

# the PINNACLE

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

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## Gold Leader Club!

May Meeting  
Insiders View  
RC Tales  
Rumors from the pin pole  
Gadget Corner



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the PINNACLE

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May 2006 **The PINNACLE Newsletter** Volume 37 Issue 5

Contact us at: [495thrcboard@yahoo.com](mailto:495thrcboard@yahoo.com) or write c/o address above:

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# 495th R/C Squadron

***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!**

## May Meeting Announcement

At the May 3rd Club meeting, the Club will host a winter project show-n-tell night. Please bring your winter projects and show them off to your fellow Club members.

Also Jim Thompson will host a Spring Fun-fly on May 6<sup>th</sup>. This event will be the first of many fun-fly's sponsored by the Club. Details will be available on the Club website shortly.

### AT-6 Pilots

Submitted by Mike Tully

Bill Horton (New Hampshire Flying Tigers) has received a shipment of the new brushless power systems for the 2006 AT-6 racing season. He misplaced the name and telephone number of the 495th member who recently contacted him about availability. His store is Treasured Toys, 5 North Broadway ~ Salem, NH 03079 ~ (603)898-7224. He can be emailed at [toys@verizon.net](mailto:toys@verizon.net). I believe Bill also has some AT-6 kits in stock. A price list for the components will be posted in the AT-6 racing forum on the NH Flying Tigers website:

<http://www.newhampshireflyingtigers.org/forums/viewforum.php?f=26&sid=79566ffd9e8f68aa16eba7d05cb3872a>

The Flying Tigers kick off the racing season Monday May 15th at 5:00 pm. at their field in Derry. The 495th season will begin Saturday, May 20th at 8:00 am. The 495th's website AT-6 racing page needs to be updated. I need names, radio frequencies, color schemes and hopefully a picture of each aircraft. You can reach me at [mtullycts@aol.com](mailto:mtullycts@aol.com)

## INSIDER'S VIEW

Submitted by Roy Arsenault

The lord is risen !

A lot of people in this 495th RC squadron will probably wonder how the title of this article has any bearing or connection to the operation of this RC club. Be it known that this author is not setting you up for a sermon or trying to influence how you practice your religion, whatever it may be ---that is your business, but there are some similarities that I would like to point out.

The Lenten period is over as of the weekend of April 15th and 16th , the 16th being Easter Sunday, the day of the resurrection of Jesus.

For the past several weeks most of us (495th members ) have been in a state of limbo, not being able to fly for many reasons. Sort of being in a Lenten phase, waiting

anxiously for the resurrection -----which by the way the opening of our flying season and flying field occurs at the very same time.

To add to the similarities, during lent many believers abstain from certain things and observe sacrifices. Like 495th members put up with the smell of CA adhesives and putting their abilities to work building yet another aircraft. Yes these are sacrifices too. The weekend of April 15 and 16 will usher in a whole new flying season officially ----- the resurrection of our flying activities for another season of comradely. So you see there are similarities .

The field at Pinnacle street looks great. The grass has started to green up, the benches and tables are in good shape and our John Ogonowski memorial proudly displays our fond remembrance of a fallen hero and we are straining at the bit for getting out and trying all our new aircraft .

If you cannot see the resurrection here you must be blind .

We can all relate to a superior being in our own way and thank the Lord for another grand and glorious resurrection. This is not so in many countries. Be thankful we are still free and able to enjoy our hobby. The lord is risen and so is the 495th RC squadron and the higher we fly, the closer we get to heaven (but try to keep your plane below the 400 foot regulation).

Happy Easter and happy landings. We all hope that you will prosper and be well for the remainder of this year.

Submitted by Roy Arsenault

## **RC Tails**

By Roy P. Arsenault

### **chapter Nine**

Head to head they thundered towards the finish line, each giving it everything they had to be the winner of the \$ 10,000 purse. So close were they at the finish line that a photo was taken to determine just who the winner would be. While the photo was being developed Terry, Josh and Jerry waited as did the entire crowd surrounding the two finishers .

More thunder and lightning, then the sky seemed to explode into a deluge of water. As there was no shelter nearby, and everybody there was anxiously waiting for the winner to be announced nobody moved. By now a very peculiar event was happening. While waiting for the results of the photo finish, the two horses who were soaking wet seemed to be melting. They were changing colors. Uncle Bruce who was also there yelled out " Hey those horses were painted to disguise them they look exactly like my two stolen stallions ".

As suddenly as the rain squalls had started they stopped ( a common occurrence in California).

The two riders now became aware of their predicament. Riding disguised stolen horses was not a great place to found in. They both decided on a quick getaway.

Terry sensing exactly that this would occur, grabbed Jerry by the arm, pulled him aside and said "Jerry let's get your plane started quickly".

Meanwhile, the two riders were trying to break loose from the crowd that surrounded them and get away. This gave Terry and Jerry enough time to get Jerry's plane started and take off.

As Terry watched the two thieves break loose from the crowd and head for the rodeo grounds gate, he directed Jerry to head off the thieves before they got away. By the time the two riders got to the gate Jerry's plane was already coming directly at them from the opposite direction. Jerry was flying low enough so that the two stallions seeing the approaching plane reared up and dumped both riders. The plane swooped upwards avoiding the horses who finally stopped a short distance away.

The two thieves, slightly bruised were taken into custody. Charged with grand larceny, they admitted they stole both thoroughbred stallions in order to win the grand prize.

Uncle Bruce's reputation as great horse trainer was well known fact and they figured they would make a fast killing with two of his horses, then turn them loose after collecting the money purse.

As you might expect they were both found guilty on all counts.

Someday if you figure that you can make a fast and easy bunch of money by stealing thoroughbred horses I say "NEIGH-----NEIGH that ain't the way".

Jerry received a commendation for his help in apprehending the two thieves. Terry and Josh just enjoyed the entire affair, and you thought all cowhands did was punch cows!

to be continued



by **Bob Knight**

Well look up there, what do I see  
a 4-Star 40, up a tree.  
It can't be yours, it can't be mine  
ours are home, just doing fine.  
Maybe it's Steve's, the colors are right,  
Yes that's his plane, Red and White.

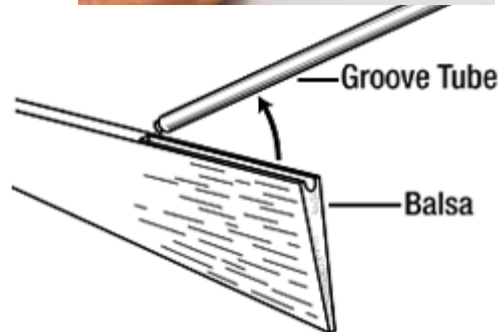
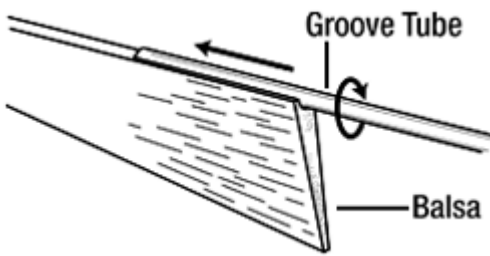
(I wonder how it got up there.)

## Gadget Corner

by Tony DiFinizio

Hello again from the Gadget Corner! This month instead of reviewing a gadget or bunch of gadgets related to a single topic, I decided to write some “quickies”. These are low dollar tools that I think are pretty clever and can really help out around the shop. I should always add that most of these images are from the respective manufacturers web pages.

First up is the Great Planes “Groove Tube” tool. This is a simple tube with a sharp end and handle that is used to cut the wire groove in any control surface that uses a joiner wire. This includes 2 piece elevators and ailerons that use a small wire linking the aileron to the servo linkage. Its really pretty simple and easy to use.



To use the Groove Tube you simply line it up and twist the tube while pushing forward slightly. The sharpened tube cuts a perfect half round slot for the joiner wire. The spring loaded plunger in the back is used to spit out the balsa you just removed. Presto! Easy as that. This is a true no brainer. Its only \$4 and its much easier than making a “V” notch with a knife.

Next up is a small hand drill, or pin vice from Davis Model Products. This is a simple hand held drill about the size of a large pen. The front end is a twist collet that holds the bits. The rear cap opens for storage of the bits. A lot of companies make these but I singled out the Davis drill because it is very well made and for the price of \$15 it comes with TWELVE drill bits. Most others are a bit less money but only come with 6 bits. Its made from aluminum with steel collet jaws. I've used it several times even with the tiny microscopic bits and so far I haven't broken a bit yet (knocking on balsa wood here).



A bunch of manufacturers make neat clevis installation tools like the one pictured below:



These simple plastic parts just slip over a clevis so you can spin it on without holding it with pliers or chewing up your fingers. They have different size ends for different types of rod ends. Most look the same so I guess they just buy the same parts in different colors and sell them under several brands. Cost is about \$3. I'm a big believer in these as they really do work quite nicely.

Top Flight makes a few neat-o tools for covering that I want to touch on. The first is the SmartCut Trim Tool (\$7). This is a plastic handle that holds two #11 blades. The blades are offset from an edge so that you can cut covering and leave a 1/16" or 1/8" wide strip behind. For those of us with unsteady hands this is a great tool. I use it for almost every surface where I need a straight line. You just line it up and drag it against an edge to make a perfect straight cut. It works great on control surfaces where you want the covering to overlap slightly on the ends.



I like this tool a lot and recommend it very highly.

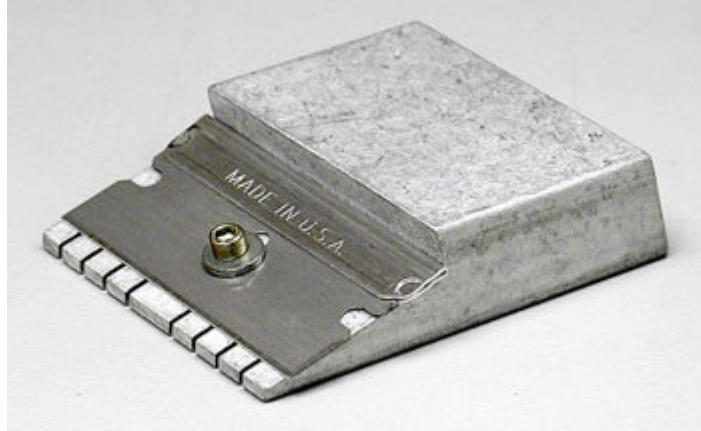
Next up is another Top Flight product called the SmartStripe tool. This is a small wooden drum wrapped with scrap covering material. You spin the drum and press a blade into the covering to make stripes. It works pretty well and is able to make stripes of any width. It is very easy to make a pile of stripes at the exact same width. Cost is about \$20.



Honestly although I found it useful, it was a bit cumbersome to use. You have to tape the covering to the roll and wind it up, then cut off the ends to square them off, then index to the width you need, then roll away and cut the stripes.

I had very good luck using a cutting mat that my wife has. It's a special plastic mat that is used with a rotary tool like a pizza cutter. You can get these at craft stores in 12" and 24" lengths. Normally you can find 40% off coupons in the Sunday paper too! I think the cutting mat works equally well and is way more versatile so you can cut curves, geometric patterns, angles stripes etc. You just need the cutting mat, the rotary tool and a ruler or plastic triangles.

Last up is Harry Higley's Eversharp trim tool. This is a small piece of aluminum that holds a normal single edge razor blade and is used to trim covering. The device has several slots in it so that you cut the covering in one location on the blade. That way you only wear out a small portion of the blade. Then you move on to the next groove and so on. There are 8 grooves but they are offset so that you can flip the blade over and have 8 more places to cut. The idea is clever, but for some reason I could never get it to cut straight. I found it awkward to use. For the price of \$15 I think it is a bit steep to try and save money on single edge razor blades. I buy them in 100 piece bulk packs anyway.



That's all for now. Remember to send me ideas or comments at [lynntonyd@comcast.net](mailto:lynntonyd@comcast.net)!

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