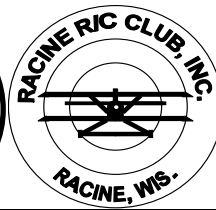




THE FLIGHTLINE



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

RRCC August Issue
August 2, 2026 Newsletter

WE ARE ON THE WEB
www.racinerccclub.net

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JIM'S CORNER

Hot weather, smoky conditions, humid, windy: not great flying conditions. Attendance at the field has appeared to be down as a result of these conditions. At least it's not snow!

I want to start out by thanking our Vice President, Roger Nickolaus for again doing a great job organizing and preparing a great July club picnic. It doesn't happen by itself. There was more than enough food for everyone who attended.

We also need to thank Darrel Hossalla for putting two coats of brown paint on the shelter structure. It was really starting to look weathered with the flaking paint. Looks good now!

The change in meeting dates changes the tempo of the mid-summer to fall club agenda a little from what we are used to, so I have shown below a brief calendar of the upcoming months.

The field has been rolled again recently which should result in smoother landings, if the pilot does their part!! Tryg has also been working hard to keep the weeds down in the gravel spectator area, and a new weed killer he is using seems to be working. Our next club meeting is on Sunday, August 2, at 1 PM. Hope to see you then.

July 22 (Approx)	NL sent out Start thinking of possible Rules / By-Law changes & officer positions
Aug 2	RC Club Meeting
Aug 19 (Approx)	NL sent out Think of possible Rules / By-Law changes & officer positions
Sept 1	Noon - Final date for submission of proposed Rule & By-Law changes to club Sec
??	Officers Meeting ref proposed changes
Sept 6	RC Club Meeting
Sept 16 (Approx)	NL sent out with Proposed Changes
Oct 4	RC Club Meeting
Oct 21 (Approx)	NL sent out with Proposed Changes
Nov 1	RC Club Meeting Vote for Officers & Proposed Rule & By-Law changes
Dec 6	RC Club Meeting Vote for 2027 membership dues schedule
Fly Safe & Have Fun Jim Litwin President	

FYI The RRCC meeting in July was the club picnic, so there are no minutes to report.

Dennys Stuff

One of the RRCC club members had a failure of his two cell A123 receiver battery pack.

I received the battery pack, and found that it had totally failed, and could not even put out one Ampere of current. The history of the pack, it had been charged without balancing, and likely had been severely overcharged, cooking up its internals.

So, your editor has been using a Spot Welder specifically designed for welding strips of metal to these A123 cells. I've made several dozen cells into packs so far.

There is an issue with the spot welding process, that is a concern about the spot welded connection "Burning Through" the welded tab, and completely burning

through the top and bottom of the A123 cells itself.

Now, I have a pair of destroyed cells that I can play with!. One of the A123 cells was placed in my lathe, and both the top and bottom of the A123 cell was cut off.

And, measurements were made on the thickness of the positive and negative terminals of the cell.

The thickness of the positive terminal is 1.27mm, the thickness of the negative terminal is 1.76mm. As a comparison, the Nickel plated steel strip used measures 0.14mm thick.

So, the top and bottom of the A123 cells is some 10 times thicker than the Nickel plated steel strip that is spot welded to it.

(Note here, the internal guts of these cells is coiled up like a roll of paper, and is pressed into the aluminum housing. The fitting between the aluminum housing and the internal guts is very tight. It isn't possible to push the internals out by hand.)

I ran a couple of tests with the top and bottom covers with my spot welder. The welder is set to a 9 MilliSecond pulse at 6 Volts and 2250 Amperes.

This setting results in a very robust spot weld between the Nickel plated strip and the A123 cell. It took a pair of pliers to pull the spot welded tab from the cell. And, in doing so, the process pulled metal out of the Nickel Plated steel strip.

Looking at the back side of the battery plus and minus connections, there is NO apparent discoloration or damage inside of the top and bottom cell ends.

So, this spot welder is working out very well, and to me, was well worth the \$90.00 purchase price. Amazon no longer stocks the unit I purchased, but Amazon does have a number of capacitor discharge spot welders in a fancier case for around \$140.00 or so.

FYI, these devices use what is called a "Super Capacitor" with values on the or-

der of 4 Farads. Four Farads is a very high number in the capacitor world, and the fact they can put out several thousand Amperes for 10 or 20 MilliSeconds is incredible.

I've been building up these two cell A123 battery packs for a decade or more now, and have used a number of methods of covering the cells. That varies from simple black tape and shrink wrap to fancy 3D printed cases with mounting tabs to allow screwing it to the fuselage.

It crossed my mind that with the spot welded flat strips on the A123 cells, I could 3D print "End Caps" for the cells, and put shrink tubing over the entire project. As you can see from the photos, that worked out very well, far "prettier" than that black tape! (The shrink tubing is 75mm wide from Amazon.)

DennyV

RRCC Newsletter Editor.







Compost Duty Roster 2026

DATE	TIME	NAME
7/29/2026	Noon - 2 PM	Don Parkinson
	2 PM - 4 PM	Don Parkinson
	4 PM - 6 PM	Tim Brehm
8/5/2026	Noon - 2 PM	Matt Holl
	2 PM - 4 PM	Matt Holl
	4 PM - 6 PM	Matt Holl
8/12/2026	Noon - 2 PM	Don Parkinson
	2 PM - 4 PM	Ray Fisher
	4 PM - 6 PM	Ray Fisher
8/19/2026	Noon - 2 PM	Jason Gamble
	2 PM - 4 PM	Wayne Greisen
	4 PM - 6 PM	Rick Stapleton
8/26/2026	Noon - 2 PM	Tim Brehm
	2 PM - 4 PM	Wayne Greisen
	4 PM - 6 PM	Tim Brehm
9/2/2026	Noon - 2 PM	Mike Stein
	2 PM - 4 PM	Wayne Greisen
	4 PM - 6 PM	Rick Stapleton
9/9/2026	Noon - 2 PM	Bob Johnson
	2 PM - 4 PM	Bob Johnson
	4 PM - 6 PM	Rick Stapleton
9/16/2026	Noon - 2 PM	Bob Johnson
	2 PM - 4 PM	Jim Houtsinger
	4 PM - 6 PM	Eric Armantrout

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 Implement 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)