Flare-out
TWIN CITY RADIO CONTROLLERS, INC. Newsletter
AMA Charter Club Number 383
TCRC
September Minneapolis, Minnesota U.S.A. 2026

TCRC Hosts Model Aviation Day In August

by Tim Wirtz

Model Aviation Day, or MAD, started out on Saturday, August 22nd at TCRC's Jordan Field with a mild breeze that switched from the northeast to the northwest and back throughout most of the day. As the day went on, it became stronger but never unmanageable. Thaddeus, Tom Young, Brian Johnson and I were all there about 9:00 to set up. The field looked great, thanks to the mowing crew mowing right before the event. The geese had been making their presence known both in person and in presents left on the runways and pits area. The author took a broom and worked to remove some of the deposits from the walkway and pits area. Other members began showing up about 9:30 and helped with the setup and, in the end, we had 13 pilots and 39 planes representing both civilian and military aircraft, as well as many non-scale aircraft.



The spectator turnout was lower than we had hoped but we were competing with Grassfield RC, who had been promoting their MAD on the television news and social media heavily. Even some of our members chose to attend Grassfield RC's event rather than ours. We probably could have done more advertising, but we had flyers in the two remaining hobby shops and on our Facebook page. If someone has an idea for publicity next year, the author is open to any and all suggestions.

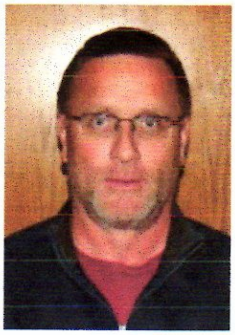
We had a great time flying the different aircraft. Jim Ronhovde flew his Witch, though she had a rough landing due to a 'broom propulsion device' malfunction. The broomstick is repairable and we expect to see her on the Nimbus 2000 model (nod to Harry Potter fans) soon. We attempted to shoot the author's Carl Goldberg Eagle 63 out of the sky with paintballs. The plane took multiple hits to the fuselage and wing, even breaking two ribs in the wing, yet kept flying. The author piloted the plane as close to the shooters as slowly and safely as possible, allowing for some great hits on the aircraft. We also had some glider tows and parachute drops throughout the day, with children running to catch the parachutists.

Lunch was served at about 11:30 with the author showing his impress-

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A Note from The Head Wing Nut

By Bob Briesemeister



Happy Fall but not quite yet as summer seems to be holding on for a few more weeks with the temperatures in the 80s. Fall doesn't really arrive until the Autumnal Equinox on September 22nd. Fall is a great time for flying but with the days getting shorter there is less time in the evening, so you need to get your flights in earlier in the day.

The hunting land to the North of the TCRC airfield is being rented by a new person this year. He is a nephew of Roger Preston, the owner of the property. Roger is trying to sell the property, and his nephew is interested in purchasing it but wants to hunt it this year first. So, you might see him coming in and out setting up tree stands and cutting trails. He has installed a few trail camaras already. This is a good reminder to wear an orange vest when going into the woods to recover a lost airplane.

The September membership meeting on the 8th will be the last meeting at the flying field this year. As always there will be food at 5:30 and the meeting at 7 o'clock. With the shorter days there is not much time for flying after the meeting so come early and get some flights in.

I'm still talking with the City of Bloomington to try and persuade Three Rivers Park District to allow us to have a fall float fly at Bush Lake, but time is running out. I'm checking out a couple of other options.

The TCRC Fall Swap Meet will be held on September 26th at the flying field starting at 8am. The Swap Meet is open to anyone with no table fee. The field will be open for flying to current AMA members. There will be food and beverages available. Grassfield's R/C club is holding their swap meet on Sunday the 13th of September.

Crocktoberfest is the final official flying event for the year on October 3rd. This event will of course have open flying with some games and contests mixed in, and the paint ball gun will be there.

The Banquet will be held on Sunday November 22nd. We have held the Banquet at Fong's in Prior Lake in the past. The owners of Fong's have decided to retire and close the restaurant. The banquet will be held at the Evert McClay VFW in Bloomington. The menu will be spaghetti and pasta dishes, and a cash bar will be available. More details in the October newsletter.

Happy Flying!

☺

Calendar

Sept. 8	**TCRC Meeting** **At The Field** **Jordan Flying Site** **5:30 PM Dinner** **7:00 PM Meeting**
Sept. 13	**Grassfield RC Club** **Swap Meet** **Brooklyn Park, MN** **8:00 AM -1:00 PM**
Sept. 26	**Fall Swap Meet** **TCRC Flying Field** **8:00 AM - Noon** **Bob Breisemeister**
Oct. 3	**Crocktoberfest** **Season Finale** **TCRC Jordan Field** **Brian Johnson**
Oct. 13	**TCRC Meeting** **CrossPoint Church** **7:00 PM**

Always Wear An Orange Vest To Retrieve A Plane

The Minnesota Deer Hunting Season hasn't started yet.

However, if for any reason you go into the woods while at the Jordan field, still put on an orange vest! This is a club requirement!

If your airplane does go down in the woods, the orange vests are quite close. The orange vests are stored in the rafters of the shelter and easy to reach.

Be safe! Wear an orange vest anytime you have to retrieve an airplane.

☺

Model Aviation Day 2026

Continued From Page 1

ive grill master skills. We had hamburgers, hot dogs, and polish sausages, along with chips and even some cookies that someone brought.

We had a person join the club at the event and you can see his name in the New Members section of the newsletter. He and his wife were both very eager to participate in the club and his wife actually helped a lot with the clean-up at the end of the day.

MAD wrapped up about 3:00 but the author didn't leave until nearly 5:00. Some of this was due to clean up, though a lot was done by 3:00, but the main reason is that he left both the driver's door and the liftgate open the whole time and had a dead battery. DOH!! After calling another member for help, he realized that there were jumper cables in the shed and a perfectly good tractor with a battery to provide the jump. After charging the car for 15 minutes, it started right up. This can serve as a gentle reminder to CLOSE YOUR DOORS……

Thanks to all of the TCRC members who came out to show off our hobby and make the 2026 edition of Model Aviation Day a nice success.
☺

TCRCOnline.com & Discord

Use Them!

A Beautiful Day To Display Beautiful Airplanes



The guys had done a great job of getting the Jordan Field into shape for MAD. (Photo by Tim Wirtz)

They Couldn't Bring Her Down!



TCRC's Target Plane sustained many direct hits and just kept on flying. (Photo by Tim Wirtz)

2025 Walt Billett Award Presented Belatedly At August Meeting

by Tom Hall

The most prestigious award that can be given by TCRC is the Wall Billett Award. This award is given to a member of TCRC who demonstrates the true meaning of the hobby of building and flying model airplanes and personifies the clubs purpose: "To preserve, encourage and further develop the hobby of building and flying radio-controlled model airplanes." Traditionally, this award is presented at the TCRC Banquet in November of each year. But that didn't happen for the 2025 WBA. It took the club almost of all 2026 before that presentation was made at the August 2026 Meeting at the Field.

The recipient of the Walt Billett for the year is chosen by the past three winners of the award. In 2025 the award committee consisted of Thad Gorycki, David Erickson and Tom Hall.

Tom Hall, the 2024 WBA winner made the presentation to the 2025 winner Tom Young.



President Bob congratulates Tom Young as the 2025 Walt Billett Award winner at the August Meeting at the Field. (Photo by Tom Hall)

In making the presentation Tom Hall said that Tom Young was quite a force for TCRC. He was integral in fixing and repairing the roof line at the field, repairing and installing the new fences, a member of the field mowing team, always a presence at the auction, and almost always a part of any event that the club puts on. He has embraced Discord and contributed a great deal of information on balsa builds, gas motors, etc. And he can be found at the flying field, usually under his portable tent. When David Erickson was recovering from his brutal bout with COVID, Tom was right there with a helping hand. Tom Hall finished his praise of Tom Young by saying, "Tom may swear like an old sea captain, but he ALWAYS will help."

Congratulations, Tom, on an award well deserved albeit a bit late!

Also, at the August Meeting at the Field, 2023 WBA winner David Erickson and 2024 WBA winner Tom Hall were given their plaques.



President Bob gives David Erickson his WBA 2023 plaque.



President Bob gives Tom Hall his 2024 WBA plaque.

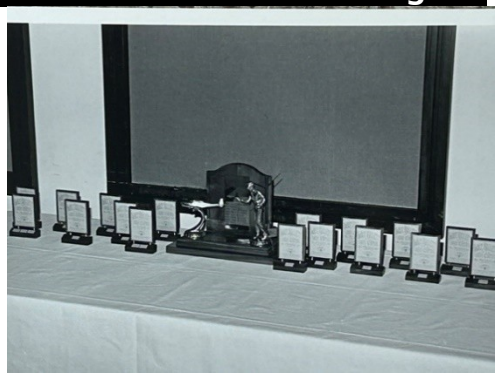
The 2026 Walt Billett Award winner will be presented his plaque at the TCRC Annual Banquet scheduled for Sunday, November 22nd at the VFW hall in Bloomington. ☺



Thirty, Forty or More Years

by Jim Ronhovde

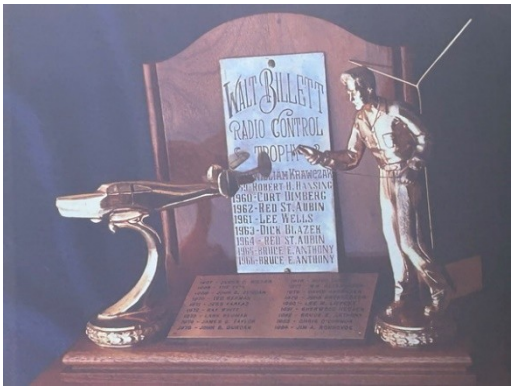




WALT BILLETT AWARD

Twin City Radio Controllers stated purpose is the criteria to award the WALT BILLETT AWARD. The award is given to the recipient on a yearly basis. Below is the stated purpose of TCRC hobby club:

To preserve encourage and further develop the hobby of building and flying radio controlled model airplanes.



The Granddaddy of Model Aviation, Walter H. Billett, is the inspiration of the TCRC WALT BILLETT AWARD. The first award was given in 1953, but that was before TCRC was a club. The trophy was not awarded again until 1959, when it came to TCRC, which was founded in 1957. The award has been given 67 times by TCRC. Since a pair of brothers and two married couples are on the list, it makes the total 70 recipients that have been honored with the award. Seventy recipients, out of over 800 members, have received the award since 1957.



The original trophy was a traveling Trophy with many ID names plates filling the open area. A decision was made to loan the trophy to the AMA Museum. It was determined that each recipient should have a physical award thus desk top design awards were selected and distributed. Starting with 1985 a wall hanging plaque was selected for personal keepsake. That design was modified for 2023 until now. TCRC further has a display board with summaries and pictures of Walt and the TCRC honor list that is displayed when desired.

The selection committee was a changing choice of members until it was decided the last three recipients would select the next year's honorary. This choice provided that likely active members would choose the following winner.

Giving the award usually spoke of ordinary comments first then going into more specific detailed items why the member was selected. All these items were based on the stated purpose of the Twin City Radio Controllers, *to preserve, encourage and further develop the hobby of flying model airplanes*. The 2026 TCRC Annual Banquet is scheduled to again award a

WALT BILLETT AWARD

Contacting The Editor

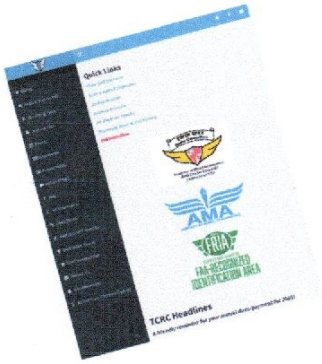
by Jim Cook

I have shut down my "Q" email address and will no longer receive emails there.

To contact me, or send an article or photos, please use my "icloud" address from now on.

Thanks.

☺



What's New with TCRC's Website?

by Tom Hall, Webmaster

Greetings TCRC Members,

"Everything will be just fine". How's that for a starting sentence?? I wanted to touch base on some website changes. A few weeks ago I learned that our Web service company, United States Internet (USI) had been sold. USI, is based in Minnetonka, Minnesota. We have enjoyed their web hosting services for the past four years. US Internet was bought out by a company called Metronet which is a joint venture between T-Mobile and the investment firm KKR. Unfortunately, Metronet has no plans to host web services. So over the next 89 days (we have until November) we will move our website to a new company that hosts web servicing. During this time we are looking for Web Service Providers (WSPs), Internet Service Providers (ISP), or Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) that will be able to host our web related needs. We have several WSPs to choose from and are comparing costs to host our TCRC website.



So, what does this all mean to me, a TCRC member? You may not even notice any change in our website over the next 89 days. There will be some work behind the scenes to configure our website to the new web host's configurations. Everything with the website and Discord will keep functioning and provide communications to you and the other members of TCRC.

I wanted you to be aware of this change, without worrying about anything having to do with the TCRC website or Discord. I will personally send you notes if we hit a snag. Regardless, when the TCRC websites settles into it's new location, I will let everyone know. In the mean time no worries, and enjoy the communications found in the the TCRC website.
☺

TCRC Banquet Change



For many years the TCRC Annual Banquet has been held on a Saturday in November at David Fong's Restaurant in Prior Lake.

Unfortunately, Fong's is closing its doors and TCRC had to find a new venue for the event.

In 2026, the TCRC Annual Banquet will be held on Sunday, November 22nd, at the Evert McClay VFW located at 311 West 84th Street in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Even though the location and day have changed, the banquet will still be the sane enjoyable event it has always been.

Make plans to attend the TCRC Annual Banquet on Sunday, November 22nd. ☺

TCRC meets every month on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall of CrossPoint Church located on the southeastern corner of the intersection of 98th Street and France Avenue in Bloomington. Guests are welcome to attend these meetings.

Scale RC Flying In The Upper Midwest

by Scott Anderson

I have been so impressed with the number and quality of RC pilots in our region. We have so many options available to share our interests and passions in the hobby of building and flying radio controlled model aircraft. Ever since I started flying, I've been interested in building and flying scale models of famous full-size aircraft. Many members of TCRC are also members of the Scale Flyers of Minnesota, a group dedicated to scale RC models of any size or type. David P. Andersen, a 50-year member of TCRC, is a founder. Another special interest group is the Warbirds & Classics Alliance that organizes large meets across the country where giant-scale modelers can gather and fly together. Two of the original events originated here in Minnesota and Wisconsin: The Northern Alliance Military Fly-In (NAMFI) in Owatonna, Minnesota, and the Warbirds & Classics Over the Midwest in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.



The Owatonna event is usually the 1st weekend of August running from Thursday through Saturday with open flying on Sunday. The Fond du Lac event follows the second week after Owatonna. Many pilots drive from as far away as Arizona and Oklahoma to fly both weeks!

The Owatonna NAMFI event is hosted by the Southern Minnesota Model Aviation Club (SMAAC) on a superb field provided by founding member Tim Johnson. SMAAC Field is just southwest of Owatonna and an easy day trip from the Cities. TCRC members Chris O'Connor & Steve Meyer have been providing volunteers and acting as AIR BOSS for flight line safety and coordination for many years. This year the contest director was (former TCRC member) Mike Danielson. There were over 100 pilots registered and nearly 300 aircraft on display. Flying started Monday night and continued through Sunday. Attendees had the option to rent tents from a local event supplier, or bring their own.

We flew everything from an electric powered ¼-scale 1915 Fokker EIII Eindekker to four models of the turbine powered Lockheed Martin F35 Lightning II! Some of the largest models had wingspans approaching 20 feet! I brought 3 of my own aircraft but unfortunately, I had injured my foot limiting my mobility, so I volunteered to provide some color commentary over the PA system. The event officially ended Saturday after the raffle where lucky attendees bought tickets to win great prizes.

Special thanks to all the TCRC volunteers who helped make this event possible! (Chris & Nate O'Connor, Steve Meyer, Bob Briesemeister, Brian Johnson and several others)

Once we finished in Owatonna, many attendees turned their cars/trucks & trailers to eastern Wisconsin to join the Fond du Lac Aeromodelers on the south side of Fond du Lac. This is an incredible flying site on a grass strip with a 1,300 foot long by 400 foot wide runway. The grass is so well maintained that you can spend the entire week barefoot and comfortable. I pitted next to Chris & Nate

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Scale Flyers Of The Midwest

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O'Connor, Mark Wolf, Steve Meyer and the Oklahoma Boys this year. We chose to rent tents that we could also use for aircraft storage overnight. It was fun to share the excitement with over 300 of our best friends! There were nearly 600 giant-scale aircraft on display or in the air! Contest Director Doug Yaroch made everyone feel welcome!
When we were not flying, we'd be spotting for other pilots or helping them get ready for the next flight. I enjoyed being part of the Dawn Patrol flying my Hangar 9 ¼-scale Fokker D-VII. After the flying was done each day, pilots would gather for a beverage, a snack or dinner. My favorite is the trip to Kelley's Creamery for fresh made ice cream!

It was hard to pack-up Saturday and load the van for the trip home but I did get my registration in for 2027!

The following week we had the Komro Warbirds & Classics Event at Buck Knob near Durand, Wisconsin. This is a small event running the Friday & Saturday after Fond du Lac. Durand is located an hour drive east of Hastings. It is a beautiful field that is a private airport for an aviation enthusiast and RC pilot. It is the ONLY flying site I've ever seen where stuffed couches are placed near the flight line for the comfort of pilots and their guests. The host club is the Western Wisconsin Model Aero Club. I have a number of images.

Plan on attending next year!
It's worth the drive!

At Owatonna The Planes Are Really Big!!!



The warbirds at Owatonna were big and beautiful!
(Photos by Scott Anderson)

There Were Plenty of Turbine Jets To Be Seen At Owatonna



A gathering of just a few jet warbirds at Owatonna.

Pictures From Scale Flyers Of The Midwest



A giant-scale warbird over the fields of Owatonna.



Scott Anderson doesn't often miss any of the big scale flying events in the Midwest.



A classy Eindekker at Fond du Lac.



The piloting area at Durand.



Fond du Lac certainly had some huge aircraft the pits, hangers and in the air.

Photos by Scott Anderson



Sunset on the beautiful flying site in Durand, Wisconsin.

The Workshop



Brian Johnson
Vice President

Hello and welcome to the workbench!

We are going to step out of the shop for this article and head out to the field because eventually we need to put all this blood, sweat, and tears to work!

Fall is approaching fast and I must say, that is one of my favorite times of the year. The air gets a little cooler and many of the summertime pests that we find outdoors begin to take a little break. To me, fall weather brings some of the best flying of the season. With the days getting a little shorter, it is very easy to spend nearly a full day from dawn to dusk assembling planes, tuning engines, flying, shooting the breeze, charging batteries and engaging in some good-natured ribbing with fellow club members.

That brings me to the topic of the day-Crocktoberfest!

Crocktoberfest is one of my favorite club events every year, and I am not just saying that because I am biased since it has been my event for the last handful of years. This event has taken on several different characteristics over the years. At one point in time, it was a potluck and everyone would bring their favorite crockpot recipe to share (hence the name-Crocktoberfest). Given that early October can have weather that can range from below freezing in the morning to mid-eighties in the afternoon, it was nice to have a hot meal on the days where the weather leaned to the cooler side of the spectrum!

We have also organized fun fly events where everyone got to test their skills in things like an egg drop, combat, touch and go contest, and my favorite the dead stick competition.

We usually also have a plane or two that get sacrificed to the balsa or foam gods by way of a paintball gun.

Despite many of these events coming and going each year, there has been one theme that I have never been willing to compromise and that is to have a whole boat load of fun! Because this is not an event that is open to the public, Crocktoberfest is an event for club members to get together as the season is waning and let our hair down. I have received a lot of ideas from a lot of members who have suggestions to make the event more fun, interesting, and engaging and I do my best to make sure each suggestion gets considered and put into practice in ways that are fun and safe for everyone.

This year we will let the fun fly events be more of a “pick up” format. If you have an idea for something to try, let me know and we will try to get it going on the spot. I will bring some of the usual equipment like streamers, rubber bands, cups, etc. so that we have supplies. I would like to see the creativity (glider combat? Tom???).

If you have a project you are working on, bring it out and show it off. Not everything that shows up has to fly, and getting a larger group together is a great opportunity to ask questions, share knowledge, and even trade a secret two that only experience can bring.

The pandemic of 2020 kind of killed the whole crockpot thing and I have never resurrected that piece, but I am not opposed. As usual we will serve lunch and make sure everyone has food and drinks available, but if you want to bring something to share, please do. I am sure nobody would be too disappointed in having an extra dessert or two! Who knows, if there are a lot of people wanting to share we may get future events back to the roots of a genuine potluck.
Last year Ken cooked up walking tacos and that was well received so I am thinking we will do something similar this year for the club sponsored portion of the food.

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The Workshop

Continued From Page 10

Hopefully, I will see all of you out at the field on the 3rd of October. It will be a great time to close out the flying season (does the flying season ever really end?) and officially kick off the building season! See you at Crocktoberfest on Saturday, October 3rd.

New Members

TCRC gained two new members in August. One joined at the meeting and one joined while attending Model Aviation Day.

Michael Guncheon lives at14046 Autumn Trail in Shakopee 55379. His phone number is 612-839-9202, and his email address is michel@guncheon.com. Michael flew R/C for 4 or 5 years and then took a long break before getting back in the hobby. He currently is flying an electric T-28.

John Sanders lives at 4161 Xenwood Avenue S in St. Louis Park 55416. His phone number is 612-741-0238, and his email address is tmjsanders@comcast.net. John has been flying for about 2 years and currently has an Apprentice, an Ultra Stick and a Decathlon.

When you see Michael and John at a meeting or the field, be sure and introduce yourself and welcome them to TCRC.



The TCRC Membership meeting on September 8th will be held at the Jordan Field as the last of four meetings-at-the-field.

The grill will be on and dinner will be served at 5:30 PM. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM. Bring a plane and get some flying in before enjoying a dinner on the club before the meeting.

This will be the last meeting for the year to be held at the flying field. The October meeting will be back at CrossPoint Church.

In case of bad weather the meeting will be at its normal time of 7:00 PM at CrossPoint Church in Bloomington.

Show & Tell Data Form

Bringing a plane to the TCRC meeting for Show & Tell?

If you are, be sure to go to the club website TCRCOnline.com and print out a blank Show & Tell Data Form. Fill this out and make sure it gets to the newsletter editor, Jim Cook so that the correct information shows up about your new airplane in the newsletter.

Someone at the meeting should get a photo of your plane and your data sheet so it gets to the editor and into the next newsletter.

THE TCRC FLARE OUT
Monthly Newsletter

****TWIN CITY RADIO CONTROLLERS INC.****

Purpose: To preserve, encourage, and further develop the hobby of building and flying radio controlled model airplanes.

2026 Officers

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Secretary	**Ken Weddell 952-500-3446**
Treasurer	**Tim Wirtz 952-941-5357**

TCRC Flare Out

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Website: http://www.tcrconline.com

Owatonna Action



Scott Anderson's pix of Mark Johnson's electric 12-foot Jenny and Opie Louge's Vickers Vimy Bomber in flight over Owatonna at the Military Fly-in.

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TWIN CITY Radio Controllers
TCRC
TCRC SWAP MEET AND FUN FLY
Sat., Sept. 26, 8:00
TCRC Jordan Air Park
18266 West Sioux Vista Drive
Jordan, MN 55352
Swap Meet:
Large, open area to park
No table fee - BYO Table
Flying:
Freshly paved runways
All active AMA members welcome to fly
All aircraft types welcome
Contact Bob Briesemeister
(612) 964-8877

GRASSFIELD RC CLUB
SWAP MEET
Sunday, September 13th • 8 AM – 1 PM
8901 101st Ave N , Brooklyn Park, MN 55449
AMA Club Charter #1405

Looking For A Great R/C Club?

If you are into the hobby of flying R/C airplanes, or thinking about getting into the hobby, Twin City Radio Controllers is the club for you.



TCRC ***owns*** 40 acres of land in Jordan, Minnesota and has paved runways, taxiways and pits on that land for flying model aircraft. There is also a shelter and a dedicated parking lot on the property. The club also owns all of the equipment necessary to keep the land well maintained.

The Jordan site is an FAA Recognized Identification Area (FRIA) and TCRC members do not have to have a broadcast module on their aircraft while flying at the site.

To be a member of TCRC, a pilot must be a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and be registered with the FAA. The club helps new members with these registrations.

The club also has an auxiliary flying site just two miles away from the Jordan Field if the Jordan Field is not available.

To be a member of TCRC there is a one-time initiation fee for new members in the amount of $75.00. The annual dues are:

Adult	$105.00	
Family	$105.00	
Junior	$ 47.50	(Under 16 years of age)
Social	4 0.00	

TCRC has monthly meetings October thru May at Crosspoint Church located at 98th Street and France Avenue at 7:00 PM. The meetings for the months June, July, August, and September are held at the Jordan Field at 5:00 PM, weather permitting. At the indoor meeting, there is usually a program about building or flying R/C aircraft.

Additional benefits of being a TCRC member are several members-only flying events, a spring and fall float fly on Bush Lake in Bloomington, the largest upper Midwest R/C annual auction, and being able to have access to members with vast experience in the hobby.

To become a member of TCRC you can contact Tim Wirtz at 952-941-5357, or visit TCRCOnline.com, or come to a monthly meeting, or stop by the Jordan Field located at 18304 Sioux Vista Trail in Jordan. ☺

Fond du Lac Warbirds Photos

Photos by Scott Anderson from Warbirds and Classics Over the Midwest that was held in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin in August:





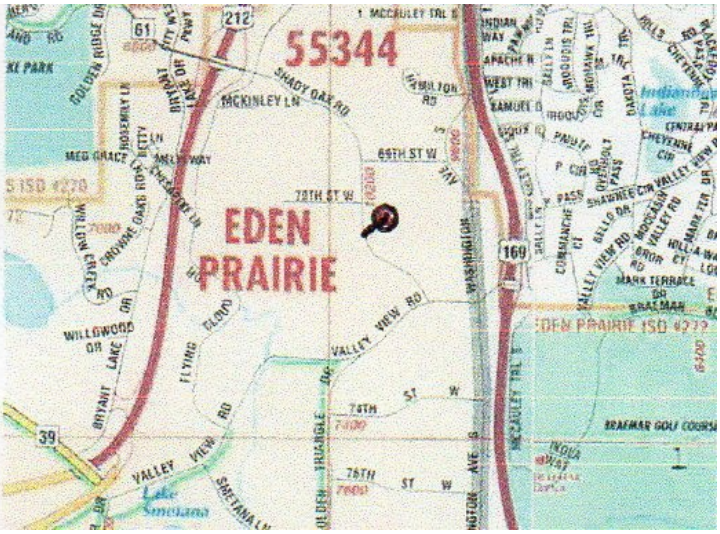




Twin City Radio Controllers



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