

# THE PINNACLE

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Gold Leader Club AMA Charter #340

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## ***Event Calendar***

- Jan 6, 2010 (Wed) - Club Meeting: Indoor Fun Fly, 7:30@CCT
- Feb 3, 2010 (Wed) - Club Meeting: Italian Banquet, 6:30@CCT, (regular meeting follows at 8:00)
- Feb 13, 2010 (Wed) - Winter Fun Fly, Ogonowski Field
- Mar 28, 2010 (Sun) - Art Alfano's 21st Annual Invitational Scale Show, CCT
- May 1, 2009 (Sat) - Opening Day, Ogonowski Field
- May 5, 2010 (Wed) - Club Meeting: Winter Project Show-n-Tell, 7:30@CCT
- May 15, 2010 (Sat) - Glider Fun Fly, Ogonowski Field
- Jun 19-20, 2010 (Sat/Sun) - Annual Helicopter Fun Fly, Ogonowski Field
- Jul 7, 2010 (Wed) - Club Meeting: Ice Cream Social!!, 7:30@CCT
- Jul 10, 2010 (Sat) - Summer Fun Fly, Ogonowski Field
- Aug 14, 2010 (Sat) - Summer Fun Fly, Ogonowski Field
- Sep 1, 2010 (Wed) - Club Meeting: Annual Swap Meet, 7:30@CCT
- Sep 11, 2009 (Sat) - Annual Member Picnic, Ogonowski Field
- Sep 25, 2010 (Sat) - 'Toys For Tots' Fun Fly, Ogonowski Field
- Oct 2, 2010 (Wed) - Scout and Rocketry Day, Ogonowski Field
- Oct 9, 2010 (Sat) - Fall Fun Fly, Groton Field
- Nov 3, 2010 (Wed) - Club Meeting: Annual Club Business Meeting, 7:30@CCT

Note that some events and dates are tentative and subject to change.

# ***Indoor Fun-Fly***

**O**n Jan. 6th, 2009, the 495th R/C Squadron, Inc. will host an Indoor Fun-Fly for eFlite Blade CX2 and MCX class electric helicopters at the regular monthly meeting. There will be two events per class, and we expect to be awarding \$10 cash prizes (subject to BOD approval) to the winning contestants.

The Events are:

**Slalom:** Four hoops in a row that you fly round trip in a slalom. Another hoop on the ground is the takeoff and landing point. Time is from take off to landing. Extra points (20 seconds taken off) for flying backwards through the whole course!

**Flying Lap:** One hoop is set up. A second on the ground serves as a starting/ending point. Time from take off to landing. Fly through the far hoop before landing. Fly through the hoop backwards to take 5 seconds off the time.

Just for fun we would like to try a mass hover (barring freq. conflicts) of all helicopters. Let's see how many we can fly at once!

The Indoor Fun Fly will begin promptly at 7:30PM, and will be held at the site of the regular monthly meeting.

# ***Italian Banquet Sign-Up***

**T**he February 3rd, 2010 Club meeting will feature the 5th Annual **Italian Banquet and Awards Ceremony**. Starting at 6:30PM, and running until 8PM, the Club will serve a full Italian dinner consisting of Salad, Rolls, your choice of Entree (Spaghetti/Meatballs, Lasagna, or Chicken Parmigiana), Dessert and Soft Drinks/Juices. This event is being catered by French's Restaurant of Tewksbury, and is being served at the regular meeting location by members of the BOD, and other volunteers. Following dinner, we will conduct an informal Awards Ceremony to recognize some individuals whose contributions were especially noteworthy this past year!! The regular monthly meeting will follow at approximately 8PM.

This event promises to be a lot of fun for the whole club! Won't you please plan to attend and show your support for the 495th R/C Squadron, Inc.?? Our Club is only as strong as we all make it, so let's close out a spectacular year with a great time for all!!!

**The cost for the Banquet is \$5.00 per person! Yes folks, that's right, *five dollars*, and that includes a complete dinner!!** In order to encourage member participation in this event, we are offering the banquet at a very modest fee, with the Club contributing the difference! We expect a large turn-out, so you must sign up for the Banquet in advance as we must provide the caterer with an accurate head count. This link will take you to the [registration form](#). If you do not have internet access, you may contact John Morley directly at 978-851-8895.

**You must pre-register to take part in the Banquet and Awards Ceremony. All money for the event will be collected at the door on the night of the Banquet.**

# View From Under the Rotor

*Chuck Smith, President*

**G**reetings 495th Members. I hope you are all enjoying the holidays, shopping, decorating, cooking and all that is part of this joyous season. Although winter does not officially start until December 22<sup>nd</sup> winter is officially here for me. I see the snow, feel the cold and while I do think about flying, I find myself doing other things. One of my winter habits is flying my helicopter at least once every other week, even if it is just a 2 minute hover in the driveway. I believe this helps to keep the engine lubricated and in good working order. My plane will sit for the winter, although I will spin the prop every month to keep this from sticking as well. Hopefully there will be a handful of really nice warm days left before the New England freeze arrives. I will brave the elements and give it a shot and see how long I can stand the cold.

There are a few of you out there that despite the cold, snow and ice still make it to the field with your aircraft. In the past I have seen a few sets of skis which work well off the snow while some of the smaller electric planes slide in on their bellies with no damage. I recently saw an article which suggested putting swimming pool “noodles” on your helicopter to allow you to fly off snow. So if you are brave enough to be out in the winter cold, get creative and try it out. Not only will you will be rewarded with a great day at the field, most importantly you will keep your flying skills sharp (the trick is to find a day with little to no wind and full sunshine) I hope to see some of you out at the field this winter.

As we know flying in the winter months presents some challenges for us diehards. I do have some quick words of caution. Remember that the cold will slow your fingers; affect your electronics, (battery) and make plastic very brittle. So fly gently ☺, take your time, and don't forget your preflight – this is as important as it is anytime you fly.

At another club I used to fly at infrequently, there is a private competition going on (and may still be) where each of the “contestants” (and I'll use that

term loosely) attempts to be the first person in the air in the new year. So maybe you're thinking, Ok, I can get to the field January 1 and get in a fast flight with my little electric. ☺ Try one minute after midnight bub, your already late to the contest. :D So weather dependant (of course there have been years when that first flight was in the snow), we always got an email (with a picture usually) of the First in the Air in 2010.

I'm not saying it will or won't be me at Pinnacle on January 1<sup>st</sup>. But if I do make it there, I'll be sure to post my time in case others give it a shot. Remember pictures go a long way. ☺ You may send those pictures to anyone on the board, or the newsletter editor.

Winter season in New England is also that time when most of us hobbyists pull out new projects, work on some older ones, or do maintenance work on our aircraft.

I have 4 things I want to do to my main helicopter this winter.

1. Install a new engine and muffler;
2. Replace 10 bearings from various places;
3. Install a new Curtis V3 governor; and
4. Replace something in my tail control electronics to resolve a weakness.

While I don't like to do more than one change at a time, in this case (winter), I may just do all of it at once and work out any bugs whenever I can get into the air.

This OFF season is a very good time to inspect and replace the fuel lines inside our tanks. I know from experience that the 30% fuel I run will breakdown most fuel tubing in about six months leading to failures in the air.

In preparation for the upkeep I'll be doing on my aircraft, I started cleaning my workshop which really makes the work easier and more efficient, and my wife likes to see the area clean as well ;)

Finally in winter we have the flight simulator. I had an opportunity to fly one of the popular RC flight simulators on a friend's sixty inch large screen TV last month. This was my first time on such a large screen and I can tell you this is a great way to keep your flying skills sharp.

So aside from the holiday projects, you can always find some hobby related tasks to keep your mind off the cold weather.

We have posted the 2010 club event dates on the 495<sup>th</sup> Website with a full slate of events to look forward to in the coming year. When you're at the club meetings this winter think about picking an event you'd like to attend and consider offering up your help to the person planning the event or mention it to one of the board members.

I know the next few club meetings will have some new and interesting fun events you won't want to miss. I will be sure to give you a heads up on the details in advance.

January 6<sup>th</sup> is the "Indoor Fun Fly". If you have one of those small electric helicopters, planes, flying saucers or spacemen, bring them to the club meeting in January. We will have some circuit's setup to test your skills. I believe we are limiting the size to under 400 (sized heli's)

If you haven't signed up for the Italian banquet in February there is still time. This is a great opportunity to get with everyone, enjoy the food, find out what events they may have signed up for ;), and you will surely get your five dollars worth (all you can eat).

Chuck Smith  
President, The 495<sup>th</sup> R/C Squadron, Inc

## New neat thing of the month...

*This month an Altimeter caught my eye.*

*The "How High Altimeter" (priced at \$39.90) is about the size of a postage stamp and can be fully self contained, making it easy to move it between your aircraft. This gadget would be useful if you're flying a sailplane, or just want to know, how high up you can get your aircraft and still be able to comfortably fly. It gets its power from your receiver. For an additional \$7.90 there is a very small battery pack to enable as a simple standalone unit.*

[http://www.atsrcplanes.com/how\\_high\\_altimeter.htm](http://www.atsrcplanes.com/how_high_altimeter.htm)



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### Handy links to great places:

<a href="#">495<sup>th</sup> Website</a>	<a href="#">495<sup>th</sup> Monthly Newsletter page</a>
<a href="#">495<sup>th</sup> Club By-Laws</a>	<a href="#">495th Membership Application</a>
<a href="#">Pinnacle Street Field Rules</a>	<a href="#">R/C Buyer's Warehouse</a>
<a href="#">Bill's Hobby Barn</a>	<a href="#">Bill's Hobby Mail Order Site</a>
<a href="#">R/C Groups</a>	<a href="#">Renew your AMA Membership Online</a>
<a href="#">Hobby Fever</a>	

PLEASE PATRONIZE our LOCAL R/C Suppliers!

**Bill's Hobby Barn**  
326F South Broadway  
Salem, NH 03079  
Ph: 603-898-9241

**RC Buyer's Warehouse**  
95 Northeastern Blvd  
Nashua, NH 03062  
Ph 603-595-2494

**Hobby Fever**  
279 Boston Rd. (Rt 3A)  
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