



# The Pinnacle

Volume 53 Issue 4

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

**AMA Gold Leader Club, Charter #340**



## On the Cover: April Club Meeting

Vin Caccamesi, Bob Goulet, Ralph Dionne, Steve Rosenbach

Photo Credit: Calvin Hsieh

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### 495 R/C Squadron, Inc.

<b>Next Meeting .....</b>	<b>Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 7:30 P.M.</b>
Next Events .....	Berlin Airlift Presentation with Ralph Dionne
Club web site .....	<a href="http://www.495thsquadron.org">http://www.495thsquadron.org</a>
Club Facebook .....	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/495th-RC-Squadron-240759615414">https://www.facebook.com/495th-RC-Squadron-240759615414</a>

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Treasurer .....	John Joyce .....	978-407-0342 .....	<a href="mailto:treas@495thsquadron.org">treas@495thsquadron.org</a>
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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](mailto:sales@advancednotebook.com)

We had a fun night of the April Winter show-n-Tell. For you who can't make it that night, we have some great pictures for you to take a look.

Thanks John and Bob Prescott for your continued support of interesting articles to share with members. I will continue to send out invitation to some of you to write something for the newsletter. Please look for my email and give a good thought about it that if you can write something to make this newsletter better each every month.

**Blast from the past** this month we will check out the fun we had back in 2008. As a scale modeling guy myself, I envy the WWI scale fun fly at the time which organized by Art and many club members.

Calvin Hsieh  
495<sup>th</sup> Newsletter Editor



**F-4 Phantom @ Pima Air and Space Museum Tuscon, Arizona**

Photo by John Morley



## 2022 Club Calendar

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 Dionne!
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 495<sup>th</sup> R/C Squadron, Inc.

As I write this newsletter column, we are more than halfway thru the month of April, and club activities are on the verge of starting back up! In quick succession, we will restart 'Car Night' on Tuesday nights, 'Training Night' on Thursday nights, and 'Opening Day', the "official" start to the flying and driving season. And, that is just the start! We have a bevy of fun events planned from now until the end of the year designed to engage all our members! After a long two years of Covid-19 restrictions and concerns, it's time to start getting out, enjoying our wonderful hobby, and socializing with our fellow members. The weather can still be a bit fickle in the early season, but it is definitely trending warmer, so I encourage everyone to get ready and come enjoy your club this year! Again, we – your Board of Directors – are determined to make this one of the best years ever!

As I mentioned last month, this is the club's 'Golden Jubilee' year as we mark 50 years of existence as an organized R/C modeling club! Considering the changes that have taken place in the world in those 50 years, it is remarkable that we have continued to thrive as a club! To help celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be hosting a 'Multi-Club Fun Fly' on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Clubs from around the area will be invited to join us at the Ogonowski Field for a fun filled day of flying and camaraderie! On Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, the annual member picnic will feature cake and ice cream for everyone! Here is to the success of the next 50 years!



I recently had the pleasure of meeting at the Ogonowski Field with a group of Aerospace Engineering students from MIT. The students were at the field to test fly a home-grown research aircraft intended to compete in several nationwide events this Spring. Purpose built to carry and drop simulated payloads – approximating everything from commercial packages to life-saving medical supplies – the design and construction of the aircraft was truly

amazing. Built of light-weight Kevlar sheets and foam over a light-ply framework, and powered by twin electric motors and propellers, it was a very impressive aircraft, and an equally impressed

group of designers! As always, the 495<sup>th</sup> R/C Squadron, Inc. is very supportive of such efforts and routinely makes our field available for flight testing by local universities. In the past few years, we have hosted groups from Boston University, Tufts University, UMass Lowell, and now MIT. If you happen to see these future engineers at the field, please be sure to welcome them and say 'hello'!

The club held a very successful **Winter Project Show-n-Tell™** at the April meeting. This annual event is much anticipated by the membership, and is always a great time! Project presenters included Bart Navarro, Bob Merlino, Ken Lisiak, Bob Tegelaar, Bill Lentine, Bill Smeltzer, Steven Rosenbach, Rita Smeltzer and John Morley. In addition, member Cody Wojcik of Ascent Aerosystems of Wilmington presented a commercial coaxial drone vehicle called '*Spirit*'. Intended for a wide variety of Industrial, Public Safety and Government applications, the Spirit UAV was an impressive vehicle. Look for Cody and his team to be flight testing at the field this season! All participants in the *Winter Project Show-n-Tell* event received a complimentary Dunkin Donuts gift card!

A reminder that the May club meeting will feature a very special treat when longtime member, friend, and Life Member, Ralph Dionne will join us to present a video on the Berlin airlift, and to discuss his role in this historic operation! This is a 'not-to-be missed' event, and is likely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many of us to learn first-hand about this important event in our history! Please plan to attend this event, and bring a friend! Refreshments will be served at this event! Please see the website for more details!



Looking forward a little bit to the month of June, member Steve Rosenbach will join us at the June meeting for a presentation on taking better photographs! Steve will demonstrate principles for making better pictures with any camera, from the Smartphone in your pocket to a high-end digital camera. Refreshments will be served at this event! Please see the website for more details!

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 – our 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year!! This section, and the 'sidebar' on the website will have details of the events planned, as well as many other club activities throughout the year!

Membership renewals for 2022 continue to come in at a brisk pace! Even before the flying & driving season has 'officially' begun, we already have more than 100 members who have joined or renewed for the 2022 season! At the current pace, we expect to easily repeat the 'high water mark' of 150+

members again this year! Don't forget though, ff you haven't already renewed your membership, please do so today!

In closing, I want to remind all members that you **must** renew your club membership by Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. Early renewals dramatically reduce the work load of the club secretary and treasurer, so don't wait to renew! As always, renewals can also be sent to the club post office box, or brought to a membership meeting.

**495<sup>th</sup> R/C Squadron, Inc.**  
**PO Box 426**  
**Tewksbury, MA 01876**

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

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

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022



**(John and his Hangar 9 Timber 110" @ Winter Show-n-Tell)**



# The FPV Bug

**Bob Prescott**

Here's an article about a new build I am preparing for. It starts with a bit of a story to explain why I have chosen this new build. Sorry for the extra words.

A few years ago, I began flying my Quad with goggles (FPV) and found that I truly enjoy it. The next step was to set up an airplane for FPV and enjoy the longer flight times, and hopefully get a bit more leeway when I make a mistake. I crashed a couple of quads, which survived, but they were simple problems that I just couldn't recover from fast enough. I figured the plane would be easier.

I built a 2S high-wing pusher plane with 5000 mAh batteries that had a calculated 45 minute flight time. I flew it multiple times, but only once at the 495th. The Pinnacle flight turned out to be the last, since I gave up on airplane FPV afterward. My excuse was not enough range and too much disorientation.



**Bob w/Fat Shark FPV Goggles**

When I flew FPV at Pinnacle, I lost control of the plane and it went down past the woods. It turned out that I ended up flying in a completely different direction than I thought I was and could not find the plane when it plowed into the ground. I did not recognize the area I saw as it headed toward the ground, but I took a trip searching for the plane anyway. No luck.

I went back to the field and prepped another plane to fly LOS. As I was preparing to fly, a car pulled up and a guy got out of his car with my FPV plane in hand and yelled to me. Turns out he found the plane in the parking area of his work and figured that it must have come from our field. We had a great talk and he headed off.

This was one time that I did not fly with a spotter and truly learned my lesson. Like I said, this was my last FPV flight with an airplane. Now the bug is back and I'm preparing to try it again. This time I will surely use a spotter each and every time along with more equipment to ensure proper flights, and landings.



Back when I was flying FPV, there was a cool plane targeted specifically for FPV with forward swept wings and it looked really cool. The RiteWing Drak (60" wingspan). Unfortunately, this EPP plane cost \$350.00 just for the kit alone! I passed on it.

Recently I decided to buy the Drak and try FPV once again, however the Drak was no longer being made. Since my original obsession, RiteWing created a Mini Drak and a Nano Drak. The mini cannot be found in stock, but I did track down a Nano Drak with extended wings (40"), so I purchased a kit for \$130.00 and began preparing for the build.

I still could not get the larger Drak out of my head, and ended up deciding to build my own version of it. This is going to sound strange, but I'm going to use a 62" flying wing and add my own fuselage to it in order to get a similar look to the RiteWing Drak.

Rather than re-cut the wings for forward sweep, I'm planning to flip it around backward and see how it does with a reverse airfoil. My fuselage will allow me to add a puller motor instead of the usual pusher, hoping for a bit more stability in flight (and a quieter prop). Lastly, I am going to add landing gear to the plane, just for the fun of it.



**RiteWing Nano Drak**

The tail gear will simply be a carbon tube coming out of the back acting as a skid. This design has worked really well for my 3D planes as a way to protect the tail when I get too close to the ground. They don't track as well as a wheel on the ground, but I truly don't care about taxiing, as long as it moves.

I went with the large model because I want it to carry a 6S 5000 mAh battery, since I already have a number of them to fly my helicopters. The size will also allow it to carry plenty of FPV gear, so that I can do it right this time.

I'll be starting the build next week and I'm really excited about flying this plane. To start with, I will be flying it LOS until I get used to its quirks and become extra comfortable flying it. The fuselage will allow placement of the battery that will get the CG in the correct place.

Speaking of CG: on a rear sweep wing, it's pretty simple to calculate. On a forward sweep wing, calculating the MAC (mean aerodynamic cord) is rather simple, but the hard part is convincing yourself that the CG location you come up with is correct (which can actually end up in front of the wing's LE, depending on sweep). I'll figure it out and do glide tests before trying to throw it into the air. There are a lot of factors to take into account, so the glide tests will be the most help.

This kind of thing is actually why I love building RC planes. Way back in the beginning I tried all kinds of crazy things on my planes to see what effect they would have, and I learned an awful lot! I'm confident that I can get this one flying after years of making flat coroplast wings to do the job.

Wish me luck... just don't tell me that it won't work, because I'm committed now and I want to see the result, good or bad.



Bob Prescott

## 495<sup>th</sup> R/C Squadron, Inc. – Winter Show-n-Tell

Annual Winter Project Show-n-Tell event will be held on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM at the next general membership meeting! Please bring your latest project to show off to your fellow club members! Each member bringing a project will be allotted enough time to show and discuss their latest masterpiece! Prizes will be awarded to all who participate, and special refreshments will be served!

**Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM !**



**Robert Tegelaar and his winter Project**



**Rita and her vintage 80' TAMIYA Big Foot**







**Bill Smeltzer (above) and Ken Lisiak (right) showing their winter build to the crowd**



**Steve Rosenbach showing his FT Tutor**





**Cody Wojcik of Ascent Aerosystems of Wilmington presented a commercial coaxial drone vehicle called 'Spirit'.**



**Bob Merlino and his old school build project : Sid Kadet (Electric conversion)**



**Bart Navarro and his Sid Kadet**

# Pima Air and Space Museum, Tucson, Arizona

**John Morley**

Where can you see a B-36 “Peacekeeper” bomber, a B-58 “Hustler” bomber, an SR-71 “Blackbird” reconnaissance aircraft, and an Air Force 1 presidential transport aircraft all under the same roof? If you guessed the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona, you’d be correct!

I recently had an opportunity to enjoy the museum during a visit to Tucson to see my son, David, who is now living locally while working for The Raytheon Company in the Missile and Space Systems division.

Located about 120 miles south of Phoenix, Arizona, just off I-10, the Pima Air and Space Museum is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest aviation and space museum in the country (after the Smithsonian, and the US Air Force Museum), and the largest privately funded aviation museum in the world. The museum boasts a collection of more than 300 rare aircraft and spacecraft from around the globe, displayed both indoors, and outdoors on their 80 acre complex. There are multiple “hangars” (totaling more than 200,000 Sq. Ft.) for the most valuable parts of the collection, while the other aircraft are displayed outdoors (the dry environment of the desert southwest is ideal for long-term outdoor storage). At the Pima Air and Space Museum you can literally walk among some of the most significant, rare, and one-of-a-kind military and commercial aircraft in the world! Directly across the street from the museum is the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, home of AMARC (the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group), otherwise known as the military aircraft “boneyard” for the U.S. military. This facility houses approximately 1,200 military aircraft in long-term storage, for use as parts donors, or eventual return-to-flight.

In my opinion, the most unique airplane at the museum is the Consolidated B-36 ‘Peacemaker’ Strategic Bomber. This eight engine (6 piston, and 2 turbojet) behemoth is a sight to behold. At one time, for about five years in the late 1950’s, the B-36 was the mainstay of the US Air Force’s air-launched nuclear weapons delivery system.

Although it’s lifespan was shortened by the introduction of new all-turbojet aircraft such as the B-47 and the B-52, the B-36 was still a formidable deterrent in the early days of the cold war! If you ever get a chance to visit the Phoenix area, I highly





recommend a visit to the Pima Air and Space Museum. If you do go, I recommend that you go during the spring or fall months! Even in March, it was over 90F in the blazing sun when I visited, but as they say, "it was a dry heat"...

Submitted by John Morley, April 5, 2022







# Blast from the Past (2008)

Opening Day, Scale fly, Auction, Fun fly, Picnic



WWI SCALE FUN  
FLY !









## Club Calendar

### Monthly Zoom Club Meetings

Every 1st Wednesday – Zoom or Congregational Church

### Club Events

May 4, 2022 Club Meeting - Berlin Airlift Presentation with Ralph Dionne!

May 14, 2022 Spring Fun Fly

May 21, 2022 2nd Annual Car Track Rally

June 1, Club Meeting Photography with Steve Rosenbach!

June 4, 'Kid's Day' Fun Fly and BBQ

June 11, 2022 Summer Fun Fly - Mike Pangione

July 6, 2022 Club Meeting - TBD!!

July 9, 2022 Scale Fun Fly

Aug. 3, 2022 T Club Meeting - Ice Cream Social

Aug. 13, 2022 National Model Aviation Day Fun Fly

Aug. 20, 2022 Multi-Club Fun Fly and BBQ!

Sept. 7, 2022 Club Meeting - Annual Swap Meet

Sept. 10, 2022 Annual Member Picnic!

Oct. 5, 2022 Club Meeting - TBD!!

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

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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](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.snhrc.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