



May 2025 Edition

Field Marshall's Corner: Al Hampton



More Than a Hobby: A Beginner's Passion for RC and the Joy of Sharing It

Since joining this amazing club nearly two years ago, I've had the privilege of witnessing some truly incredible things. From Gordon's jaw-dropping balsa scratch builds to Jim's innovative 3D-printed flyers, I've seen firsthand the creativity, patience, and skill that make this hobby so rewarding. Each flight is a testament to the builder's dedication—and I've loved every second of watching them take to the skies.

As for me? I'm a foam flyer at heart.

Now, I know some of you might be thinking I'm talking about the AeroScout or other ready-to-fly (RTF) foam models—and while those are great, I'm talking about something even more basic and DIY: **Dollar Tree foam board builds**, like the ones made popular by the folks at Flite Test. (If you don't know who they are, do yourself a favor and check them out on YouTube!)



There's something magical about taking a sheet of inexpensive foam board, shaping it into a wing with an airfoil, adding some simple electronics, and launching it into the air—sometimes even watching it crash over and over again. Each attempt is a learning experience, and it sparks the imagination in a way that few hobbies can.

I often think about how much I would've loved this as a kid. Honestly, I'm making up for lost time—and I want to help others discover that same joy, especially the next generation.

In recent years, the RC world has seen its share of changes. Regulations have evolved—some I agree with, others not so much. And unfortunately, there's been a growing cloud of misunderstanding and concern surrounding the hobby, especially when it comes to multi rotors and drones. Concerns about privacy and misuse have given some people the wrong idea about what we're all about.

But here's the truth: most of those negative perceptions come from a lack of exposure and education. What we do is more than just flying toys—it's learning, problem-solving, building, crashing, fixing, sharing, and growing. This hobby teaches real-world skills that cross generations and disciplines.

For me, RC is a way to engage with electronics and technology in a hands-on, creative way. I love aviation, yes—but even more than that, I love seeing how this hobby lights a spark in someone else. That's why my personal mission is simple: **I want to put a controller in the hands of anyone who shows even the slightest interest.** Whether it's with a dollar store foam board glider or a sleek RC car, I want people to experience the thrill of piloting something they helped build or understand.

If I can help someone get started, especially in a cost-friendly and meaningful way, that's a win for me—and hopefully a new lifelong hobbyist for our club.

So to everyone who's encouraged me, shared advice, or simply flown alongside me: **thank you.** I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you, and I hope we can keep building, flying, learning, and growing—together.

Here's to a safe and exciting flying season, my friends. See you out at the field!

Al

President's Pilot Box: Gordon Collyer

C-Stars Field Day.

The C-Stars disabled kids and youth traveling “camp” will visit us again this year on June 27th for a field day with the Barnstormers. The kids will be on site from 10am to about 2pm on that Friday. The order of events will be two flying demonstration sessions of about a half hour each, at 10 and 11:30. In between sessions and after noon, the kids will take to the field for balsa glider flying and some of their own activities. As the kids wind down after lunch, we may get some added flying in for them. Please let me know if you can come out and demo fly. Last year Ralph Graul came out and flew some big and loud planes (always a hit), and Jay Langley wow'd the group with some down low 3-d flying. I am looking for volunteers with big, loud, unusual, and extreme flying planes (EDF, Helos?) for the demos. You would likely fly 1-2 times each demo session and TBD after their formal program. Non-flying volunteers are also needed for helping to assemble and repair gliders. Let me know if you are interested in participating. We will firm up the flying sequences in early June.

Bill Towne has Retired. After years of valued service Bill is stepping away from being the CMB and FARM chuck wagon cook. So we are looking for folks who would be willing to take on this role.....it can be a shared responsibility as well. But in retroactive recognition of Bill's time in the barrel I think we'll be identifying the position as “Most Exalted Chef”. Let me know if you would be willing to take on all or part of this role, perhaps 2-3 times a flying season. Bill has given me a script and a basic menu for reference. If important, a uniform can be arranged.

PLEASE NOTE! PLEASE NOTE!! PLEASE NOTE!!!

Lenn Model Airpark Facility Closures Coming. Per the last newsletter, the P&R contractor will be at the field starting next Monday. (May 19th). They will follow up approximately a week later with a second visit. Now understand that because of the “commercial” products they use and need to drive heavier equipment than our mowers, this and other dates are targets subject to day-to-day slippage due to the weather. So.....first check the “@the-field” function on the Club website for any days you might be coming out to fly, both in general and for the next two weeks for the near term.

Following this first round of treatment, P&R has indicated they will perform a “top dressing” and leveling (rolling) as per the plan in the last newsletter. The field and access to the Barnstormers’ Lenn Model Airpark area **WILL BE CLOSED** during these activities and for **the remainder of the day** following turf treatments. The top-dressing, etc. may require we be shut down for several days. The timing for this and follow-on turf treatments is TBD by first the weather, P&R’s schedule, and the results of these initial activities.....stay tuned. We’ll use the “@the-field” to show dates as we know them and send email blasts as the weather and timing dictate.

Gordon

Vice President’s Pilot Box: Jim Restel

- No Club specific items this month.

Jim

Secretary’s Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- NOTE: It is very important that you have your FAA card and TRUST card with you in hard copy or digital form on your cell phone. Several North Carolina club members did not have their’s with them when the FAA came by on another matter and asked those flying to show their cards; they didn’t have them available and they were fined. After an AMA investigation, the fines were upheld and they had to pay. Have your FAA required documentation with you when you fly!

- CMB Club Calendar:

The updated 2025 Club calendar has been sent out to all Club members and posted on the Club website.

- Upcoming 2025 events:

May 9-16	Fri-Thur	Joe Nall @ Triple Tree Aerodrome @ Woodruff, SC https://tta.aero	All Day
May 17-18	Sat-Sun	GooneyBirds’ Pattern Contest @ Florence SC	All Day
May 19	Monday	Lenn Model Airpark <u>will be closed</u> for grounds contractor work; check the website’s “@the field” for any updates before you head to the field.	
May 26	Monday	Lenn Model Airpark will be closed for grounds contractor work; check the website’s “@the field” for any updates before you head to the field.	
May 31	Saturday	CMB Member Day @ Lenn Model Airpark Has been cancelled! However, It has become a Club “Pizza & Soda” Open Flying Day CD: Gordon Collyer	All Day

Remember to Be SAFE

Nic

Treasurer’s Pilot Box: Nic Burhans

- As of 15 May, the Barnstormers have 47 members. (17 Regular members, 27 Senior members, 2 Junior member, 1 Associate member, and No Life members).

- As of 15 April, the Club has a balance of \$4,275.87 in the general fund.

Be Safe

Nic

Safety Officer's Pilot Box: Ernie Padgette

Rehobath Model Aircraft Association (RMAA)

Our old friend Kwang Ko has resurrected his flying field, now located at his private farm and known as the RMAA. And he's offering a special deal for FARM and CMB members.

First of all, Kwang is going to host a special By Invitation Only fly-in for FARM and CMB members only on June 7th. Nic has already advertised that event (see below), and you don't want to miss it. In addition, Kwang is offering a special membership price for FARM and CMB members. If you're a member of either club, you can join RMAA for half price; \$150.00.

I will place some membership applications in the green box. I'd suggest you join the rest of us on June 7th and take a good look at Kwang's new home and flying field before deciding if you'd like to join RMAA.

This is a cooperative venture between all three clubs; and one that I think you should consider; especially if you want to watch or fly very large model planes and/or turbine jets. Thanks; Ernie P.

Previously posted by Nic Burhans:

All,

- Hold the date: **June 7th 2025 !**

- Why: Because Kwang Ko will be holding a **Fun Fly and Cookout** for CMB and FARM club members **ONLY** to introduce us to his new home/flying facility.

- Where: Kwang's Rehoboth Model Aircraft Association and new home at 15393 Kelly Ford Road, Remington, VA 22743

- When: Arrival after 0800.

- Kwang's jet capable Runway will be available from 0900 to 1500 for your big and small aircraft flying enjoyment.

- This event is Free of charge and open **ONLY** to all CMB and FARM club members.

- Just in case, the rain date will be **June 21st, 2025**.

- No Club specific items this month.

Ernie

Field Marshal's Pilot Box: Bobby Hurst

Mowing Note:

The field is looking much better than it did earlier this Spring, thanks to all the hard work from the mowing crew. The runway has been rolled (thank you, Nic & Gordon!) and most of the dandelions have disappeared. I plan to send out reminders to those involved in the weekly mowing schedule each week, so please let me know if you have any conflicts so we can back-fill.

We are looking for feedback on when works best for mowing the field. We currently aim to mow on Fridays, adjusted for weather conditions, but I think a number of people like to fly on Friday mornings. If you have had to cut flight-time short or avoid the field due to mowing, please let me know and I can adjust the schedule to avoid the dates/times so you have more opportunities to fly.

NOTE: For those who use RealFlight or other RC flight simulators, I've recorded a 360-degree panorama with my Anafi drone of the Lenn Airfield that (according to AI) can be used with a custom airport. If you have a 360-panorama viewer on a computer/cell phone it should also work. The aspect ratio may need adjustment for the flight Simulator, and I'll work with Nic/Gordon to get the highest-resolution version posted so people can access it. Please pass on any feedback or requests for panoramas from different perspectives if you need them.



If you have any questions or thoughts, please reach out. Happy flying!

Bobby

Member at Large Pilot Box: Al Hampton

- See above.
- No other Club specific items this month.

Al H

Member at Large Pilot Box: Bill Pratt

- Bill is recovering from surgery No Club specific items this month.

Bill P

Member at Large Pilot Box: Bill Towne

- No Club specific items this Month.

Bill T

Member at Large Pilot Box: Jay Zompanti

- No Club specific items this Month.

Jay Z

Training Officer's Pilot Box: Gordon Collyer

- No Club specific training items this month.

Gordon

Web Master's Pilot Box: Dick Sutton

- No Club specific website items this Month.

Dick

“CMB Tips and Projects Jar”: All CMB Members

- Growing the Hobby, One Flight at a Time

As many of you know by now, I'm all about promoting the RC hobby — not just within our clubs, but throughout the surrounding communities. You've likely seen that passion reflected in my efforts to establish **LOWCRC**, our park flyer club here in **Lake of the Woods**.

For me, there's always been a clear purpose: **serving the community** through entertainment, education, and hands-on experiences that show just how exciting and rewarding this hobby can be.

While we've had to make a few adjustments along the way, I remain fully committed to the mission of outreach. As the **Chairman of the Events Committee at CMB**, I want to extend a warm invitation to **anyone with ideas**, enthusiasm, or a little time to spare — if you're willing to help share RC with Culpeper and the surrounding areas, I'd love to work with you!

I also strongly believe in **club collaboration**. Whether it's joining forces with nearby RC groups or combining the energy of **CMB and LOWCRC**, I'm excited about the opportunities we have to reach new people and show them the fun, learning, and camaraderie this hobby offers.

Thanks in advance to all of you who continue to offer support, share your knowledge, and help keep this amazing community growing. I look forward to building more together — both in the air and on the ground!

See you at the field,

Al Hampton

Member “From the Field” Anything Input Box: All CMB Members

- Al Hampton

LOWCRC Club Update – Kicking Off the 2025 Flying Season!

Hello friends,

Well, gents — the season is officially underway, and I've got some exciting updates to share about the **Lake of the Woods Community RC Club (LOWCRC #5595, AMA Sanctioned)**.

Community Outreach & Online Presence

We've been making steady progress in getting our name out there! I've begun listing upcoming events on the **Lake of the Woods community calendar** and sharing updates through the **Facebook group** and **Nextdoor app**. While we're holding off on advertising in the community newspaper due to costs (trying to let the club funds grow a bit), we now have a **simple one-page website** up and running at [LOWCRC.com](https://www.lowcrc.com) — which includes a **Google Calendar** to help everyone stay in the loop.

Discover Drones: First Class Recap

On **May 8th**, we hosted our very first beginner-focused drone class, **“Discover Drones.”** It was a classroom-style session with static displays and open Q&A for those curious about drone tech or the club in general. While attendance was modest, the session was a success — we've already gained a few interested newcomers, and I've started working one-on-one with one attendee on basic flight training!

This was our first real step toward building beginner-friendly education into our club culture — and more classes are on the way.

Upcoming Classes & Interests

Based on field conversations and growing interest, I'm currently planning a future class focused on **RadioMaster transmitters** and **EdgeTX programming**. These radios offer a cost-effective, flexible path into the RC world, especially for beginners — and I'd love to hear if this type of class interests you. Better yet, if you're willing to teach or co-teach a beginner class of your own (sponsored by LOWCRC), please reach out!

June 28th Open House – Volunteers Needed!

Mark your calendars: our **club open house** is officially set for **Friday, June 28th from 1:00–8:00 PM**. We've reserved **both indoor and outdoor space** for seven hours total, including setup and breakdown.

Here's what we're hoping to showcase:

Flight demos of fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and multirotors (outdoors)

Static displays of RC aircraft and ground vehicles

Greeters and club ambassadors to help welcome guests

It is now an official AMA Sanctioned event. If you're interested in flying, displaying, or helping out in any way, please email me at aeh0528@gmail.com or LOWCRC@gmail.com.

Note: Indoor flying is not currently approved, but I'll be working with the community coordinator to explore options for micro flyers or ultra-light aircraft inside the gym.

Float Fly & Pop-Up Events

In the works: a **Float Fly demo** sometime in **late July** — more details coming soon!

I'm also organizing smaller **pop-up events** throughout the summer, including **RC trail truck meetups** and casual flying get-togethers. Keep an eye on the calendar and social channels!

Membership Goals & Forms

If you're ready to join LOWCRC or know someone who is, membership forms are available on the website. For **FARM or CMB members** who don't have a local resident sponsor — feel free to list **me** as your sponsor!

My current goal is to reach **10 resident adult members** this year — though of course, the more, the merrier!

Final Thanks

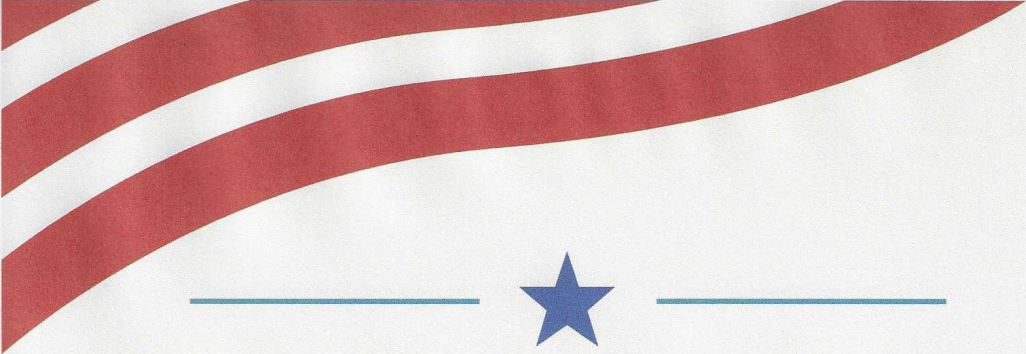
Many thanks to Gordon for creating and presenting information at the Discover Drones Class! Also, as always, I want to say a heartfelt **thank you** for the support, encouragement, and energy that many of you have contributed — especially **Gordon, Jay, and Nic**, who've gone above and beyond to help us get LOWCRC off the ground.

I'm truly excited for what this club can become and can't wait to see the friendships, learning, and flying that happen in the seasons to come.

Let's make this an incredible year for RC in our community!

Warm regards,

Al Hampton




FUN FLY AND COOK OUT

****Free of charge and open to all CMB GSAA and FARM club members****

POC – jay.zompanti@gmail.com

Please reply to jay.zompanti@gmail.com if attending. Attendance is capped at 30 participants.

Where – RMAA Field 15393 Kelly's Ford Road, Remington, VA 22734

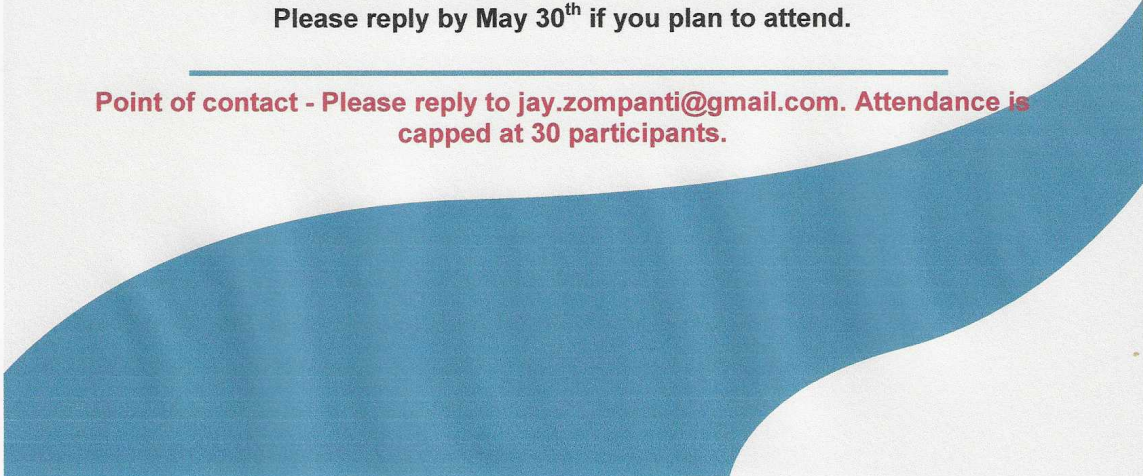
When – June 7th 2025 – Rain Date June 21st 2025

Arrival time starts at 0800

Flying starts at 0900 – Ending at 1500

Please reply by May 30th if you plan to attend.

Point of contact - Please reply to jay.zompanti@gmail.com. Attendance is capped at 30 participants.



CMB CLUB 2024 OFFICERS

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Vice President	Jim Restel	540-718-6617
Secretary	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Treasurer/Contact Point . .	Nic Burhans	540-219-9646
Safety Officer	Ernie Padgett	540-439-6085
Field Marshall	Bobby Hurst	501-766-7349
Webmaster.	Dick Sutton	rsutton43@comcast.net
Training Coordinator . . .	Gordon Collyer	540-547-4117

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Publishing input deadline is the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please forward all inputs (Pictures in jpg format) to:
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Our Club web site is: <http://www.cmbclubrc.com>