



The Pinnacle



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The Official Journal of the 495th R/C Squadron
Tewksbury, MA

AMA Gold Leader Club, Charter #340

Rocket Launch Event

10/16/2022



(Photo Credit: Calvin Hsieh)

This newsletter is e-mailed to whomever wants a copy each month. If you would like to be added to the list (or if you are receiving a copy and would like to be removed from the list) please contact the Editor at sales@advancednotebook.com

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495 R/C Squadron, Inc.

Next Meeting	Wednesday, Nov 2nd 7:30 P.M
Next Events	Business Meeting
Club web site	http://www.495thsquadron.org
Club Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/495th-RC-Squadron-240759615414

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From the Editor

Newsletter is for everyone. If you have great ideas, stories and photos to share, please do email me @ (sales@advancednotebook.com)

We have a very interesting piece from Bob Prescott this month talking about the gimbal stick end. Can you imagine there are companies making those interesting looking ones? Also there are so many different styles that you can choose from. It is definitely an eye-opener to me. Since I first met Bob back to 2009, not only he taught me how to fly, he's also the person showing me all the gadgets and new technologies. Hope to see him more at the field so we can talk about his new finding in person.

There are 2 great events in October. The **"Fall Classic Car Rally"** and the **"Rocket Launch Event"** hosted by the club for local 40 scouts and their families. Lots of nice pictures for you to take a look just in case you missed the fun.

Calvin Hsieh
495th Newsletter Editor



Club's positive outreach in the local area

Rocket Launch Event

2022 Club Calendar

Please be sure to check the 'Events' page on the club website on a regular basis, and stay up-to-date with all the fun and important activities we have planned this year

Date	Location	Event Description
Jan. 5, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Pizza Party!
Feb. 2, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Zoom!
Mar. 2, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Italian Banquet!
April 6, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Winter Project Show-n-Tell!
April 19, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Car Night Begins for 2022!
April 21, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Training Night Begins for 2022!
April 23, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Opening Day and Field Cleanup!
May 4, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Berlin Airlift Presentation with Ralph Dionnel
May 14, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Spring Fun Fly
May 21, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - 2nd Annual Car Track Rally
June 1, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Photography with Steve Rosenbach!
June 4, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - 'Kid's Day' Fun Fly and BBQ
June 11, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Summer Fun Fly - Mike Pangione
July 6, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!!
July 9, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Scale Fun Fly
Aug. 3, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Ice Cream Social
Aug. 13, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - National Model Aviation Day Fun Fly
Aug. 20, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Multi-Club Fun Fly and BBQ!
Sept. 7, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Annual Swap Meet
Sept. 10, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Annual Member Picnic!
Oct. 5, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!!
Nov. 2, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Annual Business Meeting and Elections
Dec. 7, 2022	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!!

View From The Left Seat™

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

As I write this column, it's the end of October, the New England foliage is already beyond peak, and the Fall weather is definitely upon us! Conditions are now typically more windy, blustery and colder, making flying a bit more of a challenge. Certainly, there IS still some great flying weather to be had, but you've got to be a bit more selective in finding it! I've always found that September and October are phenomenal weather months, but that November is always a bit of a 'Crap Shoot'. And, the closer we get to Thanksgiving, the worse it becomes. So, now is the time to start planning your winter project. If you are like me, you've been thinking about the upcoming building season for a few months now, so you already have a few ideas. Well, now is the time to put those ideas into action! Before you know it, we'll have had our first snow fall (horrors!), and the flying opportunities will become much more limited! So, take advantage of all the flying you can right now, but start planning for the "off season" so that you'll have a nice, shiny-new model for next spring!!

Again, a reminder that the November meeting is the annual business meeting for the club. At this meeting, you will have an opportunity to discuss anything/everything about how the club is run, to heap praise for a job well done, or to cast arrows when it was not! As always, we will also be holding elections for the upcoming year. This is one of the most important meetings of the year, because it is an opportunity for your voice to be heard – by raising topics of concern for discussion, and by casting your vote for the individuals who will run your club! Please plan to attend this meeting, and if you are so inclined, please consider running for an elected position on the BOD. Remember, the club is only as good as you make it!! For better or worse, most of the current board has agreed to 're-up' for another year!

One of the issues to be discussed at the November meeting is a proposed increase in the yearly membership dues. The proposed increase will raise the yearly membership fee by \$10 to \$60 per year from the current \$50, which has been in effect for more than 15 years! Obviously, we've all heard about the high inflation that has plagued our economy for the last 2 years. The cost of everything has skyrocketed, and the club has operated in the 'red' this year for the first time in many years! That is to say that we spent more money than we took in for the year, forcing us to dip into our 'reserve' fund to make up the difference. Given this, and a number of 'capital' improvements on the Wish list for 2023, such as a permanent sun shades, and a solar charging system, it seems that a modest dues increase is prudent at this time!

I would like to remind the members that our AMA charter and club rules require all aircraft – airplanes, helicopters and drones – be marked with the member's Name and AMA number before flying at the Ogonowski Model Flying Field! It seems that many of our members are

overlooking this requirement. A neighbor recently returned a lost airplane to the field that was not marked in any way! I would also like to remind the membership that club rules require all members to display a club-issued membership card while using our facilities. We have a large membership, including a lot of new members, and it's imperative that we know who is using our field! If you are flying an aircraft, you can, for example, **place your membership card on the 'Pin Pole', or wear the card around your neck using a lanyard.** Car track users can also use lanyards or clip the membership card to their outer clothing. We are going to start enforcing these two requirements in the coming months, so be sure to bring your member cards to the field! Lanyards are available for the membership. Please see me to get your free lanyard!

As the end of the year approaches, please keep in mind that club memberships expired at midnight on Dec. 31st! This means that unless you've renewed your AMA and club memberships before then, you are no longer eligible to fly at our club field beginning on Jan. 1st, 2023! Please don't wait, and get your renewal done as soon as possible! We plan to start club membership renewals at the December 2022 club meeting, and we plan to host several 'renewal events' at the field in December and January as we have done in the past several years!

Again, a reminder that each month the BOD will meet on the **Wednesday** evening immediately preceding the regular club meeting. Occasionally, the BOD does not meet in a given month due to schedule or calendar conflicts, and every effort will be made to notify the membership by email when this happens. As always, there is plenty of room at every BOD meeting, and the atmosphere is informal, so we invite interested members to attend! The next regular BOD meeting will be held on Wednesday November 30th, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

I hope you see all of you at upcoming club meetings, and at the field!



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

Oct. 30, 2022

Gimbal Stick End

Bob Prescott

When I first began flying, my initial complaint about transmitters, ok maybe second complaint after the dismal screen types and lack of color or touch, was the sharpness of the gimbal sticks. I get it, we need them to catch and hold onto our fingers while we command our craft, but I was always afraid I would find blood dripping from my fingertips after a long day of fun.

My initial solution (and it held true for many years) was to put a pencil eraser over the sticks. I would file them down a bit to ensure full contact with my fingers (these are new ones), and they did the job VERY well. Plus they are very cheap.



Eventually I switched over to pencil toppers, as they provided even more skin contact, and they looked fun.



Recently, I looked into even more options and found a few really good ones. Here's one by TBS, called Honey Stick Ends (<https://www.team-blacksheep.com>). They are metal, but perform very well and do not chaff the fingers. I almost decided on these, until some other came in that I wanted to test. These were \$10.95 plus shipping.



The next to show up in my mail (yes, I purchased WAY too many of these things) were Q-Tips by Thumb Grippies (<https://FlyFive33.com>). They have multiple varieties of plastic stick ends in different colors as well. In this day and age, we have no way too try anything out at a local RC shop so I got a bunch of different ones over time. Most sticks at FlyFive22 are \$14.99.



A second favorite of mine are the "Mushrooms" by the same company and location.



Ultimately, I chose the “Five33 RIP Sticks (Thumber)” to fly with. I decided I like the plastic style grips since they grip REALLY well to my fingers, but they don’t overdo it. The one good thing is that if I decide I don’t like them, I have others to choose from...



I purchased most of my grips from FlyFive33 (<https://FlyFive33.com>) for a decent price and received them all very quickly. The one thing you are going to have to know is what size your sticks are (most are either M3 or M4).



Bob Prescott

495th R/C Squadron, Inc. – Fall Classic Car Rally

On Saturday, Oct. 22nd, the club will host the 2nd Annual *Fall Classic Car Rally*! Starting at 9AM for setup and testing, and 10AM for racing, and running until 2PM, this event is open to all driver skill levels. Please plan to join us for this exciting event! A noon barbeque will be served for all participants!



Photos by Rita Smeltzer





Annual Rocket Launch Event

(Photo Credit: Calvin Hsieh)



495th R/C Squadron, Inc. – Rocket Launch Event

On Saturday, Oct. 22nd, Inc. We hosted Scout Pack 79 of Andover, MA for a rocket launch event at the Ogonowski Memorial Flying Field. Starting at 11AM, and running until 1PM, approximately 40 scouts and their families launched over 200 rocket flights! Launching from five launch pads, there were rockets in the air almost continuously for the entire event!

The club hosts this event annually as a means of positive outreach in the local area, and to increase the exposure of the club in the community!

This year, the weather was ideal for model rocket launching, with cool temperatures and calm winds! Unlike past years, virtually all the rockets that took to the air were recovered and re-used!

All of the rockets and engines used at this event were 'Estes' brand (www.estesrockets.com), a very familiar name in the world of model rocketry! the club will host the 2nd Annual *Fall Classic Car Rally*! Starting at 9AM for setup and testing, and 10AM for racing, and running until 2PM, this event is open to all driver skill levels. Please plan to join us for this exciting event! A noon barbeque will be served for all participants!





Club Calendar

Club Events

Nov. 2, 2022 Tewksbury, MA Club Meeting - Annual Business Meeting and Elections

Dec. 7, 2022 Tewksbury, MA Club Meeting - TBD!!

R/C Suppliers:

ABC RC & Hobby

11 Rockingham Rd, Windham, NH

(603) 458-6481

<https://www.horizonhobby.com>

All Around

<http://hobbyking.com>

All Around

<https://rcexcitement.com>

Cars

<https://twistedhobbys.com>

Profile Foamies

<https://innov8tivedesigns.com>

Great Motors

<https://fpvlab.com/>

FPV Equipment

<http://www.crashtesthobby.com>

Toughest Planes

<https://www.towerhobbies.com>

All Around

<http://www.amazon.com>

Extra All Around

Handy Links:

Renew Your AMA Membership Online

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/joinrenew.aspx>

495th Membership Application

http://www.495thsquadron.org/PDF_Files/Membership_Application.pdf

Online Groups

<http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/index.php>

<http://www.helifreak.com>

<http://www.wattflyer.com/forums>

<http://www.rcuniverse.com>

Local R/C Groups

<http://www.mcrcf.org>

Billerica, Mass

<http://www.burlington-rc.com>

Burlington, Mass

<http://www.nhflyingtigers.com/>

Derry, NH

<http://www.snhbcc.org>

Hudson, NH

<http://www.snhflyingeagles.org>

Merrimack, NH

R/C Related Podcast

<http://allthingsthatfly.com/>

Excellent electric power help

<http://rctodayshow.com/>

Mixed group with great advice
