



THE FLIGHTLINE



AMA CLUB 668 SINCE 1968
RACINE RADIO CONTROL CLUB INC SINCE 1968

RRCC July Issue
July 17, 2022 Newsletter

WE ARE ON THE WEB
www.racinerclub.com

Club Officers

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. Racine R/C Club Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2022

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: R/C Flying Field

Open Meeting - Jim opened the meeting at 1:00PM. 22 members present.

Welcome - New Members & Guests – Tim Brehm is a new member and Calvin Thomas joined us as a guest and considering joining.

Minutes - Last Meeting – There were no changes to the minutes from the last meeting.

Reports

President- Jim Litwin reported soy beans will be planed in the field to our east. He also reported that Charlie Reich has passed away. We also lost Ron Dixon this week.

Vice President- Roger Nickolaus had nothing new to report.

Secretary/Treasurer-Bob Johnson

Current membership as of the May meeting.

Senior Members	39
Open Members	18
Junior Members	6
Total	63

General Fund-Continues to be healthy. We are well positioned to deal with any expenses (planned or otherwise) for 2022.

Newsletter Editor-Dennis Vollrath was unable to attend.

Field Chairman- Hoss reported that the shelter tear down went very well and thanked all that participated. The large plane tables are rebuilt, and Hoss thanked Roger Nickolaus, Jim Smith and Chuck

Roberts for their help. Small plane hold downs are recovered. New pool noodles were placed on large plane safety poles. Grass cutting roster was sent around for volunteers. Hoss thanked Jim Strelitzer and Rich Smentek for their help trimming around the fence lines.

Tractor Chairman- Eric reported was unable to attend.

Web Master-Justin Francisco had nothing new to report.

Safety Officer-Dan Pozel had nothing new.

Compost Director-Jerry Rose reported all is good with the compost.

Old Business- Nothing to discuss.

New Business – Normally the club defers the July meeting to hold a club picnic. There was discussion and a motion put forth to authorize funds and move the July meeting to August.

Jerry Ross put a motion to the members to approve funds for the club picnic and move the July meeting to August 17th. Motion was voted on and passed.

\$300.00 was approved for the picnic. Sky Ranch Fun Fly is planned for Saturday June 25th.

The membership voted to approve the \$125.00 left over from the banquet to be used to buy pizzas at the August meeting.

New Pilots – None

Show & Tell – Justin showed his new Big Red Bush Plane. 140” wingspan with a GP 123 motor. He said it flies very slow and can do 3D maneuvers.

Ed Witt is selling his RC stuff due to illness and asked members to contact him for a list of items.

Raffle Drawing –Don Parkinson won \$38.00 and donated all of it back to the club. Thank you Don!

Close Meeting – Jim closed the meeting with a reminder the next gathering will be Sunday July 17th at 11:00 AM for the club picnic.

JIM'S CORNER

Summer is here, the grass is dry, the winds continue, and there is little rain. The constant windy conditions are putting a damper on some flying.

The bigger planes seem to handle the wind better, but the smaller ones struggle, with most pilots electing to just watch and solve the world's problems.

Eight members of our club went to the Sky Ranch Fun Fly event on Saturday June 25th. The conditions were less than ideal. Misty and breezy. We had the most club members from any club and won the \$100 prize; so there will be pizza at the field on an upcoming Sunday.

The Sky Ranch members I talked with

thought this might be their last Fun Fly – just not profitable.

We have noticed that Mt. Pleasant workers / trucks are going into & out of the compost site frequently, taking a lot of brush and tree limbs probably due to wind damage.

At this point they don't seem to have any issues with our flying while they are at the compost site. Club members have made a concerted effort not to fly over them while they are there, which is as it should be.

If you have concerns with their driving in or out while you might be flying, ask someone to spot for you looking out for vehicles entering or leaving the compost site. Remember, it's their road, their

compost site, and it's part of their daily work. We are using their land, as guests, so give a little courtesy; it will go a long way.

At times they seem to enjoy watching the flying while they are there!

As noted in an email message sent out at the end of June, long time club member Ron Dixon died, joining Charlie Reich who died several weeks earlier.

On a personal note, some of you may have noticed that I have not been flying, but have still been hanging around the field. I am having cataract issues with my eyes. Lost one large plane due to this, and not planning to lose anymore. Surgery being scheduled, so hopefully by fall I can get some flights in.

At our last meeting it was decided to

again fore go having a July business meeting and instead have our annual club picnic. It's being held on Sunday, July 17th at the field. The club provides the drinks, meats, buns, condiments, and it is requested that those attending bring something to pass (deserts, salads, food, etc.)

We almost always have a good time with a lot of visiting going on. We need more of that, especially after the past lock downs due to COVID.

The field is in good shape so try and get some flying in (in spite of the winds). The evenings are really nice!
See you on the 17th.

Fly Safe & Have Fun
Jim Litwin
President

Dennys Stuff

Geeze, last newsletter, your editor asked the RRCC membership for ideas and or articles that could be used for the newsletter. I got exactly ONE response! And, some photos.

That was a request for an article or series of articles on those battery chargers we are all using for recharging the receiver batteries, or, LiPo battery packs for those guys that fly electric models.

Well, after many years, the Cellpro product line just closed its doors, with absolutely no warning. There were a lot of bad feelings, and there were people who sent in their chargers for repair that got s*****d.

It is difficult to identify an equivalent high powered charger for our electric models. I have no experience with the ICharger

but the various web sites give these chargers good reviews.

ProgressiveRC.com and Amazon lists a variety of Ichargers that cover the whole range of what is needed for our hobby.

The Hitec line of chargers also has a range of chargers for the smaller battery packs. One very good unit is the Hitec RDX1 Pro, available from Horizon and Tower Hobbies as their part number HRC44246 for \$79.99.

This RDX1 charger is ready to go while powered either by 120 Volts AC, OR by a 12 Volt battery. Makes it nice for field charging.

This charger is designed to charge your battery pack through both the balance plug AND the heavy duty red and black wires.

I've put together a simple cable assembly that allows the user to use the RDX1 Pro to charge any A123 or LiFe receiver battery pack using only the balance plug. Let me know if you'd like more details on this setup.

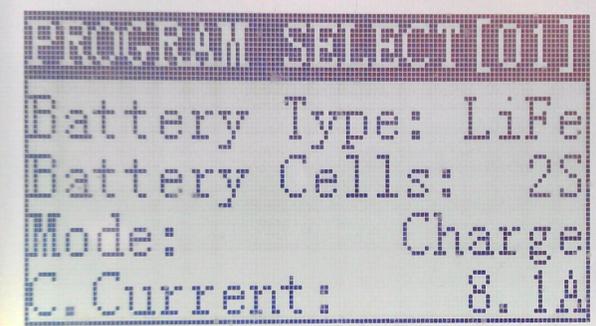
Now, how does one use all of the features that exist on this RDX1 Pro charger?

First, it will charge just about any battery chemistry out there. It has only 100 Watts of charging power, so it won't work well when charging a pile of 6S 5000 Mah battery packs.

But, it is the perfect charger for charging several 3S or 4S LiPos for the smaller electric models. Paralleling boards for this charger are readily available in Amazon and other locations.

First, the RDX1 has the capability of storing ten different charging modes. So you can program in LiFe/A123's, LiPos, NiMH, and other chemistries.

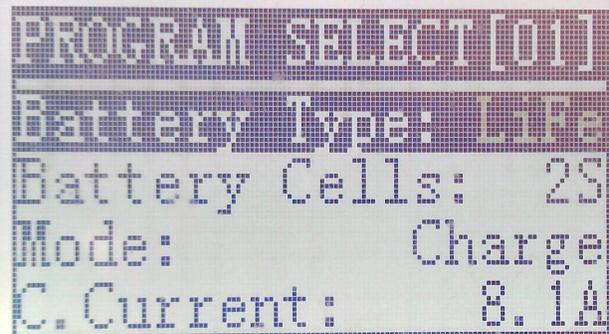
Lets plug it in. First, you get a warning screen about charging LiPo's unattended. Key the "Enter" key, and you get this screen.



```
PROGRAM SELECT [01]
Battery Type: LiFe
Battery Cells: 2S
Mode: Charge
C. Current: 8.1A
```

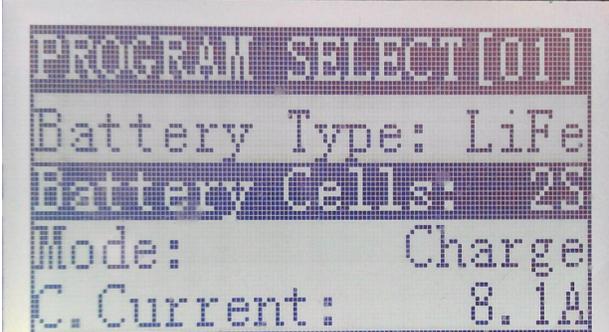
This is the screen where the user selects one out of the ten pre-saved charging routines. When you see this screen, use either the "Up Arrow" or "Down Arrow" to

select the charging routine you desire. When you have the proper charge routine selected, key in "Enter". You get this screen with the "Battery Type:" highlighted.



```
PROGRAM SELECT [01]
Battery Type: LiFe
Battery Cells: 2S
Mode: Charge
C. Current: 8.1A
```

If "LiFe" is NOT the desired battery type, key in "Enter", and the battery type display will flash on and off. Key in either "Up" or "Down". Key in "Enter" to lock in the type of battery pack.



```
PROGRAM SELECT [01]
Battery Type: LiFe
Battery Cells: 2S
Mode: Charge
C. Current: 8.1A
```

Next, the display shows the number of cells on your battery pack.

If the cell count is not correct, key in "Enter", and use the "Up" or "Down" to change the number of cell count to match your battery pack. Then key in "Enter" to lock in the battery count.

If the battery pack does not match the charger setting, the Hitec charger will flag an error.

This screen allows the user to change the battery process from "Charge",

```

PROGRAM SELECT [01]
Battery Type: LiFe
Battery Cells: 2S
Mode: Charge
C. Current: 1.0A

```

“Storage”, “Discharge” and a few other features. The main use will be “Charge”. The “Storage” feature will take a long long time for this charger.

Next, you have this screen that shows the actual charging current in Amperes that will be used to charge your battery pack.

Again, if you want to change this value from 3.5 Amps in this photo to a different value, again, key “Enter”, and use the

```

PROGRAM SELECT [01]
Battery Type: LiFe
Battery Cells: 2S
Mode: Charge
C. Current: 3.5A

```

“Up” or “Down” keys to change the current to the value desired. And, hit “Enter” to lock in the value.

And, you’ve just programmed in one of the ten allowed charging routines in this Hitec charger. (You have 9 charge routines left. Don’t over write this one!)

To start the charging process, just key and HOLD the “Enter/Start” key. You should get a “Confirm” display, if so, key “Enter” again, and the charge routine

starts up.

Now, if you power down this charger and put it aside for a day or three and power it up again, you will get this screen.

Look it over, and if everything is correct for the battery to be charged, the charger is ready to go. Push the “Enter” key, and

```

PROGRAM SELECT [01]
Battery Type: LiFe
Battery Cells: 2S
Mode: Charge
C. Current: 3.5A

```

HOLD it for a second or three until the charger responds with a “Battery Check” And, key in “Enter/Start” again to start the charging process.

While the battery pack is charging, you can use the “Down” arrow to scroll down to the “Voltage” display as shown below.

Key in the “Enter” key, and you will get the display on the next page that shows the voltage on each cell in your battery pack.

The display photo below shows the #1

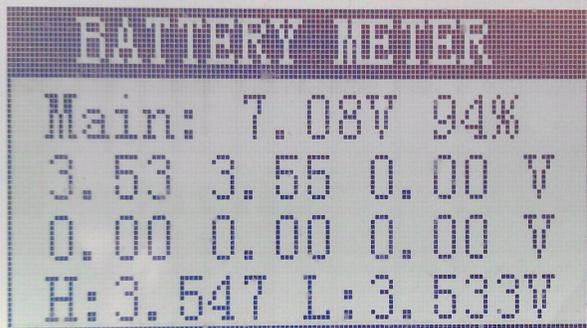
```

LiFe 2S 3.5A/-1.0A
Mode: Charge
Voltage: 06.87
Current: 2.04A
Time: 00:00:12

```

cell has 3.53 Volts DC, the #2 cell has 3.55 Volts DC. When both cells show 3.60 Volts DC, the A123 battery pack is

fully charged.



BATTERY METER
Main: 7.08V 94%
3.53 3.55 0.00 V
0.00 0.00 0.00 V
H:3.547 L:3.533V

If you pull that pack off the charger, and leave it for a week or a month, OR if you use it for a few flights, the voltage will drop to 3.3 Volts DC on each cell, and it will stay there until the A123 battery pack is nearly fully discharged.

And, we are near the end of this dissertation.



LiFe 2S 3.5A/-1.0A
Voltage: 07.08
Current: 3.56A
Time: 00:00:14
Capacity: 3mAh

If you key in the “Down” arrow repeatedly while charging until you get the above screen, the Hitec charger will show how many MilliAmpere Hours it to “Fill up the Battery pack” You can also watch the mah value pile up while charging.

You can also look at this screen after the charging cycle is completed, BEFORE DISCONNECTING THE BATTERY!

There are a few battery chemistries such as a limited number of Lilon receiver battery packs that do NOT have a balancing cable. This charger is capable of being

set up to charge those battery types. See your Newsletter Editor for details.

Last, but not least, I am getting a number of questions on how to set the number of Amperes for charging on your various battery packs.

Hopefully no one in our RC club is using those old NiCad or Nickel Metal Hydride cells for receiver power.

On these A123's, LiFe and LiPo battery pack, they are all marked with an Ampere Hour, or MilliAmpere Hour capacity rating.

Typical example is these A123's where the newer cells less than about 6 years old have a rating of 2500 mah. That indicates this cell can put out 2500 MilliAmperes (Or 2.5 Amperes) for one hour.

It is safe to charge any LiFe, A123 or LiPo battery in one hour. So simply set the charging current on the charger to the milliampere hour capacity of your battery.

Example #1

For a two cell LiFe or A123 with 2500 mah capacity, set the charge rate to **2500/1000** or 2.5 Amperes.

Example #2

For a 6 cell LiPo with 4500 mah capacity, set the charge rate to 4.5 Amperes.

(You will need to back that down to 3.5 Amps due to the limitations of the Hitec charger for charging big battery packs.)

If you own a pile of big 6 cell battery packs, a higher powered charger would be needed for these battery packs.

Hopefully, this clarifies the charging process of our battery packs.



Hey Chuck, thanks for the photos. Nice!



RACINE RC CLUB 2022 CALENDAR

July 17	Sunday	11:00 AM	Club Picnic at Field - No Meeting
August 21	Sunday	1:00 PM	Club Meeting - Flying Field
August 28	Sunday	9:00 AM	RC Club "Open House"
Sept 18	Sunday	1:00 PM	Club Meeting - Flying Field Get proposed rule changes submitted
October 1	Saturday	Noon	Deadline for submission of Proposed Field Rule & By-Law Changes
October 1	Saturday	8:00 AM	Shelter setup
October 16	Sunday	1:00 PM	Club Meeting - Flying Field
Nov13	Sunday	1:00 PM	Club Annual Meeting - Election of Officers; Vote on proposed Field Rule & By-Law changes
Dec 7	Wednesday	12 – 6 PM	Last day Club Compost Duty
Dec 18	Sunday	1:00 PM	Club Meeting - Flying Field – Establish-Membership Dues schedule for next year
Jan 1, 2022	Sunday	9:00 AM	New Year's Day, "First in the Air" Event & Noon lunch (Electric Sunrise - Gas/Glow 9:00 AM)

**The following RRCC members have volunteered to be a substitute for
compost duty. Contact them to work out the details**

Steve Knackert 262-497-2824 Justin Francisco 414-484-4574

Date+K2 0129A1:K A1:K39	Time	Name(1)	Name(2)	Substitute	Date	Time	Name(1)	Name(2)	Substitute
04/06/22	12-2	Darrel (Hoss) Hos- salla	Gerald Bublavy		08/10/22	12-2	Bob Johnson		
04/06/22	2-4	Darrel (Hoss) Hos- salla	Gerald Bublavy		08/10/22	2-4	Trygve Smalley	Gary Bokowy	
04/06/22	4-6	Justin Francisco	Gerald Bublavy		08/10/22	4-6	Roman Kirykowicz	Helmut Schmidtke	
04/13/22	12-2	Roger Nickolaus	James Martinich		08/17/22	12-2	Raymond Redlin Sr		
04/13/22	2-4	Roger Nickolaus	James Martinich		08/17/22	2-4	Jim Smith		
04/13/22	4-6	Justin Francisco	James Martinich		08/17/22	4-6	Roman Kirykowicz	Jeff Lee	
04/20/22	12-2	Roger Nickolaus			08/24/22	12-2	Terry Peterson	Matthew Holl	
04/20/22	2-4	Darrel (Hoss) Hos- salla	John Boticki		08/24/22	2-4	Dennis Vollrath	Matthew Holl	
04/20/22	4-6	Justin Francisco			08/24/22	4-6	Wayne Greisen	Matthew Holl	
04/27/22	12-2	Charles Roberts			08/31/22	12-2	Terry Peterson	Bruce Napierkowski	
04/27/22	2-4	Rich Smentek			08/31/22	2-4	Dennis Vollrath		
04/27/22	4-6	Dan Pozel			08/31/22	4-6	Wayne Greisen	Gary Bokowy	
05/04/22	12-2	Steve Knackert	Bill Flannery		09/07/22	12-2	Terry Peterson	Ronald Schroeder	
05/04/22	2-4	Rich Smentek	Bill Flannery		09/07/22	2-4	Dennis Vollrath	Ronald Schroeder	
05/04/22	4-6	Dan Pozel			09/07/22	4-6	Roman Kirykowicz	Ronald Schroeder	
05/11/22	12-2	Charles Roberts	Paul Willems		09/14/22	12-2	J Fisher		Steve Knt
05/11/22	2-4	Rich Smentek			09/14/22	2-4	James Houtsinger		
05/11/22	4-6	Charles Roberts			09/14/22	4-6	Eric Armantrout	Ron Dixon	
05/18/22	12-2	Steve Knackert	Dennis Krzyzaneck		09/21/22	12-2	Buzz Paricka	William Wampler	
05/18/22	2-4	William Bylsma	Dennis Krzyzaneck		09/21/22	2-4	Buzz Paricka	William Wampler	
05/18/22	4-6	Trygve Smalley			09/21/22	4-6	Bill Flannery	Jeff Lee	
05/25/22	12-2	Michael Stein	Douglas Karge		09/28/22	12-2	Buzz Paricka	William Wampler	
05/25/22	2-4	Michael Stein	Douglas Karge		09/28/22	2-4	James Houtsinger		
05/25/22	4-6	Michael Stein	Douglas Karge		09/28/22	4-6	Arland Matson	Jeff Lee	
06/01/22	12-2	Jerry Rose			10/05/22	12-2	Charles Brzezicki	Kenneth Dalton	
06/01/22	2-4	Jerry Rose			10/05/22	2-4	Charles Brzezicki	Kenneth Dalton	
06/01/22	4-6	Trygve Smalley	Manuel Gonzalez		10/05/22	4-6	Charles Brzezicki	Kenneth Dalton	
06/08/22	12-2	Chris Stein	Paul Willems		10/12/22	12-2	Donald Parkinson	Bruce Napierkowski	
06/08/22	2-4	Chris Stein			10/12/22	2-4	Donald Parkinson		
06/08/22	4-6	Chris Stein			10/12/22	4-6	Donald Parkinson		
06/15/22	12-2	Jerry Rose	Dennis Krzyzaneck		10/19/22	12-2	Herbert Ludowieg		
06/15/22	2-4	Ray Fisher			10/19/22	2-4	Herbert Ludowieg		
06/15/22	4-6	Ray Fisher			10/19/22	4-6	Herbert Ludowieg		
06/22/22	12-2	Steve Knackert	Arland Matson		10/26/22	12-2	Carl Bergquist	Tim Brehm	
06/22/22	2-4	William Bylsma			10/26/22	2-4	James Houtsinger	Tim Brehm	
06/22/22	4-6	Bob Johnson			10/26/22	4-6	J Fisher	Tim Brehm	Steve Knt
06/29/22	12-2	Pete Luks		Steve Knt	11/02/22	12-2	Jim Litwin		
06/29/22	2-4	William Bylsma			11/02/22	2-4	Jim Litwin		
06/29/22	4-6	Wayne Greisen	Helmut Schmidtke		11/02/22	4-6	Jim Litwin		
07/06/22	12-2	Pete Luks	Roger E Olsen	Steve Knt	11/09/22	12-2	Carl Bergquist	Bruce Napierkowski	
07/06/22	2-4	Jim Smith			11/09/22	2-4	John Boticki		
07/06/22	4-6	Bob Johnson	Manuel Gonzalez		11/09/22	4-6	James Strelitzer		
07/13/22	12-2	Raymond Redlin Sr	Paul Willems		11/16/22	12-2	J Fisher		Steve Knt
07/13/22	2-4	Jim Smith			11/16/22	2-4	John Boticki		
07/13/22	4-6	Dan Pozel	Helmut Schmidtke		11/16/22	4-6	James Strelitzer		
07/20/22	12-2	Pete Luks	Roger E Olsen	Steve Knt	11/23/22	12-2	Carl Bergquist		
07/20/22	2-4	Eric Armantrout			11/23/22	2-4	Arland Matson		
07/20/22	4-6	Eric Armantrout			11/23/22	4-6	James Strelitzer		
07/27/22	12-2	Richard Stapleton	Peter Redel		11/30/22	12-2	Ronald Hayes		
07/27/22	2-4	Richard Stapleton	Peter Redel		11/30/22	2-4	Ronald Hayes		
07/27/22	4-6	Richard Stapleton	Peter Redel		11/30/22	4-6	Ronald Hayes		
08/03/22	12-2	Raymond Redlin Sr	Roger E Olsen		12/07/22	12-2	Steven Navone		
08/03/22	2-4	Ray Fisher	Gary Bokowy		12/07/22	2-4	Steven Navone		
08/03/22	4-6	Bob Johnson	Manuel Gonzalez		12/07/22	4-6	Steven Navone		