

How to submit articles and photos to RC Soaring Digest

by Bill & Bunny Kuhlman

To reiterate, *RC Soaring Digest* is a reader-written publication. There are no paid staff behind the scenes. All of the articles which have appeared in *RCSD* over the years were produced by authors who read an issue of the magazine and decided to sit down and share some of their knowledge with others having an interest in RC soaring. While the pages of *RCSD* have been graced with the words and images of professional writers and photographers, the vast majority of the published material has come from readers with no professional credentials. *RCSD* welcomes submissions with an RC soaring focus - articles, columns, reviews, and photos.

Possible subjects include, but are not limited to: theory and practice, design, construction materials and methods, electronics, flying skills, trimming, event coverage, weather, launch equipment, radio gear, aircraft, airfoils, aerodynamics, people, books, photography, adhesives, flying sites, humor, software, new products, AMA and FAI rules... For more ideas regarding subject matter, check out the *RC Soaring Digest* Index which is available from the *RCSD* web site <<http://www.rcsoaringdigest.com>>.

The decision to write for *RC Soaring Digest* is for most people the most difficult part of the submission process.

Keep in mind the *RCSD* editors and columnists stand ready to support the committed author, from assisting with topic development to helping with grammar and punctuation and reviewing technical aspects.

RCSD has no minimum or maximum article length, although articles of exceptional length may be published in parts. As well, there are no restrictions on the number or the size of images.

Your completed article will likely consist of both text and images. When sending materials to *RCSD*, be sure to separate any images from the text. Do not embed images in a document or send material in EXE format.

Text may be created in Microsoft Word or just about any other application you may be using, whether a simple text editor or a full blown desktop publishing program. Don't worry about margins, line spacing, fonts, or similar formatting issues. ZIP the final document and send it to us as an e-mail attachment. We may ask that you resubmit it in Rich Text Format (RTF) if we have difficulties opening your document, so be sure to keep a copy of your submission in your computer.

Images are a bit more complicated, but things can be made easier by following a few simple rules.

Line drawings should be submitted in any of the following formats: Adobe Illustrator, Postscript, or as either TIFF or GIF images. TIFF and GIF images must have a published resolution of at least 300 dpi (1200 x 1800 pixels for a 4" x 6" image), but 600 dpi or more is preferred and 1200 dpi is ideal.

Photographs, either color or "black and white," can be submitted electronically and should be in either TIFF or JPG formats. There is one simple rule for photo quality: The more pixels the better! The minimum size is 1600 pixels wide by 1200 pixels high, and images 3,000 by 2,000 pixels and larger are very much appreciated.

Print photos may be submitted as long as they are at least four by five inches and yes, they will be returned.

A word or two about JPG images... The less compression the better. The best JPG images are those downloaded directly from your digital camera, as once you re-save a JPG image there's an irretrievable loss of image quality - color and detail both deteriorate. Copying an image file from a Compact Flash card or other medium to a CD does not cause image deterioration, but deterioration does occur if the image is opened in Photoshop and is then saved using a different file name, whether it's actually manipulated by Photoshop or not.

TIFF images can be compressed using file compression software (ZIP or SIT). JPG and GIF, on the other hand, are already compressed formats and images in these formats do not appreciably benefit from compression.

Submitted materials should be sent in via e-mail attachment to <rcsdigest@themacisp.net>. If the number or size of files is large, we encourage you to send photos to our alternate e-mail address which has a very much larger mailbox, <rcsdigest@centurytel.net>. Burning a CD is also a viable option. Make sure the CD is created using a data files format which can be read by both Windows and Macintosh systems. Floppies are still a viable medium for us as well.

The deadline for submissions is normally the 15th of the month prior to the cover date. That is, January 15th for the February issue, etc.

And remember, if a subject is of interest to you, there are sure to be other *RC Soaring Digest* readers with a similar interest.

If you can talk about RC soaring you can certainly write about RC soaring!

We look forward to your contributions!