



# 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, Feb. 2, 2011 - 7PM  
WaterStone Savings Bank 6560 S. 27th Street  
(formerly Wauwatosa Savings Bank)*

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** by Tom Ryan

***New Faces!*** We have two new faces in our officer core; they are **Shawn Thomas** our New Vice President, and **Tom Young**, our New Field Licenses Administrator. Both are very competent and resourceful. They will make, I'm sure, great new additions to our already progressive leadership team.

At our first officers meeting of 2011 held on January 18th the plans and motions were laid out and assigned for the upcoming flying season. With a little help from Mother Nature, we should have a great flying year, loaded with lots-to-do items, and fun-fun-fun! Hopefully we'll have a rain-less summer. Last year it was a waterfall. Whew!

## ***What's Up with the FAA?***

The Federal Aviation Administration is looking at our hobby once again as being a potential threat to our national security. With all these unmanned vehicles that can be programmed to fly to anyplace via a GPS, the FAA is considering restricting some. But does that include us, the general hobby flyers? With our limited area and range I'd say "no," but we'll wait and see what the FAA thinks about us. Right now they are more interested in companies that can make unmanned vehicles able to carry a very high payload. Of course that leaves us out! I

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don't think we have anything to worry about, the jet guy's maybe... but the rest of us, I don't think so.

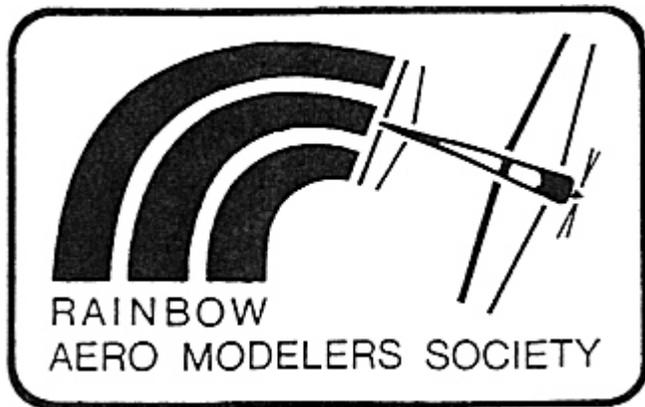
## ***Clubs Are Doing Fine.***

The average club is doing okay, memberships down, but not at an alarming rate. The economy has been a factor in some areas. Some clubs, however, have become smaller due to their aging members leaving the hobby, and high gas prices keeping people at home. Clubs with 100 plus members in 2009 have dropped to 80 on average in 2010. There was slightly more membership loss in some areas, again, due to older pilots leaving the hobby and yeah, the economy hurt our hobby too, less travel to events and less money to buy new planes. Some spike up-in those numbers may occur this summer. We'll see. Around here we're doing okay and have some fun events planned for our club this summer, too. A balloon pop and some field lunches are on the ticket for 2011. Should be fun and free to our members. After all, that's or goal, being safe and having fun!

***It's A New Year*** I look forward to a new year and a new flying season. I can only hope that we have a safe and fun filled year. Let's hope the winter passes quickly and we're back out having fun at the field, and hey, don't forget the club meetings, lots of fun going on there, too! So hope to see you at the February meeting. We'll have refreshments and a film! How do you beat that entertainment? See you there.

Tom Ryan, aka: The Prez

***Pilot Profile This Issue: Charles Christoffersen***  
***Read past 70 profiles at [www.rcslot.com/ram](http://www.rcslot.com/ram)***



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

**PRESIDENT**

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**MEETINGS-7PM**

First Wednesdays  
 \*WaterStone Sav.Bk  
 6560 S. 27th Street

**VICE PRESIDENT**

(\*formerly Wauwatosa Sav.Bk.)

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Terms of Office are  
 Feb.1-January 31

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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

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 West Allis, WI 53219

Field Pilot License  
 \$50 Jan.1-Dec.31

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

**Contact:**

**FIXED WING – Reciprocating Engine**

Marv Anderson, 414-535-0764 Duane Gagnon 414-544-5111  
 Jeff Borowski, 414-483-4377 Russell Knetzger, 414-962-0637  
 Chuck Bucci, 414-425-2930 Mark Meyrose, 262-895-7036  
 Bob Ehlers, 414-482-3759 Tom Ryan, 414-881-0070  
 Bill Flannery, 414-423-0914

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

**ELECTRIC POWER**

Phil Schumacher, resource person, 414-425-2963

**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

**Message from your new Vice President**

by Shawn Thomas, elected January, 2011

As the new vice president, I am very excited about being involved in the 2011 RAMS, and in a hobby which I am passionate about. One of my responsibilities is our Annual Fun Fly-In. In order for us to have the best possible event I would greatly appreciate any help, not only from club officers, but from member volunteers as well. I will put a list of volunteers together at the February meeting. Anyone not planning on attending that meeting who is interested in helping out, contact me at my email [sfthomas10@aol.com](mailto:sfthomas10@aol.com) or 414-737-3979. I understand it is five months away, but I want it to be successful for our club, and for the community. This sort of event takes a lot of planning as well as hard work preparing everything. Every bit of support I can get would be very helpful since this is my first fun fly-in. Thank you in advance.

Shawn Thomas, Vice President

(Note new street address and phone below for RC Slot)

- Visitors at Meetings or the Field Always Welcome -

# Happenings at the Meeting

**RAMS Club, January 5, 2011**

Photos and notes by Russell Knetzger, Editor  
(for official meeting minutes, consult club website\*)

## Future Speaker: Bob Warren

Club president Tom Ryan announced the club will probably have as a future meeting speaker, WWII P-40 Flying Tigers pilot, Bob Warren. He survived a crash landing that did not destroy the aircraft. Decades later the aircraft was recovered and restored. Ownership and control then became the issue.

## VP Election Results: Shawn Thomas

The runoff election for Vice President between Veteran Rcer Jeff Borowski, and newcomer Shawn Thomas, did not need to proceed. Jeff withdrew his candidacy. The roster on P.2 hereof represents the complete 2011 list. Thanks to all for the effort they will be putting forth to benefit the whole club.

## Club makes Charity Donations

The past few years the club has made cash donations to charities, usually three. This year they are:

*Toys For Tots, US Marines*

*Second Food Harvest – West Allis site*

*Family Peace Center\**

(\*formerly Sojourner Truth House – battered women)

The club's donation was \$150 total, \$50 to each, and the Milwaukee RC Association will match that \$25 to each.

## Field Fund Banking Updated

**Tom Young**, new field fund license issuer, announced that he registered the club with the federal IRS, under its "501a" not-for-profit category, for an EIN –Employer Identification Number. Such an EIN allows him to file the club checking account as a Business Account, not personal as in the past. Possessing such an EIN might also smooth our getting our annual Fly-in/Picnic food serving permits from the City of Franklin in the non-profit category. That greatly reduces permit cost.

**Always Post Your License...** was the advice from Field Manager Chuck Beauchamp and Pres. Tom Ryan. Insist that other pilots do the same – no AMA card, Drivers License, or Club Membership card is suitable. It must be your 2011 Pilot's License.

## Time to Renew: Club Dues & Field License

It is now time to send in your \$20 club dues and \$50 pilot's use-of-field license. (See page 2.) Lets see if we can bring this years's 82 club membership back above 100, and our 107 licenses back above 130. January meeting attendance was 22.

**\*Need help using the Club website?**

Call Keith Kittoe at his new number (414) 304-5076 He'll direct you to past newsletters, profiles, & minutes

## Raffle Winners at the January Meeting

Mark Matelski won a bag of assorted balsa wood; a role of yellow monokote by Alex Barda; and a white roll by Bob Sadowski. A monokote heat gun (for larger surfaces) was won by Chuck Beauchamp, and Mark Meyerose won a monokote heat iron (for narrow spaces).

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## Charter Member Milan Zdrubecy Dies

On his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, January 21, 2010, Milan Zdrubecy died at home from late-stage lung cancer. It had been misdiagnosed since Spring as pneumonia, but once correctly diagnosed in November, treatments were too late.

Milan was one of only three remaining RAMS members who were on the early rosters when the club formed in 1980. The others are Floyd Katz, himself now battling lung cancer, Mike Jankowski, Hales Corners fire chief, and editor Russell Knetzger.

Milan was on organ rejection drugs the last several decades, after receiving his brother's transplanted kidney. The brother remained behind the "iron curtain" imposed by the Soviet Union on Milan's native Czechoslovakia. It took much bureaucracy to allow the brother to come to the US just long enough for the operation. Perhaps the fact that Milan and his wife Anna earlier escaped to the West made getting permission trickier. Milan and Anna motor biked to Yugoslavia, and then walked through the Alps to Austria! They reached America on "9-11", 1969 Milan is Jim Hatzenbeller's brother-in-law by marriage. They married sisters. (See dual profiles, July, 2006\*)



# Models at the Meeting

January 5, 2011



**Above:** Rich Kegel and his CanadaAir CL 415 land & sea water-bomber for fighting forest fires as shown at the August 4, 2010 meeting without engines. The prototype can scoop-up lake water to refill its tanks and return to a fire (2300 hsp each side). Rich's model: two.72 Saito 4cycle engines. **Below:** Engines installed as shown January 5, 2011 meeting. **Successfully test flown by Duane Gagnon.**



**Above:** Brad DeLellis and his beautifully finished "Kerswap" model scratch-built from modern plans of a 1940 free flight model, adapted to radio control with electric motor power, equal to a .35 c.i. engine.



**Above:** Close up of DeLellis model finished with fabric-like Solar Tex covering.



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## Next Wisconsin Swap Meet & Auction

Sunday, March 6, 2011 in Appleton, Wis., 9AM at The Wave Bar & Ballroom, 2350 Casaloma Dr. next to Timber Rattler's Stadium. Exit USH 41 at College Av.-west; N. past Fox River Mall. Tim Stadler [timflight1@aol.com](mailto:timflight1@aol.com) tel.920-730-9220

## Pilot Profile:

# Charles Christoffersen

by Russell Knetzger

Why would a longtime City of Racine native, aware of the fine Racine RC Club in north Mt. Pleasant, travel miles past to hook up with our club in Franklin? The answer is our subject's other hobbies – motorcycle riding and motor bicycle restoring. Living in NE Racine near Lake Michigan, Charles Christoffersen found the 4 mile distance to the Racine club too short for a good ride. The 8 miles straight up STH 32 into Oak Creek, and then 8 miles more along quiet Oakwood Road to our site, was just right. After visiting our field for several years, he decided in 2010 to give our club a try.

Charles was in RC aero modeling in 1970-71 with a Kraft single stick radio, and an Enya.45 engine on a Skylane trainer, which flew well. But model boats, marriage, children and job diverted Charles away from model airplanes. He and wife Barbara, now married 46 years, adopted from Korea daughters Tracy and Janey, born in 1973 and 1975.

The US. Navy had given Charles his first occupational direction at age 17 by assigning him in 1959 to the Seabees. They are the Navy's construction arm. Charles saw duty in Okinawa, Guam, and stateside at Camp Pendleton, California. Tempted to "re-up", he instead began a 10 year stint at Racine Hydraulics, and later at another Racine firm, Twin Disc, makers of large transmissions and big clutches. In 1973 he began 27 years, to retirement in 2000, with the City of Racine Water Dept.

**U.S. Navy**  
**Seabees**  
**1959-1962**

**Racine Hydraulics**  
**Twin Disc, Racine**  
**City of Racine, Water Utility**



***Above:*** A 1951 Whizzer 3 hsp motor bicycle made in Pontiac, MI. Restored "ground-up" (early 1980s) by Charles Christoffersen, including detailed paint job.



***Above:*** Charles and his electric motor "Apprentice" by E-Flite, a 3 lb., all-foam, 55 inch wing span trainer.

In addition to restoring Whizzers, Charles has restored Schwinn's and less well known bicycles. He credits his basic interest in restoration and modeling from watching his father, Clifford, doing his bench work as a watchmaker. That attention to detail led Charles into trying a wide range of static and active models, including plastic cars, control line flying, and model boats on the City of Racine Zoo lagoon. Like free flight models, pond boats were released without means of control from the shore. Charles still owns several restored Schwinn bicycles, and a collection of plastic model cars.

Currently Charles credits George Andritsis, lead RC salesman at Greenfield News & Hobby, as his principal mentor in guiding Charles back into RC aviation via electric power, modern radio systems, and the E-Flite model series.

At our field Charles has consulted Phil Schumacher as club official guide to electric powered flight, and pilots Duane Gagnon and Darrell Hossalla.

**RAMS HORN**, February, 2011, Russell Knetzger, Editor  
Rainbow Aero Modelers Society, Franklin, Wisconsin