

# the PINNACLE

The Official Journal of the 495<sup>th</sup> R/C Squadron, Inc - Our 33<sup>rd</sup> Year!

Pursuing R/C Excellence. Everyday.  
AMA CHARTER #340  
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## Show & Tell With Bill Regan



### Gold Leader Club!

February Meeting

Insiders View

Instructors Corner

RC Tails

MASSACHUSETTS



THE 495<sup>TH</sup>  
R/C  
SQUADRON

AMA CHARTER #340 THE 495TH R/C SQUADRON, INC. Since 1972!

the PINNACLE

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## 495<sup>th</sup> R/C Squadron February Meeting

**Auction Night!**

**The 495th R/C Squadron, Inc.**

**27th Annual R/C Auction**

**(R/C Related Sales Only - No Private Sales)**

**Wednesday, Feb. 2nd, 2005**

**Auction from 7:00PM to 10:00PM**

**(Registration from 6:30PM to 7:00PM)**

**Admission Fee: \$2.00 at the door**

**Selling Fee: 10% of selling price to Club Treasury.**

**No Minimum Bid. If bid is lower than seller's asking price,  
the seller may "buy back" the item for 5%.**

**All items sold "as is" - no warranty explicit or implied.**

**The 495th R/C Squadron, Inc., and Joe Ramaci Auction Productions, cordially  
invite you to attend our 27th Annual Club Auction. Please plan to attend - this is  
sure to be a memorable evening for all!!**

**Congregational Church**

**10 East Street**

**Tewksbury, MA 01876**

**(Regular meeting site)**

**Raffle of Futaba 6EXA Computer Radio!!**

**Free Coffee and Donuts!!**

# From The Editor

The weather report said a storm was coming in and my flying fingers were too cold so I was glad to be able to plan a trip to California to visit electric flying in the west. I have been spreading the gospel of RC flight to my family and you may have recalled that I helped my brother acquire the parts to build a Miracle to learn aerobatics. He had experience flying gliders off the cliffs but no power flight experience. He looked around his area for a place to fly and found the Bayland Highlands state park.

Each weekend for both days a large grass field is the home of a bunch of electric flyers that have no club, no official permission to use the field, and no rules! The result is a group that flies everything you can think of in any combinations at any time and have a ball doing it! There are very few places to fly gas power in the San Francisco area due to the noise and perceived danger of gas power. It seems that there is an impression that a propeller turning 10,000RPM does less damage to a human body on contact when an electric motor is involved instead of a gas motor.

I joined in on the fun at this flying field on Jan. 22nd and met some of the regulars. A number of the electric RC companies are close by and the owners and test pilots for these companies are regulars at the field. During the day I saw the following types of aircraft fly:

- F-18 Ducted fan Jet
- Flying wings from 16 to 48 inch wingspan
- A variety of 3D flat wing profiles
- Every GWS model I have seen in hobby shops
- Super Sportster Electric ARF
- Shogun helicopter
- TRex 450 helicopter
- Pusher prop powered jet clocked at 103mph with a radar gun
- Composite pylon racer that flew faster than the jets but we could not get on the radar gun
- Discus launch gliders



When my brother found this group he was interested in the flying wings only after he saw how the group uses them. On his first visit somebody yelled "Combat" and a bunch of flying wings went into the air for full contact combat. Well, the next day my brother ordered everything to build two combat wings and wondered when I could get out to fly.

Last weekend was my introduction to these wings and what fun. It is an 16" wing with a brushless motor and a Li-Po 3 cell 300mah battery pack. These mini-wings were radar clocked at 70 mph. When combat was yelled by someone (I am not sure who started it) , six of us launched and were zipping through the sky looking for kills. A kill is when you knock a plane out of the sky and into the ground. After a couple collisions where the planes kept flying I had a loud hit on another plane. Unfortunately the propeller fell off my plane so I was out of the action. The props are pushed on with a rubber bushing and next weekend when I go try again it will be glued in place!

Six of us flying was fun and most fields would not allow that many flying at once. At this field with no rules there was more going on at the same time. One person was in the middle of the field flying discus launch gliders (combat was going on over his head). Two more were flying a park flyer and E-Flight Ultimate at the same time. This is 9 people flying at the same time in a place the size of Pinnacle street.

Overall I learned how far electric flight has come in the last couple years. Look out gas, I can see electric power being the most common power choice in the next couple years.

Jim Thompson  
Editor

***SAFETY: EVERY MEMBER is RESPONSIBLE***

**[www.495thsquadron.org/Fields.htm](http://www.495thsquadron.org/Fields.htm)**

Rules and Operational Procedures for both of our premier flying sites located in Groton and Tewksbury, Massachusetts!

## RC "Tails"

By Roy P. Arsenault  
Chapter Eight

By now he was even too far away to even see him, as the number of trees and brush provided him with plenty of cover. With all the brush crackling underfoot, plus all the yelling going on, it was amazing that only one thief got away. "Sam-----you watch these two other guys, I'll go after the other one", said Bob.

Bob had extricated himself from the hole and was on his feet moving in the direction of the escaping thief. He could not see his quarry, but with all the noise he was making, he could have followed him in the middle of the night. In what seemed like hours and miles, trudging through dense forestry, the government agent finally broke free of the woods onto an open field. Now he could see the man he was pursuing. He was not too far ahead of him, but when he broke free of the woods onto the open ground, he picked up his pace.

Getting away from the federal agent was surely his main objective and he was doing his best to get away. As Bob reached the open field, his escaping thief was increasing the distance between them. " Maybe I can slow him down if I fire a shot in the air " he thought. BANG-----sounded loudly -----the thief stopped momentarily in his tracks.

The sound of the gun's discharge not only attracted the thief's attention, but also got Terry's attention, who was flying his biplane nearby. The gunshot alerted Terry to the fact that the two federal agents who had

been watching the secret burial site had suddenly flushed one of the thieves into the open field. It occurred to Terry that this particular crook has a good head start on the federal agent, giving him a great opportunity of getting away.

A couple of quick glances from Terry, and he had the situation all figured out I must keep my eyes on my plane so I don't lose it -----but I still think I can help stop that thief from getting away. Terry had been making slow lazy circles in the sky with his biplane. He pushed his throttle full up and the plane instantly came to life with a roar. Turning the plane towards the escaping thief, who by now had regained his wits and was fast running away from the federal agent. Putting his plane in a shallow dive at full throttle directly at the fleeing and oncoming thief Terry watched closely to see if he could get the thief's attention. So far he had not seen the plane coming down directly at him.

It only took a few seconds for the plane to position itself directly in his path at an altitude low enough for the thief to see that he was on a collision course with the oncoming plane. He slowed down and finally stopped as Terry's biplane roared by him so close that it nearly hit him in the head. Pulling up into a short turn for another run at the culprit. The thief immediately changed his direction, running as fast as he was able. Terry was forced to gain more altitude and reposition his aircraft in order to get another shot at the fleeing man. This was an easy maneuver. Once again a long sweeping turn got him in position.

He put the plane in another dive, heading straight into the escaping thief's path. The screaming plane dove headlong at the thief. This time the plane was so low that the thief had to dive onto the ground to avoid being hit. Terry's second attempt had put his plane so low that it really frightened the thief. Again he got up and started to run away.

By now several other RC pilots had gathered around next to Terry to watch the action as it developed. This was a first for everyone and they were enjoying every minute of it. "Josh " screamed Terry " where is the government agent, is he anywhere near catching this guy? I don't know how much longer I can do this before he gets away again."

"Terry -----try one more low pass at him, that should do it. I can see the Fed catching up to him. " That's all Terry had to hear. Another turn around, some down elevator and full throttle. The biplane came alive one more time and dove on its quarry with great ferocity. This was it -----the miniplane knew it, the thief knew it and all the cheering RC pilots knew it. Straight down and head on, low to the ground the biplane's engine screaming at the fleeing victim. At the last moment, in order to avoid a direct head on collision, the thief threw himself to the ground just as the plane roared inches from his head ZOOOOOOOMMMM.

The plane itself seemed to be telling him to give it up. Before he had a chance to get up the federal agent was beside him with his gun out taking command of the situation. " stay where you are, he commanded, try getting away again and you will be shot. Puffing and panting, the thief retorted " you never would have caught me if it hadn't been for that damn plane -----that guy must be nuts or something. "

By now Terry was bringing his plane around final for a landing. Taxiing to the pit area, shutting down the engine amid the cheers of all the onlookers. He was sort of embarrassed being the recipient of all the cheers from his friends. The other two thieves had been escorted to the local police. Terry spent the remainder of the day receiving congratulations and recounting the day's events with everyone at the field.

**Our two RC pals deal with witchcraft in their next adventure "stay tuned "**

## Instructor's Corner

By Jim Thompson

This last Christmas I wanted to introduce my nephews to RC flying but with them in California my buddy box cord was a bit short. After looking at their flying location possibilities I started to search for a good plane for them to learn with. Electric was the only choice as gas fields are far from where they live.

My brother knew how to fly RC gliders 20 years ago so we had a head start on getting them in the air. I sent them a T-Hawk with the NIMH battery upgrade and crossed my fingers. My two nephews are 9 and 11 years old and my brother put them on a buddy box at the local school soccer field. The T-Hawk is an excellent trainer and they both solo-ed after 8 flights on the buddy box.

I am in California this week and flew the T-Hawk with them and think this may be the training aircraft of choice for beginners not sure what RC is all about. For about \$150.00 you can get in the air and give RC a try with a plane that is very forgiving, easy to fly, and comes with spare parts just in case.

For many locations gas power is not an option and the T-Hawk is a great introduction to RC. It is even possible to learn to fly all by yourself with one of these. Learning to land a gas plane is still a lot different to landing the T-Hawk though and to become a proficient pilot other aircraft will be needed. There are electric planes to learn those skills. All this adds up to my learning from my trip here that electric power offers a better entry into RC flying for those new to the hobby. Electric also has the range of products to allow pilot skills to increase to the level of learning and flying with gas power. It won't be long that electric power replaces gas power as the standard for trainers.

## Insiders Views

By Roy P. Arsenault

Let us hope that we all had a great time over the past Holiday season. Now that these major holidays have come and gone, we can get back to 495th club activities. YEAH!!

Hey did you get a new airplane kit or RC radio system for Christmas. Maybe you talked your spouse into a new many channel digital super radio system ----with all the extras that promise to make you an RC expert flier admired by all your flying buddies.

We certainly hope you made out by obtaining some sort of RC equipment because this upcoming flying season promises to be one of the best and most diversified in our club's history. With the appearance and overwhelming acceptance of electric powered airplanes at our flying field this passed year, it seems more and more of our members are getting into the electric craze.

Small all foam planes and a large variety of other materials are producing many scale looking great and easy flying models at a super low price range. There is already an organized group of pylon racers who are having a great time together with their newly found phase of RC flying.

This group is one of the most enjoyable bunch of RC'ers you will find anywhere. Their number is increasing daily. You will be seeing a lot more of them this year as pylon racing becomes the in thing to be associated with. We are anticipating some very thrilling and interesting events as the year progresses.

You say that you are not interested in competition -----WHOA, here is usually how it goes. First you go to the field and take a look at these miniature aircraft, chances are you will be smitten right after you witness their performance. The next step ASK QUESTIONS, or go to the 495th WEB page and get all the information you need to get started. You purchase a plane and put it together, which is a simple matter, then you take it to the field and find out how easy it is to fly.

Assistance is always available if needed. If you ding it, repairs are easy -----usually a bit of adhesive at the field and you are back in the air in no time. When you find out how much fun this is, your next step is to get together with the pylon group, another easy task. Then you are in on all the fun -----so go get 'EM TIGER!

Don't take my word for it ---prove it to yourself. Go on down to the field and see for yourself, you'll be glad you did. Come on down to Pinnacle field, usually in the early morning hours ----witness first hand the pylon planes group in action you will be amazed at what you have been missing out on. The planes are nice and quiet

and their flying speeds are well within your capabilities. Stop being bored and listless, get in on the action! Age is not a factor.

What---- you say these planes are for kids ----OK -- This RC Hobby/Sport is not a one type affair -we got lots of other things going on. If you have not soloed -get yourself an instructor and some stick time. Don't miss out on a lot of fun. You can have a great time with a trainer type plane, then as you progress, you move up to a better and more active plane. You will find that you will tend to like certain type planes better than others. Everybody likes scale planes but not everybody wants to apply themselves to scale building as this is one of the more demanding phases of Radio Control airplanes.

Scale rewards are great for ones self esteem. You build a great looking plane and receive all sorts of compliments on your building abilities. You feel like a really important individual who has accomplished something unique that nobody else has done. You walk around proudly knowing that you are really somebody. Believe me when I say --all you need is a red cape and you too could fly like a bird.

The next time you go to a scale fly-in take a good look at the builders of those scale beauties, you will notice that ---YES they are really a very proud group of people. So regardless of your RC calling, whether it be scale, pylon racing, gliders or whatever catches your fancy, this is a hobby/sport that provides thrills, education, and comradely. What more is there ?

I guarantee that when you solo -you will be on a high for some time. Come on down to the field and enjoy yourself.

### Worst Definition of the month

**Fail Safe:** Option on PCM radio's that allows a pilot to choose whether to crash near him, or a long way away

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