

the PINNACLE

The Official Journal of the 495th R/C Squadron, Inc - Our 34rd Year!

Pursuing R/C Excellence. Everyday.

AMA CHARTER #340

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Gold Leader Club!

March Meeting

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Member Profile



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

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495th R/C Squadron

March 1st. Club Meeting – Bring your latest project; enjoy the company of members along with refreshments.

SAFETY: EVERY MEMBER is RESPONSIBLE

www.495thsquadron.org/Fields.htm

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

View From The Left Seat □

By

John Morley, President, The 495th R/C Squadron, Inc

I hope that everyone in the Club is enjoying the Winter season, and that all your off-season construction projects are nearing completion! I know it is hard to believe, but the nice weather is just a few short weeks away! Before long, we'll all be out at the field enjoying our wonderful hobby! This year, the Club will host it's annual Spring Cleanup and Opening Day Event on April 9th. Please mark your calendars, and join us as we welcome the start of the 2006 model flying season!

As your President, one issue that I will emphasize in the coming year is safety! More than anything else, safety must always be our number one priority! Several weeks ago there was a very serious incident at the field that could have resulted in some serious personal injury. I won't attempt to speculate on the cause of this incident, and I'm certainly not trying to pick on anyone, rather I'd like to use this incident to re-emphasize the importance of safety. During this incident, an out-of-control nitro-powered model struck a vehicle parked outside the guardrail, damaging the vehicle and destroying the model. The point of impact was about six feet from where a member and several guests, including young children, were standing. Had the trajectory of the airplane been slightly different, we could have had a serious tragedy on our hands. This incident reminds us as pilots to always operate our models in a safe and controlled manner, and as spectators to always be vigilant of models that might present a danger to us. So that no one doubts the potential severity of this type of incident, a picture of the aftermath is shown below:



Incident at the Ogonowski Field

The Auction at the February meeting was a great success! Although smaller this year than in past years, a large number of items were sold, and everyone had a good time. A special thanks to Joe Ramaci for a job well done (in spite of the bad jokes!). Due to competition from other club auctions, and the internet, we might decide to make a few changes to next years auction – stay tuned!!

A number of field improvements are planned for this Spring. Number one on the list (thanks for keeping me “honest”, Bob Knight) is a new Pin Pole. Later in this issue I will present a design for the new frequency pole. Following a short public comment period, I will have the new pole fabricated for installation before April 9th (Opening Day). Hopefully, this process will result in a Pin Pole that we all like, and can all be proud of!

Again, a reminder that each month the BOD will meet on the Thursday evening immediately preceding the regular Club meeting. Our meetings are held at the Jade East Restaurant, on Rt. 38 in Tewksbury, beginning at 7:30PM. There is plenty of room, and the atmosphere is informal, so we invite interested members to attend!

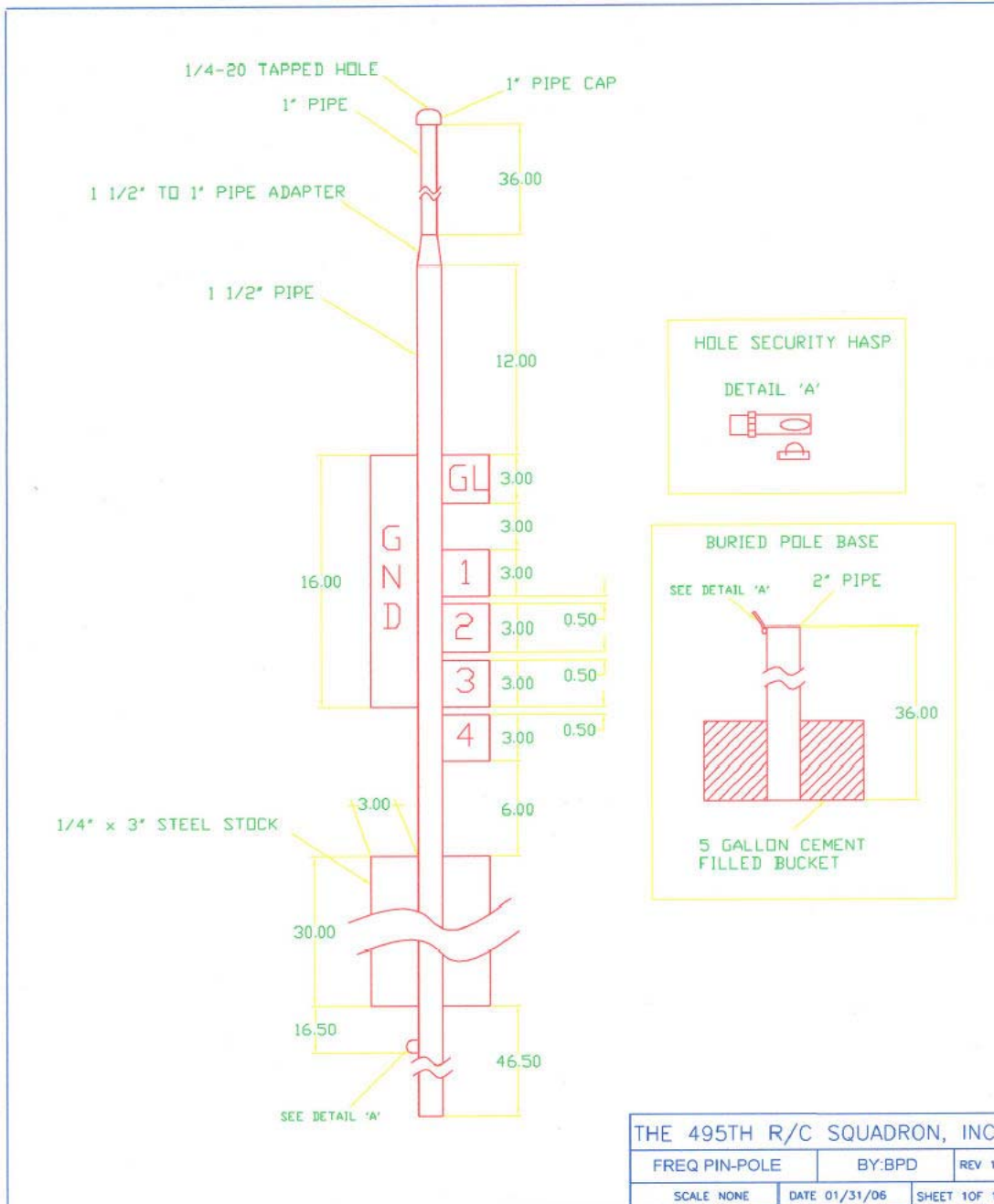
I'm looking forward to an exciting year in 2006, and I hope you see all of you at upcoming Club meetings, and at the field!

John Morley
President, The 495th R/C Squadron, Inc.

Feb. 21, 2006

A New Pin Pole for the Ogonowski Field

A design for the new Ogonowski Field Pin Pole is shown below. Please forward any comments/suggestions to John Morley (Pres@495thsquadron.org). The deadline for comments is March 15.



March Meeting Announcement

At the March meeting, fellow member Dick Fedorchuk will present a talk on building a full-scale Pitts S1C Bi-Plane. As many of you know, Dick is an exquisite craftsman, so this is sure to be a must see event! March 1st at 7:30 PM.

As always, we encourage members to bring "show-n-tell" items to the meeting for display and discussion after the regular meeting.

INSIDER'S VIEW

Submitted by Roy Arsenault

Have you ever wondered? Now that is a question that has many an unanswered opinions. There are most probably hundreds that have crossed your minds at one time or other, many you found answers for but there are still a great number for which you have yet to come up with an answer .

Here is one for you to ponder, that has a very definite relation to your hobby (no not that one) I am speaking about model aircraft flying .

Sounds like a subject that might just be of interest to all of us 495th RC squadron members. The point in question, the accidental turn on of ones RC radio while there is already an RC aircraft flying in the air on the exact same frequency, causing the the airborne aircraft to crash and reduced to a total loss to this pilot .

You skeptics out there will claim that this will never happen to you, you check the pin pole every time before you turn on your transmitter so not to worry. Yeah that's the way I do it also.

now allow me to let you in on a few facts before we go any further .

First of all I will wager that you know at least one member who has been involved in just such a maneuver. You can even probably remember witnessing just this very thing of which we speak ? Huh come on now be honest, think about it a little .see what I mean, it is all coming back to you (one of the perils of being a senior) OK. Now you agree but you say it is a rare occurrence, but it does happen, right ?

As diligent and careful as I am (author's note) I will admit that yes I have performed this exact maneuver. I will not go into details, suffice it to say I was responsible for the crash and total destruction of a fellow member's RC aircraft. Being the conscientious individual" (ahem)" that I am

I immediately assisted in the gathering of the remains of the now defunct airplane. With sincere apologies to the owner of the plane I made everything right and proper with him. This involved giving him one of my planes of equal or better value with all of his salvaged parts installed in this plane and ready to fly in a weeks time. As a second option I offered to

buy and build him an exact replacement aircraft in question. Every detail was settled amicably then and there.

Now I suppose you are wondering just what is the point to this dissertation? Picture this situation if you will, you arrive at the field on a nice sunny day, the wind is at a minimum, just a perfect day for RC flying. There are maybe a dozen flyers present and the place is hopping. You look around to see who is there and what is going on in the air before you decide to remove your gear from your vehicle.

Up in the air "hotshot jimmy superstar" is flying his one third scale brand new, super taperwing Waco biplane --completely equipped with a seven cylinder -four stroke gold plated radial engine that he had to take a mortgage out on his house to purchase. Everybody is watching his flight as he puts this magnificent aircraft through its paces. This plane is worth about ten thousand dollars. You also watch in complete amazement at this superb demonstration of RC'ing at its best. Then after some more great aerobatics "hotshot jimmy superstar" switches to a more subtle flight.

You are all hopped up over this marvelous event. -----you decide this is the ideal time to unload your vehicle. You just cannot wait to get set up and take your turn at flying. You know your plane and radio are ready to go as you just took both of them off charge and checked them out before you left home. You carry your plane to an open spot in the pit area. Next, you remove your field box and proceed to where your plane sits. Suddenly horrors the big third scale super taperwing Waco is having problems. "hotshot jimmy superstar" is screaming at the top of his lungs "I don't have it" the \$10,000 dollar super scale taperwing waco goes into a spin heading towards mother earth at full speed and in a few seconds it is all over. After the earsplitting thud subsides they find the sad remains a total loss. Even the gold plated seven cylinder radial is severely damaged. You are feeling very sorry for "hotshot jimmy superstar" -----till one of your buddies calls to your attention that the ailerons on your plane are fluttering. Further investigation finds that you forgot to turn off your plane and transmitter at home after you checked out your equipment. Oh to add to your troubles it turns out that your transmitter is on the exact same frequency as was the one third scale super taperwing Waco that has just been demolished, what happens next have you ever wondered?

RC Tails

By Roy P. Arsenault

Chapter 6

Antonio never got out of his car. He saw a cloud of dust forming not too far away from them, then he decided that they should leave right away. "What about the stuff in the plane" asked one of the accomplices? "We don't have time to worry about that right now ----that may be the law coming this way so let's get out of here fast". They immediately roared off into the desert wastelands.

They guessed rightly, the oncoming vehicle was uncle Bruce, Terry's dad and the sheriff and his deputy. They untied the boys, put the plane and the transmitter in the back of their SUV and headed out in the same direction the gunmen had taken.

As they headed out into the desert country, they spotted a dust trail far to their right, "there they are" yonder yelled the sheriff----let me call in for a chopper in case we lose them---the way they are headed we may be able to take a shortcut and catch up to them faster than they think we can". Uncle Bruce kept the SUV at top speed as they changed directions to take advantage of the shortcut proposed by the sheriff .

The gunmen, unaware that they were being watched and pursued slowed down their vehicles. "This sure is rough country -----I am glad we slowed down as no one is chasing us "said the gunman driver .

Uncle Bruce was traveling fast-----using the shortcut had put them far ahead of the culprits. When they realized they were ahead of them, they decided to wait for them and apprehend them. Terry had other ideas . "What if they see us and head off in another direction. He asked the sheriff. "We'll get them one way or other "replied the sheriff . "Uncle Bruce----- stop the wagon and let me get the plane out .I'm sure i can delay them long enough for you to catch them " said Terry .

You may have something there Terry " said the sheriff "go ahead with your idea. Terry checked the plane's fuel tank-----still half full-----that should be enough to start with he thought .

A flashlight battery was used to start the plane's engine.

Terry soon had the plane in the air just as the two vehicles in question appeared. The gunmen were still proceeding at a slower speed and evidently had not spotted the sheriff's vehicle nor the plane in the air. As they approached the area where the law was waiting it became apparent to them that they were heading in the wrong direction .

An about face by the two culprit's vehicles and the chase was on again, this time the vehicles were not as far apart. In a few minutes all three vehicles were getting closer all the time.

The road ----what there was of it was the desert floor, full of ruts and loose sand. Meanwhile Terry was keeping his eye on the plane in the sky .

as the pursuit proceeded , terry managed to get the plane ahead of the fleeing vehicles .

Turning the plane around, he dropped down to a lower level and pointed the nose of the plane directly at the windshield of the lead vehicle. Its driver suddenly became aware of the plane heading right at him. Especially when he had to swerve to avoid getting a direct hit into his face when it dove into his view. He avoided a collision as the plane zoomed by missing its target by mere inches .

Terry pulled up and around for another run, this time the first vehicle flipped over on its side as it again swerved to avoid a direct hit .

Terry once again brought the plane around for a shot at the second vehicle .

This vehicle's driver had no intention of swerving and thought he could avoid a collision, wrong, Terry dove the plane directly into the windshield and smashed right into the front seat of the car sending it into a long skid till it stopped into a soft sand pile.

The sheriff and his deputy were busy rounding up all the smugglers, who could not figure out how a young boy and a model rc plane had put them out of business.

A helicopter soon appeared with more of the sheriff's deputies who helped secure the scene .

what was left of the plane was inspected and found to be loaded with bags of cocaine being smuggled into the U.S.A. Another drug ring was broken up with the help of anRC plane .

Terry received a commendation from the police department for his work in the apprehension of these smugglers. Back at the ranch .things had also been happening while everybody was

away chasing evil doers. When everyone arrived back there several of uncle Bruce's prized horses were found to be missing.

(continued in chapter eight)

Member Profile – Bob Michaud by John Morley

Several weeks ago I had the pleasure of visiting the home and workshop of Club member Bob Michaud. After living for many years in Lawrence, MA, Bob and his wife recently moved to the very beautiful, rural, community of Sandowne, NH. Bob is what I call a “modelers modeler” – when you look up “hard core” in the dictionary, you will find Bob’s picture! Bob has a very spacious basement, and all of it, I mean every square inch, is devoted to R/C modeling! Everywhere you look there are completed planes hanging from the ceiling, and boxes filled with un-built models stacked to the rafters. Shelves upon shelves contain the parts and supplies need to keep the finished birds in the air, and to complete the unfinished ones. A spacious workbench and building area completes what is truly a modelers dream workshop. Bob has enough “stuff” to give a good sized hobby shop a run for their money! Saving the best for last, Bob’s biggest pride was obviously his extensive engine collection. Ranging from the smallest Cox engines to large gas behemoths, Bob seems to have one (or two, or three) of just about every engine imaginable! Recently, Bob was been bitten by the turbine bug, and at latest count owns three turbine engines! His current project is an incredible PST Turbine powered TamJets F-16 Fighting Falcon in Thunderbirds colors. Believe me folks, after visiting Bob’s workshop, I can see that Bob’s signature on RCUniverse, **“if it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing right”**, is much more than just words!



Bob Michaud with his TamJets F-16 Fighting Falcon

Auction Note

The auction was fairly well attended this year but I have a complaint. I went to get a donut during break and the group ate every one of them. I was glad to see that our former treasurer John won the radio that I had paid a high official to win. I don't know what I would have done without George Werber helping me to display the items all night. I came home from Florida the day before the auction but I am afraid that with my purchase of a place for the winter next year, I may not be able to continue as auctioneer. Perhaps one of the younger members will consider taking over the reins and continue a tradition.

Joe Ramaci

PLEASE PATRONIZE our LOCAL R/C Suppliers!
(Raffle Items regularly purchased from list below)

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

Bob Rheault
Weekend Supplier of small parts
Methuen, MA
Phone: 978-683-4250

RC Buyer's Warehouse
95 Northeastern Blvd.

Nashua, NH 03062 Phone: 603-595-2494 Fax: 603-595-2559