot Smith Coil to go with his engine, condenser and batteries. Some inroads were made on Smith's territory by the Aero Spark Coil in later years, but on the horizon of the booming sparkers was the remarkable invention of Ray Arden, the glow plug. His hot plug almost overnight changed the hobby for engine manufacturers, eliminating the need for coil, condenser and batteries. The fateful date was 1947-48.

As the necessity became reality for completely redesigning their model engines to beef-up for more powerful fuels used for the glow-ignition engines, most manufacturers gradually fell by the wayside. Only a handful of United States manufacturers met the challenge. Very small model engines, known as 1/2 A or .049's sprouted up and in the early 1950's the beginnings of the market penetration by the foreign manufacturers heralded the end of American domination of the model engine market. And shortly thereafter a new hobby began to grow, antique model engine collecting, and along with it the Model Engine Collectors Association, MECA.

*David R. Janson, 2005 Dartmouth Avenue  
Boulder CO 80305. (303) 494-9556*

This article appears by permission of the author, originally appearing in the November-December 2005 issue of **SAM Speaks**, newsletter of the AMA

Society of Antique Modelers, and is here presented courtesy of **The Circulator**, newsletter of the Circlemasters Flying Club, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Howard Olson, Editor.

**RAMS HORN**, June, 2010, Russell Knetzger, editor  
Rainbow Aero Modelers Society, Franklin, Wisconsin

## Events Around the Region

Compiled by the Milwaukee Association of Radio Control Clubs, February, 2010

June 5, Saturday SWARM helicopter Intro Seminar  
11AM-2PM, Greenfield News & Hobby, 68<sup>th</sup>  
& Layton Avenue.

June 6, Sunday, Circlemasters CL Contest, Wagner  
Park, Green Road, Pewaukee

June 12-13 Saturday and Sunday, Electrons Pattern  
(Aerobatics) Contest, Kohler Lane  
Menomonee Falls Nature Preserve

June 19, Saturday, Big Bird Flyin, Fond du Lac, WI  
USH 41 freeway to STH 151 bypass, left  
to Hickory Road, south 1/2 mile.

June 26, Saturday, Sky ranch Flyers Fly-In, USH 41  
to CTH D exit, east thru Kohlsville

### **Looking Ahead to Early July**

July 10, Saturday, RAMS Club Fun Fly-In, Milwaukee  
County RC Flying Field, S. 70<sup>th</sup> & Oakwood Rd.

July 10, Saturday, Pebble Creek Giant Scale Fly-In  
Waukesha, WI USH 18 to CTH TT so.to D & DE