

How to submit articles and photos to *RC Soaring Digest*

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. There is no minimum or maximum article length. (Articles of exceptional length may be published in parts.) As well, there are no restrictions on the number or the maximum 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. If we have difficulties opening your document, we may ask that you re-submit it in Rich Text Format (RTF) or as an ordinary email message, so be sure to keep a copy 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; 600 dpi or more is preferred. As an example, if a TIFF or GIF graph is to be published at a size of 4" x 6", the image we receive must be at least 1200 x 1800 pixels.

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.

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 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 image files can be made smaller using compression software, resulting in ZIP or SIT files. JPG and GIF images should not be compressed, as doing so does not make the resulting file significantly smaller than the original.

Print photos may be submitted as long as they are at least four by five inches and yes, they will be returned. Just make sure there is some sort of stiffening material which will prevent accidental (or intentional) bending.

Submitted materials may be sent in via e-mail attachment to <bsquared@rcsoaringdigest.com>. Burning a CD is also a viable option, just make sure the CD is created using a data files format (ISO-9660) which can be read by both Windows and Macintosh systems. Another option is the use of Dropbox <<http://www.dropbox.com>>. If you have a Dropbox account, simply place the file(s) in the Public folder and send us the URL(s); we'll download the materials and let you know when the process is complete so you can regain the space. (Free Dropbox accounts provide a minimum of 2GB.) Or we can set up a Dropbox Shared folder from this end. This option provides a simple means of two-way file exchange.

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!