



# Rocky Mountain Modelers



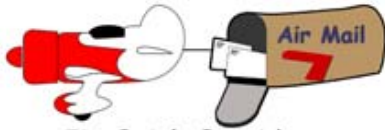
[www.modeleers.org](http://www.modeleers.org)



Smooth Landings



June, 2006



Jim Brink, President

Greetings Modeleers,

Finally the weather has cooperated, and we have had some good flying weather. It is good to see the parking lot full on the weekend.

The Electric Fly-In was last Sunday, and it was a fun time despite a low turnout. There were many interesting aircraft flying that day. Of special note was the new pattern type aerobat designed and built by Don Botteron. It is a beautiful yellow and black plane with spectacular performance that is a joy to watch. Way to go, Don. The club made a bit over \$10 on the event, but the low turnout means there was a lot of food left over.

Soooooo, at the next meeting we will have a hamburger/hotdog fry to try and sell off some of this food and make a bit of money for the treasury. Bring your best planes, your appetite, and a bit of cash.

Dave Sampson tells me that the club is down in both new members and returning members. It is a concern to me as it is to all of us. It is unclear why this is happening, but the AMA is reporting falling membership, also. This is a subject the board is considering and everyone's input is important.

Wheels down landings,



Jim Brink

### ***"Shot of the Moment"***

Jim Brink  
"reaching for the sky" at the May meeting!

## ***Shawn's 3 Simple Rules for Lipo Safety***

By Shawn Palmer

Marketing/Support Director  
[shawnp@castlecreations.com](mailto:shawnp@castlecreations.com)

### ***Part I***

I've puffed, exploded, deadened, shorted, crashed, smeared, and punctured many a lipo pack, but I've seen actual flames very few times. I'm extremely black-and-white about all aspects of lipos. There are the accepted practices when charging, discharging and storage - and then there are any other ways to perform the same - period. The accepted practices will yield a full and happy pack life (over 600 cycles from some brands), and any deviation will result in reduced life at best, and a 2,000 degree unstoppable torch in your living room or vehicle at worst.

I generally don't like broad generalizations, especially when educating hobbyists, but this is one area that I use them. When we compare NiMH/NiCad packs and Lipo packs, I lump them under the same umbrella: When abused enough, both can explosively vent. Now with the thousands upon thousands of hobby enthusiasts I've interacted with since the beginnings of electric flight, those that have experienced that explosive venting with "round cells" are extremely few, while those that have experienced it to one degree or another with lipos are a far greater number. So are Lipos more dangerous? I don't consider them to be, no. *but* they do have more than one "rule" to keep them happy. With round cells, they will only explosively vent if they are charged at a fairly high rate *well* beyond their capacity. This may happen either through charger error or negligence. But simply put, adherence to this one and only one rule will guarantee it will never happen to you. Adherence to all three of my lipo rules will similarly guarantee that explosive venting/flames/puffing or anything at all dangerous or pack life degrading will not happen.

### ***So what are the "3 rules of Lipos"?***

**Rule #1: Never, under any circumstances, allow the voltage to fall below 3.0v per cell.**

Under any circumstances means exactly that - any circumstances at all. Including: while under a heavy discharge load, resting (no load at all), or a very tiny discharge load. **Never** below 3.0v per cell under any circumstances.

*Continued under Minutes...*

**Next Meeting - Saturday, June 3rd, 10:00 A.M. at Modeleers Field in Wellington**

## Minutes of the May Meeting



### Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Rocky Mountain  
Modeleers  
May 6, 2006  
Modeleers Field, 12000  
N County Rd 5,  
Wellington, CO 80549

President Jim Brink called 18 members to order at 10:03 A.M.

**Guests** included Ralph Dow, who has retired to Loveland from Alaska. Ralph has flown model rockets in the past, with plans to try r/c gliders in the near future. He plans to join the club soon.

**Announcements:** Jim thanked Garret Hultgren for his excellent newsletter editing and presented him with an AMA editor's patch.

**Minutes** for April were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Gene Burmeister discussed the club check book balance of ~\$4000. His report was approved.

**Safety Officer's Report:** Loren Deines reminded members to fly east of the service road and power lines that run due north just to the west of Modeleers Field. Loren noted that the Modeleers runway runs north northwest, and therefore is not parallel to the service road. One of our neighbors to the north has complained recently that some Modeleers' aircraft have been west of our airspace. Loren thought some of our pilots may be getting too far west on their base leg before turning south to land. Loren's report was approved.

### Old Business

1. The RMM/Love-Air electric fly-in is Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at Modeleers Field. We're hoping for 50-100 pilots. We'll sell hamburgers and pop.

2. We discussed plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and air show, in conjunction with the city of Wellington. Tentative plans include an air show at Modeleers Field from 11 A.M.-1 P.M.; beginner instruction at Modeleers Field from 10-11 A.M. and after 1 P.M.; and an e-demo in Wellington after the parade. The following members will have the indicated responsibilities: Bill Tuttle, parade float; Loren Deines, bleachers; Gene Burmeister, parking; Jim Brink, air show; Mike Harrington, PA system; Dave Sampson, food.

**NEW MEMBERS --**

**Chris Douglas**

*Welcome to the club!*

**New Business:** None

### Show and Tell:

1. Jerry Craig showed a scratch-built green and white Skybolt biplane which weighs ~30 oz, is pulled by an outrunner motor, flies with wing loading of 11.5 oz/sq ft, and lands on spring-buttressed landing gear of Jerry's own design. He expects good aerobatic flight from this plane.

2. Fred Damm showed an Airtrax 90/120 (a now-discontinued kit) that he has modified by flipping the fuselage, mounting a low and shortened (80") wing, and adding a turtle deck. Fred has the weight down to 14.5 lbs and will fly with a 1.8 cu in Moki engine.

**Equipment Swap** was held after the meeting.

**The next meeting** will be held at 10 A.M. on Saturday, June 3rd, at Modeleers Field.

Respectfully submitted,

*Dave Sampson*

Rocky Mountain Modeleers Secretary



**Jerry Craig's new scratch-built Skybolt.**

### Shawn's 3 Simple Rules for Lipo Safety continued...

A good ESC with the proper and accurate cutoff voltage configurable to 3.0v/cell under any/all discharge conditions is imperative to have. Several Lipo brands (the smart ones) have started to *not* warranty packs if they were used with an ESC with either no LVC (low voltage cutoff) or an LVC setting anywhere below 3.0v/cell.

#### **Rule #2: Never allow the pack to get over 140 deg F.**

Just as above, each and every foray above this temperature has a cumulative effect of degrading both output performance and cycle life. The longer it stays hotter, and the more times you get it hotter, the worse it will get, with the results the same as above.

**You'll have to wait until next month to read the last rule in this article.**

**Sorry!  
Please be  
patient!!**





# Meet the Member



Jerry Craig

**Born/raised:** Born in Santa Cruz, California, in 1947 (along with my twin brother). My father was in the Navy, so we traveled around the country. His last assignment was at NORAD in Colorado Springs where my parents bought a horse ranch. I grew up in the Colorado Springs area from about 10 years of age. I became interested in falconry and developed a love of birds in general and raptors specifically.

**Married:** My wife is Sally.

**Children:** Three daughters (2 married) and 4 grandchildren.

**Occupation:** Retired from the Colorado Division of Wildlife after 32 years as the State raptor biologist. I was responsible for monitoring Colorado's raptor populations and implementing recovery programs for peregrine falcons and bald eagles. Both species were endangered when I started and were recovered when I retired.

**Years in hobby:** I built and flew control line planes in high school and college. The first plane I constructed completely from scratch without plans was a SE-5, then a Fokker DR1 tri-plane. I was surprised and excited that they both flew so well! I went to the Big Bird festival several times, then my wife encouraged me to get back into the hobby when I retired in 2004. The only restriction was that I could not use gas engines. She hated the sound from my college days of sitting in the backyard fiddling interminably with recalcitrant motors. Electrics were the answer.

**Member since:** I'm a newbie. I joined March 2004.

**Planes/ helis owned:** No fossil fuels, per wife's order. I enjoy building electric planes from scratch, usually without plans. I have a soft spot for biplanes and WWI fighters. I built and fly a DH-4, SE-5, Sopwith Pup, Sopwith tri-plane and Piper super cub. I also have ARFs of a Fokker DR1, Albatros, Corsair, Mini Funtana, Mini Edge and Mini-Banshee. I just completed a Skybolt. All horizontal surfaces in my house now hangar planes, and I have pushed Sally's patience to the limit.

**Favorite plane/ heli:** Whatever I just finished building. Currently it's a Steen Skybolt.

**Worst crash:** The last one!

Jerry's Bio, continued...

**Something you may not know about me:** I also do cabinetry and have a fairly complete work shop including 20" and 14" band saws, cabinet saw, jointer, lathe, planer, numerous hand tools, etc.



**For Sale** -- E-flite Mini Edge 540. Upgraded rubber wheels and tail skid. **Extra NEW cowling** and **NEW wheel pants** included. Good condition -- **\$75. Call Garret at 224-4350**

## Scrambled Plane Game



Below is a scrambled picture of an r/c airplane. The first person to email or call me the correct name of this plane is the winner and will be announced in the next newsletter! Please email me at [garret425@frii.com](mailto:garret425@frii.com) or call at 224-4350. Good Luck!

The winner this month will receive a \$5 gift card, courtesy of HobbyTown USA. Everyone has a chance - the mailed newsletters are sent out one day prior to the email copies.



Last Month's

"Scrambled

Plane" Super Sportster EP



Congratulations to last month's winner of the "Scrambled Plane Game"

Don Vagge

Don was the winner of the \$5 HobbyTown Gift Card AGAIN...





**AMA Charter #1824**

**Annual Dues:**

**Adult: \$60**

**Junior: \$30**

**Family: \$70**

**Half price after July\***

*(\*Only for new members!)*

**One-time runway fee: \$50**



Membership is open to all RC model airplane enthusiasts who are members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). Activities of the club include all phases of RC modeling: instruction, sport flying, contests, etc. A monthly newsletter is sent to each member.

**Current membership is required for flying at any club field. A non-member who is an AMA member may fly two days as a guest.**

**New members are welcome!**

Ask any member for information.

Our meetings are held at  
10:00 A.M. on the first Saturday of the month at  
Modeleers Field in Wellington.  
(Call an officer for directions if necessary.)

**Officers:**

President	<b>Jim Brink</b>	<b>223-3975</b>
Vice Pres.	<b>Bill Tuttle</b>	<b>484-8378</b>
Secretary	<b>Dave Sampson</b>	<b>223-9088</b>
Treasurer	<b>Gene Burmeister</b>	<b>674-9820</b>
Editor	<b>Garret Hultgren</b>	<b>224-4350</b>
Webmaster	<b>Ryan Korzyniowski</b>	<b>231-1857</b>
<b>Weather Station</b>		<b>568-3203</b>

Flight instruction is offered during daylight savings time at no charge to members. Flying instruction is available on a first-come basis on Thursday afternoons at Modeleers field. *(Call an officer for directions)* Other times can be arranged by appointment with the individual instructors.

**Instructors:**

Mike Lohr	221-5278
Fred Damm	221-4457
Loren Deines	494-1117
Larry Grover	224-5124
Dan St. John	223-0849 (Helicopters)
Greg St. John	223-0849 (Helicopters)
Don Botteron	223-8050 (Adv., by Apmt. only)
Don Vagge	223-1169



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4348 South College Phone (970) 226-3900  
Fort Collins • Longmont • Westminster

**Next Meeting - Saturday, June 3rd, 10:00 A.M. at Modeleers Field in Wellington**

Rocky Mountain Modeleers  
c/o Garret Hultgren  
1630 Sagewood Dr.  
Ft. Collins, CO 80525