



# THE FLIGHTLINE



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

**RRCC April Issue**  
**April 12, 2026 Newsletter**

**WE ARE ON THE WEB**  
**www.racinerclub.net**

**Club Officers**

**President**

James Litwin  
262-637-2787 (Cell 262-939-7926)  
president@racinerclub.net

**Vice President**

Roger Nickolaus  
414-405-8004  
vp@racinerclub.net

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Bob Johnson 847-421-5494  
secretary@racinerclub.net

**Field Chairman**

Trygve Smalley  
414-940-0929  
field@racinerclub.net

**Safety Officer**

Darrel "Hoss" Hossalla  
414-651-0968  
safety@racinerclub.net

**Tractor Chairman**

Eric Armantrout  
262-498-1035  
tractor@racinerclub.net

**Compost Director**

Stephen Knackert  
262-497-2824  
compost@racinerclub.net

**Webmaster**

Ron Hayes  
224-355-7651  
web@racinerclub.net

**Newsletter Editor**

Dennis Vollrath  
Cell 262-994-6342  
newsletter@racinerclub.net

**Racine R/C Club Meeting Minutes**

March 1, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: R/C Flying Field

**Open Meeting** - Jim opened the meeting at 1:00PM. 18 members were in attendance.

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

**Minutes - Last Meeting** – No changes to the minutes.

**Reports**

**President-** All locks have been changed to the new combination, which appears on your 2026 membership card.

Jim attended the Milwaukee RC Association meeting. A vote was taken by the association members to have another swap meet next year and it passed.

The date and location are unknown currently. Association officers will investigate and make the determination on location and date. Table sales and attendance were down from previous years. The association is currently looking for a new President and Vice President.

AMA District VP, Randy Gibson was in attendance. He commented that this is the only AMA chartered club which is made up of AMA clubs in the region. He was very impressed.

**Vice President-Roger Nickolaus-** Was not present. Last call for banquet payment and the club is looking for people that are willing to make desserts for the banquet.

**Secretary/Treasurer**-Bob Johnson  
Current membership as of this newsletter.

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Senior Members</b> | <b>29</b> |
| <b>Open Members</b>   | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Junior Members</b> | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Family</b>         |           |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>41</b> |

Our funds are doing well and there should be no issue for the foreseeable future.

**Newsletter Editor**-Dennis Vollrath passed out updated membership lists.

**Field Chairman**- Trygve Smalley had nothing new to report. He is looking for volunteers to help mow the field this year.

**Tractor Chairman**- Eric Armantrout had nothing new to report.

**Web Master**- Ron Hayes resolved the issue with the high cost of renewing our website host. More on this under new business.

**Safety Officer**- Darrell Hossalla could not attend.

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

**Old Business**- Nothing to report.

**New Business** – Ron reported that the cost to renew our Website agreement

with the current web host company is \$947.00. The last renewal was \$682.00 three years ago, so you can see how these fees increase every time we go to renew.

Ron located a new web host company by the name of Hostingers, that quoted us \$143.00 for four years. A vote was taken to cancel our contract with the old company and start up Hostingers. Nice job Ron!!

**New Pilots** – None

**Show & tell** – Denny Vollrath showed his method for wire/terminal termination on servo extension wires. He found a thread in RCGroups.com for 3D printing a part that attaches to his crimping tool. This 3D printed device holds the servo terminal, making it much easier to perform the crimping process. Without this device it is a nightmare trying to locate the two parts properly and often the termination needs to be redone.

**Raffle Drawing** – No raffle at the March meeting.

**Close Meeting** – Jim closed the meeting with a reminder the next club meeting will be Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Easter falls on the first Sunday of April so we will have our meeting on the second Sunday.

### 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 ban-

quet on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, there is still time to sign up and pay at the upcoming club meeting on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$30 per person.

Also note that on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 PM.

Fly Safe & Have Fun  
Jim Litwin

#### EDITORS NOTE

If you have not signed up for the RRCC club membership for 2026, this will be the last newsletter you will receive until you re-sign up.

DennyV

RRCC Newsletter Editor

## Dennys Stuff

Your newsletter editor is heading for major surgery on March 31<sup>st</sup>, so this newsletter is being sent out a bit early.

Lots of stuff has happened around here since the last newsletter. First item, my desktop computer decided to crash, to where it won't even boot up. Naturally, that happened 6 months after the warranty expired.

Two weeks earlier, the original desktop PC suddenly turned itself off right in the middle of something. I powered it back up, and copied everything from the second internal drive to an external USB drive as a backup. The downloading process took about 5 hours to download 1500 Gigabytes of data to the backup external drive.

For the RRCC members that have unreplaceable data, photos and such on their computers, it would be very wise to purchase one of these external USB drives. They are available from Best Buy, Amazon and many other locations. Backing

up is fairly easy. Just copy the entire drive and paste it to the new USB drive. Note that you CAN NOT copy any of your programs. Every program needs the original installation method to install them to the new computer.

One very useful program I have on my computers is a free photo editing software by the name of FastStone.org. I use it on the photos I include on the newsletters. They also have a very good screen copy program for \$20.00 that gets used a lot.

The PC had been configured with a SSD "C" drive, and a standard SATA 4 Tb "D" drive. I had all of my programs on the "C" drive, all of my data such as these newsletters on the "D" drive.

Milwaukee PC got the unit, found the mother board had died, and my "D" drive was *ENCRYPTED*! It required a key to unlock it. MilwaukeePC found the key, and I got my data back.

Word to the wise, Microsoft Windows 11

automatically encrypts all internal drives as a default, and you'd better have the key to unlock it. Microsoft uses something called "BitLocker". **I searched the internet, and turned that blasted BitLocker function off.**

During that recent snow storm, we lost power at 11PM until 5:30 AM. Our sump pump has a battery operated backup pump that is some 10 years old. It worked OK, just barely able to keep up with the water flow. I checked, that backup pump only has about a 1/10 horsepower motor in it.

So, more searches, I found that backup sump pumps that are WATER POWERED exist. They use a 3/4 inch pipe from your main water supply for power. I got the unit, but it has an internal leak on the house water supply. They are replacing it.

I've been using that crimping tool shown at the last RRCC meeting, its been working quite well.

I've previously posted in the newsletters that I've been using the Microsoft Office 365 subscription software for years to write the RRCC newsletter.

Their price is \$99.00 per year, and it included the various software packages such as Word, Excel, Desktop Publishing and a few others.

Well, Microsoft decided to drop Desktop publishing from their subscription, and in the mean time, they jacked up the price from \$99.00 per year to \$129.00 per year. Less functions, and 30% increase in price.

That blocks everyone from looking over ANY desktop publishing files they've created over the past many decades.

The internet is full of complaints from a number of people, and many companies are really upset about it.

Looking over the internet, I found a supplier that provides a one time purchase of the original Microsoft Office 2021 for \$29.00, with many hundreds of positive reviews.

I had to order two versions of them for \$58.00 to get both Desktop Publishing, and Excel. And, that ends my annual \$99.00 bill for the Microsoft 365 software.

The new software is installed on my new Desktop PC along with my Laptop. Both appear to be working very well.

Lastly, I ordered and received another crimping tool designed specifically for the various sized JST connectors. One of the JST sizes is used for the white balance plugs we seen on our battery packs. It also works quite well.

Take a look at photos of my modified crimping tool on the photos on this page. Denny Vollrath, RRCC editor.



# Compost Duty Roster 2026

|                 |                    |                         |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>04/01/26</b> | <b>Noon - 2 PM</b> | <b>Darrel Hossalla</b>  |
|                 | <b>2 PM - 4 PM</b> | <b>Darrel Hossalla</b>  |
|                 | <b>4 PM - 6 PM</b> | <b>Justin Francisco</b> |
| <b>04/08/26</b> | <b>Noon - 2 PM</b> | <b>Roger Nickolaus</b>  |
|                 | <b>2 PM - 4 PM</b> | <b>Roger Nickolaus</b>  |
|                 | <b>4 PM - 6 PM</b> | <b>Paul Westcott</b>    |
| <b>04/15/26</b> | <b>Noon - 2 PM</b> | <b>Roger Nickolaus</b>  |
|                 | <b>2 PM - 4 PM</b> | <b>Darrel Hossalla</b>  |
|                 | <b>4 PM - 6 PM</b> | <b>Trygve Smalley</b>   |
| <b>04/22/26</b> | <b>Noon - 2 PM</b> | <b>Jerry Rose</b>       |
|                 | <b>2 PM - 4 PM</b> | <b>Rich Smentek</b>     |
|                 | <b>4 PM - 6 PM</b> | <b>Mike Sells</b>       |
| <b>04/29/26</b> | <b>Noon - 2 PM</b> | <b>Trygve Smalley</b>   |
|                 | <b>2 PM - 4 PM</b> | <b>Rich Smentek</b>     |
|                 | <b>4 PM - 6 PM</b> | <b>Paul Westcott</b>    |
| <b>05/06/26</b> | <b>Noon - 2 PM</b> | <b>Trygve Smalley</b>   |
|                 | <b>2 PM - 4 PM</b> | <b>Rich Smentek</b>     |
|                 | <b>4 PM - 6 PM</b> | <b>Peter Gehrig</b>     |
| <b>05/13/26</b> | <b>Noon - 2 PM</b> | <b>Mike Sells</b>       |
|                 | <b>2 PM - 4 PM</b> | <b>Mike Sells</b>       |
|                 | <b>4 PM - 6 PM</b> | <b>Peter Gehrig</b>     |
| <b>05/20/26</b> | <b>Noon - 2 PM</b> | <b>Terry Peterson</b>   |
|                 | <b>2 PM - 4 PM</b> | <b>Dennis Vollrath</b>  |
|                 | <b>4 PM - 6 PM</b> | <b>Dennis Vollrath</b>  |

| DATE     | TIME        | NAME                | DATE     | TIME        | NAME               |
|----------|-------------|---------------------|----------|-------------|--------------------|
| 04/01/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Darrel Hossalla     | 07/29/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Don Parkinson      |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Darrel Hossalla     |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Don Parkinson      |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Justin Francisco    |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Tim Brehm          |
| 04/08/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Roger Nickolaus     | 08/05/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Matt Holl          |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Roger Nickolaus     |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Matt Holl          |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Paul Westcott       |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Matt Holl          |
| 04/15/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Roger Nickolaus     | 08/12/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Don Parkinson      |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Darrel Hossalla     |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Ray Fisher         |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Trygve Smalley      |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Ray Fisher         |
| 04/22/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Jerry Rose          | 08/19/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Jason Gamble       |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Rich Smentek        |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Wayne Greisen      |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Mike Sells          |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Rick Stapleton     |
| 04/29/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Trygve Smalley      | 08/26/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Tim Brehm          |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Rich Smentek        |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Wayne Greisen      |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Paul Westcott       |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Tim Brehm          |
| 05/06/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Trygve Smalley      | 09/02/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Mike Stein         |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Rich Smentek        |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Wayne Greisen      |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Peter Gehrig        |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Rick Stapleton     |
| 05/13/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Mike Sells          | 09/09/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Bob Johnson        |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Mike Sells          |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Bob Johnson        |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Peter Gehrig        |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Rick Stapleton     |
| 05/20/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Terry Peterson      | 09/16/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Bob Johnson        |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Dennis Vollrath     |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Jim Houtsinger     |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Dennis Vollrath     |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Eric Armantrout    |
| 05/27/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Jerry Rose          | 09/23/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Mike Stein         |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Jerry Rose          |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Jim Houtsinger     |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Dennis Vollrath     |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Chuck Brzezicki    |
| 06/03/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Steve Knackert      | 09/30/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Carl Bergquist     |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Terry Peterson      |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Jim Houtsinger     |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Peter Gehrig        |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Mike Stein         |
| 06/10/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Terry Peterson      | 10/07/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Chuck Brzezicki    |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Steve Knackert      |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Roman Kirykowicz & |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Justin Francisco    |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Helmet Schmidtke   |
| 06/17/26 | Noon - 2 PM | John Bolt           | 10/14/26 | Noon - 2 PM | ( SAME )           |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Steve Knackert      |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Eric Armantrout    |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Justin Francisco    |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Eric Armantrout    |
| 06/24/26 | Noon - 2 PM | John Bolt           | 10/21/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Ron Hayes          |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Jason Fisher/SteveK |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Ron Hayes          |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Jim Litwin          |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Ron Hayes          |
| 07/01/26 | Noon - 2 PM | John Bolt           | 10/28/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Chuck Brzezicki    |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Jason Fisher/SteveK |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Carl Bergquist     |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Jim Litwin          |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Jim Strelitzer     |
| 07/08/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Jason Gamble        | 11/04/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Buzz Paricka       |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Jason Fisher/SteveK |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Carl Bergquist     |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Jim Litwin          |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Jim Strelitzer     |
| 07/15/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Jason Gamble        | 11/11/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Buzz Paricka       |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Ray Fisher          |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Buzz Paricka       |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Ray Fisher          |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Jim Strelitzer     |
| 07/22/02 | Noon - 2 PM | Joe Spaulding       | 11/18/26 | Noon - 2 PM | Steve Navone       |
|          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Joe Spaulding       |          | 2 PM - 4 PM | Steve Navone       |
|          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Joe Spaulding       |          | 4 PM - 6 PM | Steve Navone       |

| Date  | Club  | Event  |
|---|---|--|
| Sunday, April 12, 2026                      | Racine RC Club  | Club Meeting   |
| Sunday, May 3, 2026                         | Racine RC Club  | Club Meeting   |
| Saturday, May 30, 2026                      | Racine RC Club  | Shelter Walls Down   |
| * Sat Jun 6                                 | Circle Masters Flying Club at Sussex Village Park             | Control Line Open Fun Fly and informal contest                   |
| * Sat Jun 6 (rain Jun 7)                    | Flying Electrons  | Annual Club "Fun Fly"  |
| Sat Jun 6                                   | Fond Du Lac Aeromodelers Association                          | Open Fun-Fly   |
| Sunday, June 7, 2026                        | Racine RC Club  | Club Meeting   |
| * Sat Jun 27 (rain Jun 28)                  | Sky Ranch Flyers  | Fun Fly  |
| * Sun Jul 5                                 | Racine RC Club  | Club-Only Picnic   |
| * Sat Jul 11                                | Bong Eagles at MARKS  | Old Timer Contest  |
| * Sun Jul 12                                | Flying Electrons  | Club-Only Fun Fly  |
| * Sat Jul 18 (rain Jul 19)                  | Astrowings of Wisconsin                                       | Charity Fun Fly  |
| * Sat Jul 18                                | Pebble Creek Flyers, Inc.                                     | Club-Only Fun Fly  |
| * Sat Jul 18 (rain Jul 19)                  | Rainbow Aero Modelers Society (RAMS)                          | SWARM Helicopter Friend Fly                                      |
| * Mon Jul 20 - Sun Jul 26                   | Circle Masters Flying Club                                    | EAA KidVenture – Oshkosh   |
| * Sat Aug 1 (rain Aug 2)                    | Flying Electrons  | Airfest, Fly-In Benefit Troop #110                               |
| Sat Aug 1                                   | Rubicon Area Flyers   | Fun Fly  |
| Sunday, August 2, 2026                      | Racine RC Club  | Club Meeting   |
| * Sat Aug 8                                 | Bong Eagles   | All Free Flight Contest  |
| * Thu Aug 13 - Sat Aug 15                   | Fond Du Lac Aeromodelers Association                          | Warbirds and Classics Over Midwest                               |
| * Sun Aug 16                                | Fond Du Lac Aeromodelers Association                          | Wellnitz Memorial Open Fun Fly                                   |
| * Sun Aug 30                                | Circle Masters Flying Club                                    | Demo Flying, Sussex Antique Farm Implementation Show             |
| Sunday, September 6, 2026                   | Racine RC Club  | Club Meeting   |
| * Sun Sep 6                                 | Watertown Aeromodelers RC Club at Watertown Municipal Airport | Open house and pancake breakfast with static displays            |
| * Sat Sep 12 (rain Sep 13)                  | Flying Electrons  | Fly-In and Swap Meet   |
| * Sat Sep 12 (rain Sep 13)                  | Rainbow Aero Modelers Society (RAMS)                          | Club-Only Picnic   |
| Monday, September 14, 2026                  |   | Field Rule/By Law Changes  |
| To Be Determined                            | Flying Electrons  | Pattern Contest (Flying Electrons members can fly at Astrowings) |
| Saturday, October 3, 2026                   | Racine RC Club  | Shelter Walls Up   |
| Sunday, October 4, 2026                     | Racine RC Club  | Club Meeting   |
|   | Racine RC Club  | Maker Faire  |
| * Sat Oct 17 7-10pm                         | Flying Electrons  |  |
| Sat Oct 31 - Sun Nov 1 or following weekend | All clubs invited to participate and promote                  |  |
| Sunday, November 1, 2026                    | Racine RC Club  | Club Meeting (Vote Officers/Rule                                 |
| Sunday, December 6, 2026                    | Racine RC Club  | Club Meeting (Vote Club Dues Rate)                               |