



# The Pinnacle

Volume 53 Issue 6

June 2022



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

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



**Club Summer Fun Fly**

Photo Credit: Calvin Hsieh

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### 495 R/C Squadron, Inc.

**Next Meeting** ..... **Wednesday, July 6<sup>st</sup> 7:30 P.M.**  
 Next Events ..... Photography with Steve Rosenback  
 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](mailto:sales@advancednotebook.com))

I was able to skip work on 6/25 and participated the club summer fun fly. Happy to see all the friends and most important that I got the chance to catch lots of great moment and smiles.

Our club member Ernie Poole shares his latest project of Free wing T-33. With the help of Caligraphic making the custom decals, Ernie transferred the stock color scheme into the Perrin AFB scheme.

Ernie to me is a master builder who I always admire. Back in 2016, I acquired his Top Flite P47 ARF with electric conversion. When I opened it up to check the motor and other electric components, I was surprised to see his details to attention, with all the wiring and cables neatly organized and colored. It was simply amazing, considering all things were under the cowl and no one will ever see it. I told myself this must be a man with discipline and wont settle for anything less. I told myself from now on I will build my plane like the way he did.

We have lots of photos in the newsletter this month, take a look !

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



The Contenders (Summer Fun Fly)

## 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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event Description</b>
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 closing in on the end of June, and club activities are in full swing! The weather has been absolutely beautiful, with many warm, clear days, and great flying!! As I mentioned last month, we are hosting 'Car Night' on Tuesday nights for informal car 'tweaking' and racing, and 'Training Night' on Thursday nights for student pilot instruction. If the weather is favorable on Thursday night, we will also hold an informal barbeque every week! This is absolutely the 'sweet spot' of the R/C flying and driving season with long days, and great flying/driving weather! I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy this time as much as possible! I look forward to seeing you all out at the field this season!

As we discussed & voted on at the last club meeting, the club has decided to purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> lawn tractor to supplement our current machine. The original Husqvarna tractor owned by the club is about 15 years old now, and is starting to show its age. Although it continues to run well, and parts remain (mostly) available, we don't want to be in a position where we are scrambling for a new machine in the middle of the flying season!



**Member John Locke runs the new Cub Cadet Tractor!**

Shortly after the last meeting, Bill Smeltzer alerted me to a potential deal on a lightly used Cub Cadet tractor for sale in Salem, NH. This machine turned out to be a very low time tractor at a very attractive price! It had recently been completely serviced prior to the sale, and was in excellent shape! A deal was soon made, and Bill and I were able to take delivery and transport the machine to Bill's home. At least for the time being, this machine is going to be used to maintain the car track, while the original mower will be used exclusively to maintain the runway! Of course, we don't have storage for the new tractor at the field, so at least for the time being, Bill Smeltzer will keep it at his home, and transport it to the field when needed.

At the June club meeting, the membership had the very special pleasure of welcoming newer member, and friend, Steve Rosenbach, to speak to us about his other passion, photography! After a short technical delay while we worked out some technical issues with the LCD projector, Steve

conducted a spirited discussion on many of the technical aspects of photography, and how to take better pictures regardless of the camera you have available! It was a very informative presentation, and beneficial to both the beginner and advanced photographer! Steve conducts frequent 'walking tours' with other photographers at various 'picture worthy' sites in the Northeast, such as New York City, Philadelphia and Boston, and he shared many of his best pictures with us! It's amazing how the true essence of a building, a person, or a landscape can be captured by a talented photographer! Thank you Steve for an excellent presentation!



**Photo of ¼ Scale Piper J3 Cub by Steve Rosenbach**

As many of you know, the club has had a 'porta-potty' restroom on order for over one year! Ordered in April of 2021, I just received confirmation that the porta-potty will be drop-shipped from the manufacturer on July 19<sup>th</sup>! Apparently, the combination of high demand due to Covid-19, and material shortages due to supply chain issues have made new portable restrooms a very rare commodity! Anyway, our plan is to permanently install the porta-potty at the left end of the field near the helicopter 'hover circle'. We plan to put a simple 'courtesy screen' up around the restroom to obscure it from the street view. Sign-ups for restroom cleaning duty will be posted soon! Here is your golden opportunity to volunteer!!

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, if you haven't already renewed your membership, please do so today!

**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.

June 22, 2022

# 495<sup>th</sup> R/C Squadron, Inc. – Summer Fun Fly

## Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>

There will be three competing events, and three prizes. Points will be scored and counted for all three events and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize will be awarded based on the total points earned.

Hope to see everyone there for a great time and turnout !

Michael Pangione







# Building a Commemorative T-33A

## Ernie Poole

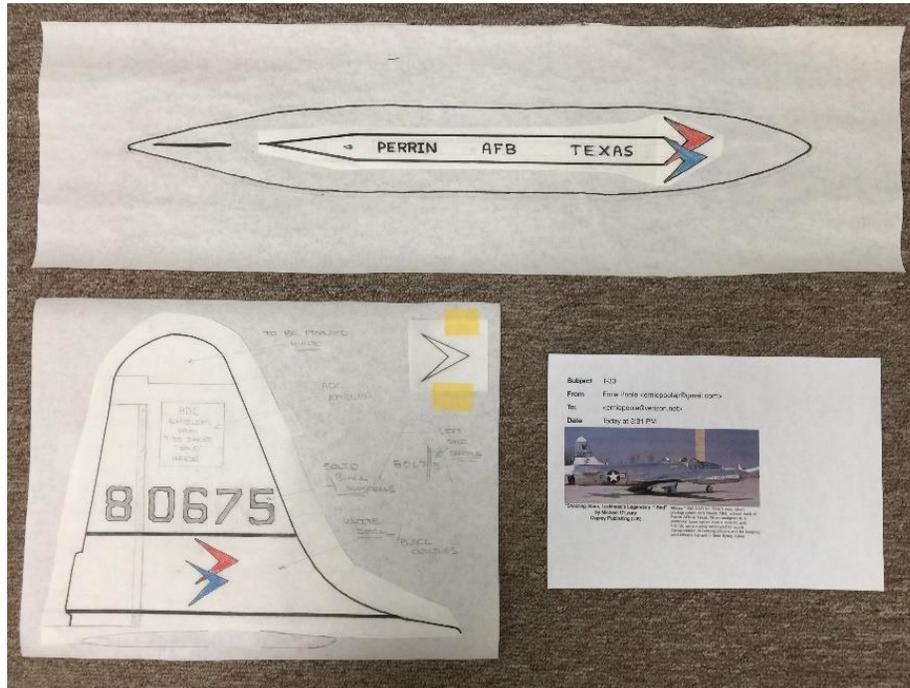
All those many years ago when I was wearing Air Force blue, I served at Perrin AFB in north Texas. It was an ADC (Air Defense Command) base with a training mission for all weather fighter pilots. We had a large contingent of F-102's and T-33's to accomplish that with. My job back then was to maintain the Falcon series of air-to-air missiles for the F-102's. Though I tried, I never flew in a TF-102, but I did score a flight or two in the T-33's. This T-33A is finished as one of those I spent three years working around and also flew in.

When Freewing released the model a few years back, the project immediately sprung to mind. The scheme at Perrin AFB back then was simple, yet fairly colorful. The F-102's were overall gull gray, and the T-33's were in bare aluminum. I dug out old photos, researched a book or two, and started laying out the graphics in scale. With the model in house, I carefully sized the artwork in color, and sent it off to Callie Graphics to be produced. She already had a T-33 sheet on the website, and used the basic markings from that to complete my order. The ADC insignia also existed on another sheet.

While I waited several weeks for that to materialize, I turned to prep and paint on the plane. It's delivered with one of two available paint and decal schemes, so a fair bit of sanding is required to where primer will reasonably cover the original paint and decals. I worked the fuselage, wings, fuel tanks, etc, separately until they were ready for paint, and then used Tamiya Gloss Aluminum overall. So far, the Tamiya spray paints have proved not to crack with the inevitable flexing we get while flying these planes. Krylon for one, cracked easily on earlier projects.

My DX-7S transmitter won't work with the newer Spectrum gyro equipped receivers, so I opted to use an Admiral unit with a 3 axis gyro. I set it up on a switch so I could turn the gyros on and off in flight. Now with the plane fully assembled and electrically tested, it was time to apply the decals and detail paint. I carefully removed the canopy and did some paint work on the pilots and cockpit, applied some zinc chromate to the wheel wells and gear doors. I enjoy this part of the project, and generally do more than necessary for a club flyer.





I use Windex spray to wet the surface before applying decals. This allows some adjustment time before the decal locks into place. Once they set, they are SET!

With the detailing complete, I installed the pushrods and went through all the control throws and CG checks. I'm using Admiral 4500ma batteries, though a larger battery will fit if longer flight-time is your goal.

As I write, the plane has yet to maiden, but will have flown by the time you read this. I hope to report that it all went well!



**Freewing Stock Scheme**  
USAF 57th Fighter Interceptor Squadron "Black Knights"

**Repaint "bare aluminum" and get ready for the custom decal**





**One and only Freewing T33 with Perrin Air Force Base scheme**

### **Maiden Report Update 6/26/22**

“Flew the T-33 for the first time. It flew super nice, and I never put in a single click of trim for the first time I ever remember. Landing gave me some trouble as I’m not used to the speed. In the end, my landing was good, but I did just roll into the tall grass before stopping. No damage, as I was all but stopped. I took out some aileron throw after the fact to dumb it down a bit. I was over-controlling it thought. All in all a very good maiden flight ! “



**Ernie Poole**

# Better Throttle Cut

## Bob Prescott

In my search to better understand my new open source radio, I came across an interesting YouTube video offering a better way to use Throttle Cut, which I would like to share, since it is absolutely brilliant.

Anyone who has flown RC helicopters over the years has learned just how important, and money saving, Throttle Cut can be. If you have ever seen a video of a heli doing the “Chicken Dance”, you have seen what happens when a helicopter contacts the ground with power supplied to it’s rotors. It’s kind of interesting to watch, except for the pilot as he watches his helicopter destroy itself flopping around the ground. Using a Throttle Cut switch can save considerable amounts of money caused by that damage. Another reason to use Throttle Cut is to protect ones self and anyone nearby when it’s known that the heli is going to crash. Simply throw the switch and try to bring it down in a controlled manner.

I once saw an amazing feat at the field, related to Throttle Cut. I was beside our own Andrew Merlino as he was practicing a maneuver on the flight line, when I heard an awful noise from his helicopter, about 20 feet off the ground. One of his main blades made contact with the rear boom of the heli, known as a Boom Strike.



**Heli Chicken Dance**

When I glanced over that way, I saw pieces raining down toward the ground which caused me to emergency land my aircraft so I could get a better look. Andrew had enabled Throttle Cut and proceeded to use the inertia left in the head unit to actually control the decent of the heli, even though it only had one main blade left. Andrew was able to safely land the heli on it’s skids and prevent further damage, in the most spectacular crash recovery I have ever witnessed! He performed an “Auto” landing with only one blade left on his heli... truly amazing.

Throttle Cut allowed him to do this because years of practice caused his brain to tell his finger to hit the Throttle Cut switch before he was even able to think about it.

As I progressed in my flying experience, the idea hit me to use Throttle Cut on my airplanes. This was a bad idea! It turns out that Throttle Cut on an airplane is dangerous because it tricks your mind into thinking that it is a safe condition to put the plane into, even when you know better.

After enabling Throttle Cut on one of my planes, I brought it in-doors to perform some work on it. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I was supposed to take the prop off before powering it up in a contained area. But Throttle Cut would protect me, and I left the prop on the plane and powered it up. Everything was well and good until I was finished. I put all the controls in rest position, which included the Throttle Cut switch, which re-enabled power to the motor. The problem is that my throttle stick was not at -100 at the time and the propeller spun up, the plane shot across the room and impacted the chair next to me.

I had a friend who this happened to as well. However, his plane hit him in the stomach and required stitches to repair! Another person this happened to was not hurt, but it scared the crap out of him and he invented a better way to manage Throttle Cut using his OpenTX radio, which I am going to explain here. I call his method Intelligent Throttle Cut.

In an open source radio, running OpenTX or EdgeTX, you have an option to create Logical Switches to use along with your mechanical switches. You can set a Logical Switch to go active when I certain condition is met, which is what this guy did.

First you set up a Logical Switch to look at the position of the Throttle Cut mechanical switch as well as the position of the throttle stick. This Logical Switch only activates when the mechanical switch is Off, and the throttle stick is below -99.

Now, you set up a second Logical Switch that activates based on Logical Switch one. When one is active, then Logical Switch two becomes active. This allows you to choose an action in the radio based on the activity of Logical Switch two. This one is setup as a “Sticky” switch that remains active after Logical Switch one is met, so that when throttle is raised, it doesn’t get de-activated. Remember, all of this is a reaction to using the Throttle Cut mechanical switch.



**Spektrum DX8 Throttle Cut setup menu**

Third, you set up a Special Function that over-rides the Throttle Cut mechanical switch if Logical Switch two is not active, sending the throttle position to -100.

These changes are made under the model settings, so must be programmed on each model that you want to use these for. I have a Template setup for each type of aircraft that I want to use in my radio and when I add a new model, I copy the Template so that the new aircraft will inherit all the same settings that every other aircraft uses. This way, all my voice callouts, switch positions, and Logical Switches are exactly the same across the board.

With my new radio, I have spent the first week going over all the settings I am going to use, then creating templates with the exact same configurations so that I don’t omit something and cause a

problem when I switch models at the field. I try to be sure that the final settings I change are what I want to keep, so that I don't have to modify every single model going forward. The last thing I am going to do is test the settings on a simple model in the back yard to make sure that everything works the way I want, and make one last adjustment to my Templates before I start moving planes, helis, and quads over from my old radio, which is a different brand.

Back to Throttle Cut. So after the new Intelligent Throttle Cut, my Throttle Cut now works as such: I hit the mechanical switch I want to use when I engage Throttle Cut and it kills the motor. When I re-engage throttle, if my throttle stick is above -99, the motor will not turn back on (due to the switch over-ride we added based on Logical Switch two) and the prop won't turn and chop me to pieces. All I have to do is drop the throttle down to -100 and the Logical Switches engage, allowing the use of throttle once again. Nothing happens if you don't hit the switch, but now you won't get attacked by a rogue model when you do use the switch.



Bob Prescott

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## Club Calendar

### Monthly Zoom Club Meetings

Every 1st Wednesday – Zoom or Congregational Church

### Club Events

July 6, 2022 Club Meeting

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:

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<b>ABC RC &amp; Hobby</b> 11 Rockingham Rd, Windham, NH	(603) 458-6481
<a href="https://www.horizonhobby.com">https://www.horizonhobby.com</a>	All Around
<a href="http://hobbyking.com">http://hobbyking.com</a>	All Around
<a href="https://rcexcitement.com">https://rcexcitement.com</a>	Cars
<a href="https://twistedhobbys.com">https://twistedhobbys.com</a>	Profile Foamies
<a href="https://innov8tivedesigns.com">https://innov8tivedesigns.com</a>	Great Motors
<a href="https://fpvlab.com/">https://fpvlab.com/</a>	FPV Equipment
<a href="http://www.crashtesthobby.com">http://www.crashtesthobby.com</a>	Toughest Planes
<a href="https://www.towerhobbies.com">https://www.towerhobbies.com</a>	All Around
<a href="http://www.amazon.com">http://www.amazon.com</a>	Extra All Around

## Handy Links:

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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