



THE FLIGHTLINE



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

RRCC March Issue
March 1, 2026 Newsletter

WE ARE ON THE WEB
www.racinerclub.com

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Racine R/C Club Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: R/C Flying Field

Open Meeting - Jim opened the meeting at 1:00PM. 24 members were in attendance.

Welcome - New Member & Guests – No new members or guests.

Minutes - Last Meeting – No changes to the minutes.

Reports

President- Jim informed membership that the trophies for 2025 awards are out for engraving. They will be presented at the club banquet on March 7.

Vice President- Roger Nickolaus had nothing new to report.

Secretary/Treasurer- Bob Johnson reported our checkbook balance remains strong, and we are well positioned for any planned or unplanned club requirements.

Current membership as of this newsletter.

Senior Members	27
Open Members	10
Junior Members	2
Family	
<hr/> Total	39

Newsletter Editor-Dennis Vollrath Reported he has 8 receiver battery testers ordered and built.

Field Chairman- Trygve Smalley was unable to attend.

Tractor Chairman- Eric Armantrout had nothing new to report.

Web Master- Ron Hayes had nothing new to report.

Safety Officer- Darrell Hossalla reported the swap meet had 96 tables set up and overall, a good turnout..

Compost Director- Steve Knackert reported there are seven open spots for 2026.

Old Business- Annual Awards Banquet:

Tailgaters Bar and Grill 7641 Hwy 38
Caledonia, WI

Saturday March 7, 2026, at 5:30PM.

Cocktails at 5:00PM,

Dinner served at 6:00PM.

\$30.00 per member.

New Business – Village employee (Blair) plowed the drive and parking lot around the club house.

New Pilots – None

Show & tell – Denny Vollrath gave out

plastic storage boxes with foam inserts. They are great for maintaining misc. parts and accessories. Thanks Denny!

Denny also showed his new spot welder (available on Amazon) he uses to make A123 batteries. This device replaces soldering the battery interconnects. Much faster and cleaner. He also showed his latest 3D printed battery case for mounting battery packs in an airplane. Version #74! HaHa.

Raffle Drawing – No raffle at the February meeting.

Close Meeting – Jim closed the meeting with a reminder the next club meeting will be Sunday, March 1st at 1PM at the club house. (First Sunday of the month).

JIM'S CORNER

The weather has been great this past week. Warm, sunny, nice breeze, but a little muddy as the frost leaves the ground. This has resulted in numerous people getting some great flying in. Those of us who can't get their planes out have been sitting out enjoying the sun. We still have snow coming, but we'll take this reprieve.

If you would like to attend the club banquet on Saturday, March 7th, there is still time to signup and pay at the upcoming club meeting on Sunday, March 1st. The cost is \$30 per person.

Also note that on Sunday, March 1st, we will be changing the padlock codes to the new code, located on the lower left corner of your membership card.

We have received notice from our website vendor that the cost of the renewal will significantly increase. It's more that

can we realistically do. Ron Hayes, our Web Master has been shopping around and has a solution. It will be discussed at the next meeting under new business for your consideration and vote.

With the recent warm weather, I would ask that you carefully consider not driving on the grass around the parking lot / driveway. As the tire ruts in the soft ground dry, they leave ruts that later make grass cutting quite difficult. The mower does not have a suspension, and the ruts shake everything, including the fillings in your teeth!

We will be collecting membership dues at the upcoming meeting. This will be your last newsletter if you haven't renewed your membership.

Hopefully, I'll see you on Sunday, March 1st at 1 PM.

Fly Safe & Have Fun

Jim Litwin

President

Dennys Stuff

Got a few new things this month, starting off with an update on that Spot Welder shown on the February meeting. This spot welder was purchased through Amazon, and was apparently shipped direct from China. Unfortunately, Amazon shows that this unit is out of stock, with no indication when or if it will be returned to stock.

At any rate, The spot welder I have has a specification of 6 Volts behind the spot weld, with a spot welding current of 2300 Amperes. (2300 Amps is not a misprint!)

This spot welder has a number of different settings for the length of time that that high current is applied, easily programmed via its built in LCD display.

That LCD display also shows the exact level of the current pulse in Amperes. The maximum current I've seen is 2630 Amperes. That current level is high enough to cause the very heavy duty #6 copper test leads to "Jump" due to magnetic fields.

Starting off, the unit came with a lot of 8 Millimeter Nickel plated steel strip that is used to spot weld the A123 cells and perhaps even those LiPos. This material worked very well with the use of the A123 cells as receiver battery packs.

But, the steel strip had too much of a voltage drop when pulling 40 Amps out of the battery for my electric powered models.

I ordered four more spot welding strips of various sizes including one made with Nickel plated copper foil. That, did not spot weld at all. The spot welds fell off after spot welding on some test material.

Last, but not least, I received some 0.2mm thick, 10mm wide pure Nickel spot welding strips, again through Amazon. The order was some 5 feet of strip for \$15.00.

I spot welded the pure Nickel strips to an old A123 cell, and conducted some load tests at 30 Amperes test current.

There was little or no heating up of the Nickel strip after two minutes at 30 Amps. And, my Fluke 87V meter measured a voltage drop across that strip of only 0.039 Volts, for a total of a quarter volt for the entire 6 cell battery pack.

This looks very good, and will be the process used for my future assemblies of the high powered battery packs for my electric airplanes.

Speaking of A123 cells, the supply house I've been using (located in Michigan) had six thousand of these 2.6 Ampere Hour A123 cells in stock last month.

I just ordered another dozen A123 cells, only to find they are out of stock. Their website indicates they are anticipating more inventory in March. FYI, they had some 60,000 of these 2.6 Amp Hour A123 cells in stock late last year. (They had 200,000 A123 cells last summer)

If any RRCC members should be interested in buying one of these spot welders, Amazon has a wide variety of them. Mine has a rating of 2100 Amps at 12 Kilowatts.

The amazing part of these spot welders is how they switch that 2100 Amps on and off. They use four integrated circuit MosFets in parallel to switch that current.

The MosFets used are each rated at a peak current of near 1000 Amperes for a

fraction of a second. Really amazing isn't it?

Looking over some of my older stuff, I ran across an old 5 channel receiver from perhaps the 1960's or 1970's.

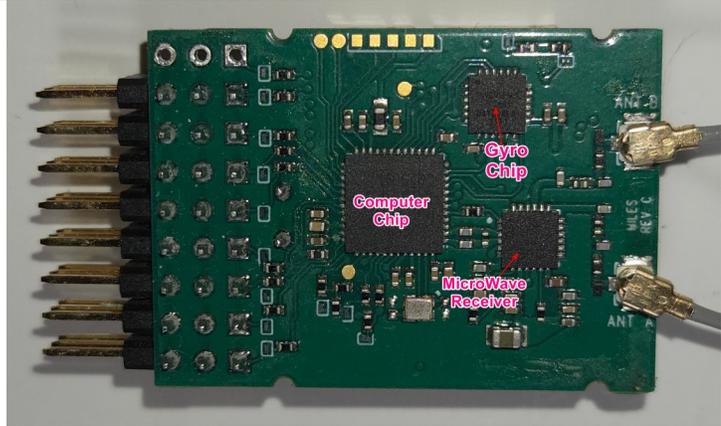
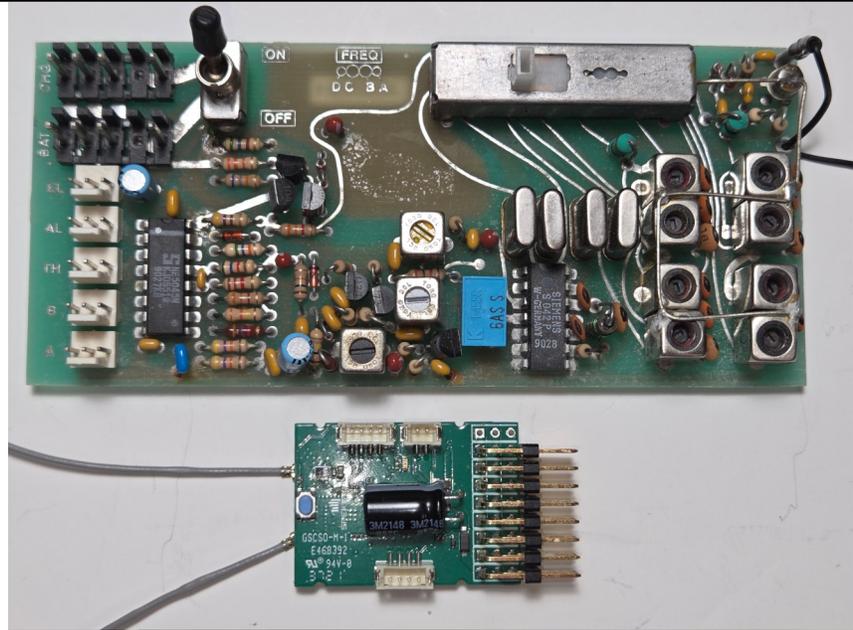
A quick look over of the unit, the slide switch changes between four frequencies on the old 72 MegaHertz RC radio band of a decade or two ago.

This piece of junk measures 2 1/4 by 5 inches in size. Take a look at the photo, and compare the old receiver to a modern Spektrum AR8360T 8 channel receiver.

Note that the AR8360T receiver has a built in Gyro as shown on the photo to the right. Everything involved with that Gyro function is contained inside that chip. Below the Gyro is the Microwave receiver chip that receives the radio signal from the transmitter, and feeds it to the computer chip.

The computer chip handles everything from receiving the signal from the receiver chip, checking the signal for errors, sending it to the various servos, and in the meantime, it's controlling the Gyro Chip, recording all flight data, handling all the expo stuff and activating the servos in response to what ever the Gyro Chip sees.

Take a look at the old receiver on the top. It uses what is called "Stand Up" components that are soldered vertically on the circuit board. These vertically installed components were very subject to vibration, and vibration caused broken compo-



nents were a common failure both on the receivers of that era, and the servos also used at that time.

Many of the senior members of our RRCC club very likely have memories of that old stuff, and perhaps actually flew with them. I know your Editor did!

Useless Information!

Take a look at the photo of the music CD on the next page. And spot the tiny USB memory device laying on top of that CD.

This is a "Micro USB" 256 Gb device available through Amazon, Best Buy and many other locations.

I have several of those MicroUSB drives that are loaded with some 3500 songs from the internet and elsewhere. They work well on both my Van and Ona Mays car.

The memory capacity of that CD is 700 Megabytes, compared to 256 Gigabytes of the tiny USB drive. That USB drive can hold 370 of those CD's!

Now, 1Tb USB flash drives are available that will hold 1500 of those CDs! These USB flash memories is part of the reason why the newer vehicles no longer have CD music drives as standard equipment.

I go back to the days where a big memory gadget was one of those 5 inch floppy disks.

I have received the RRCC membership listing from Bob, and will print out several dozen membership listings including



name, phone number and Email listings at the next meeting.
DennyV RRCC Editor.

**PROPOSED RACINE RC CLUB
2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

January 1	Thursday	“First In The Air” Event
January 4	Sunday	Club Meeting
February 1	Sunday	Club Meeting
March 1	Sunday	Club Meeting
	Sunday	Change Lock Codes
March 7	Saturday	Awards Banquet
April 12	Sunday	Club Meeting
May 3	Sunday	Club Meeting
May 30	Saturday	Shelter Walls Down
June 7	Sunday	Club Meeting
July 5	Sunday	Club Picnic (No Meeting)
August 2	Sunday	Club Meeting
Sept 6	Sunday	Club Meeting
Sept 14	Monday	Noon Deadline for Proposed Field Rule/By- Law changes
October 3	Saturday	Shelter Walls Up
October 4	Sunday	Club Meeting
Nov 1	Sunday	Club Meeting (Vote Officers/Rule Changes)
Dec 6	Sunday	Club Meeting (Vote Club Dues Rate)