



The Pinnacle

Volume 54 Issue 86

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

AMA Gold Leader Club, Charter #340

**Goodbye 2023
See you in 2024!**



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, Jan.3rd 7:30 P.M.
Next Events	Italian Banquet Feb 7 th 6:30 P.M.
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 not hesitate to contact me @ (sales@advancednotebook.com)

As usually, I want to turn the Dec. newsletter into a picture log of 2023. It is obvious we have a fun year, not even snow until the last week of the year. When you come across this one many years from now, I hope it will help you to remember how much fun we once had in 2023.

I do work hard on the newsletter and hope you enjoy reading it. I am very lucky getting great supports from fellow writers like Bob Merlino and Bob Prescott. Certainly John's "View from the left seat" is always the highlight of each month's newsletter. I would like to receive more of your support to keep it going.

Enjoy all the pictures in this album and wish we will have more to come.

Happy New Year !

Calvin Hsieh
495th Newsletter Editor



At the field ! (2023)



2024 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. 1, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	New Years Day Flying!
Jan. 3, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
Feb. 7, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Italian Banquet!
Mar. 6, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
April 3, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Winter Project Show-n-Tell!
April 16, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Car Night Begins for 2024!
April 18, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Training Night Begins for 2024!
April 20, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Opening Day and Field Cleanup!
May 1, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
May 11, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Spring Fun Fly!
May 18, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Heli Fun Fly!
June 5, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
June 8, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - 'Kid's Day' Fun Fly and BBQ!
June 15, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Summer Fun Fly - Mike Pangione
July 10, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
July 13, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Scale Fun Fly!
Aug. 7, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Ice Cream Social!
Aug. 10, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - National Model Aviation Day!
Aug. 17, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Multi-Club Fun Fly and BBQ!
Sept. 4, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
Sept. 14, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Annual Member Picnic!
Oct. 2, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
Oct. 12, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field Work Party!
Oct. 13, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Scout Rocket Launch Event!
Oct. 19, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Fall Classic Car Rally!
Nov. 6, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Annual Business Meeting and Elections
Dec. 4, 2024	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!

View From The Left Seat™

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

It's hard to believe that the 2023 flying season has come to an end, and that the New Year is virtually upon us! Each passing year seems to go by faster and faster! I'm not sure if that is a consequence of getting older, or of just being busier than ever? Now that the flying and driving season is mostly over, I hope that everyone has switched into 'winter project' mode! In spite of my best efforts not to take on any new projects, a recent model offering from Seagull models, a 122" wingspan Cessna L-19 Birddog has caught my eye! As I've reported before, I'm flying a full-scale L-19 Birddog as tow pilot for the Greater Boston Soaring Club at the Sterling, MA airport. It's become a favorite airplane, so I could not resist the urge to purchase a ¼ scale version of the venerable Birddog! I plan to power the Birddog with a DA-70 twin cylinder gasoline engine, and install a smoke system! I've always wanted to try a twin cylinder gas engine as they are reportedly very smooth running, and I've wanted a smoke equipped airplane for a long time! Assuming this newly available ARF arrives in a timely fashion, I should be able to fulfill both goals this spring! Another goal is to use the ¼ scale Birddog to perform some 'aero-towing' at the field next summer! That should be a lot of fun! Anyway, it's going to be a long winter, so I challenge my fellow club members to take on their own winter projects! If you don't plan to acquire any new airplanes this winter – who doesn't already have 'enough'? - perhaps a goal of mastering a new flight maneuver on the flight simulator might be a worthy goal?



In order to help pass the long winter 'off-season', the club will be conducting several 'field trips' this winter. Potential venues include the New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks, CT, the American Heritage Museum in Stow, MA, Guillow's in Wakefield, MA, and Plane Sense in Portsmouth, NH. We will be announcing the plans for these field trips in early January, so stay tuned!

In addition to these proposed field trips, we will also be having a couple of Events at the Ogonowski Memorial Flying Field. The first, on Jan. 1st, will be our annual 'First Flight' event at 12 noon! The idea is for as many members as possible to fly on the first day of 2024! Frankly, while it's a totally impractical event, it does give our participating members 'bragging' rights for the entire year! Hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served for all who can make it! Later in the winter, we will host a 'Frozen Finger Fun Fly' on a date to be determined! Stay tuned for more info! Finally, we have a lot of great meeting entertainment lined up for the winter months, and we hope to see as many members attending as possible!

Coming up at the February meeting on Feb. 7th, will be the annual *Italian Banquet and Awards Ceremony*! Beginning at 6:30PM, we will be serving a full Italian meal consisting of Spaghetti and Meatballs, Salad, Rolls, Soft Drinks, Dessert and Coffee, all for the price of \$5 per person. This event will require pre-registration to allow for the purchase of an adequate amount of food. Look for a sign-up email early in January!

I want to remind everyone that there are **four things** required to fly at the Ogonowski Memorial Model Flying Field:

- The first requirement is AMA membership.
- The second requirement is club membership.
- The third requirement is FAA registration of your UAS/Drone
- The fourth requirement is a TRUST certificate. The first two items will be strictly enforced this year at the field. The FAA registration (FAADroneZone), and the TRUST (The Recreational UAS Safety Test) certificate administered by the AMA will be 'self-certify'. We expect everyone to comply with these requirements, but we will only enforce AMA and club membership!

A recurring safety concern keeps being raised at the field, so I'd like to take a moment to address a few things. First, all airplanes are to be started (gas/glow airplanes), and 'armed' (electric airplanes) on the 'starting benches' that are provided for this purpose. These airplanes are then to be taxied or carried directly to the runway entrance to the left of the #1 pilot station stand. At no time are airplanes to be started or armed anywhere else, and running or armed airplanes are **prohibited** anywhere in the area behind any of the pilot stations. Likewise, when exiting the runway, this should always be done adjacent to the #1 pilot station. In the past, members have been starting or arming planes on the benches along the guard rail, or on the picnic tables. To be clear, these are **spectator areas**, and airplanes are not to be started or armed in these areas! Once your airplane has been started, or is armed, always maintain positive control of the airplane, and never leave it unattended! These are just common sense safety precautions, and we expect everyone in the club to adhere to them!

The Event schedule for 2024 has been posted to the website! A number of Events are already on the schedule, and more will be added throughout the year as details are firmed up! Please be sure to check the website frequently so that you are up-to-date on all the latest club happenings!

As the end of the year approaches, please keep in mind that AMA and 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 fields beginning on Jan. 1st, 2023! Please don't wait, and get your renewal done as soon as possible! AMA renewals are now being received, and we will start club membership renewals at the December 2023 club meeting! As in past years, we also plan to host several membership renewal events at the field starting in December. Please stay tuned!

Again, a reminder that each month the BOD will meet on the **Wednesday** evening immediately preceding the regular club meeting. Our meetings are held at the Tewksbury 99 restaurant on Rt. 38 in Tewksbury, and begin at 7:30PM. 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 Dec. 27th, 2023 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.

Dec. 14th, 2023

2023 Business Meeting and Election Results

November 1st 2023

The club held it's annual business meeting on Nov. 1st, 2023. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 members, and refreshments of coffee and brownies were served! Following a brief summary of the past years events & activities by President John Morley, and a membership and treasurers summary by Secretary/Treasurer Bob Merlino, the club voted on the acquisition of a shed for housing the track maintenance tractor. Of several proposals, the membership voted to accept the donation of a 12' x 10' garden shed. In addition to accepting the shed, the membership also voted to approve the expenditure of the necessary funds to transport the shed to the field, and to complete necessary repairs and upgrades to make the shed usable by the club. This project will commence in the spring of 2024 when the weather has warmed up a bit and ground preparations for the new shed can be completed!

Officer and BOD elections were also conducted for the 2024 season. Re-elected for the 2024 season were the following officers and BOD members:

President: John Morley
Vice-President: Bob Goulet
Secretary: Bob Merlino
Treasurer: Bob Merlino
Field Marshall: Mike Pangione
Bod Member: Bill Smeltzer



Submitted by: John Morley
Dec. 14th, 2024

495th R/C Squadron, Inc. – Great 2023 !

The past year was quite a good one for the club! Our membership numbers were very strong in 2023, and activity levels at the field were consistently higher than in recent years! LET'S continue this trend in 2024 !

Membership Renewal Event

(2023.12. 16)





Track Clean Up Work Party

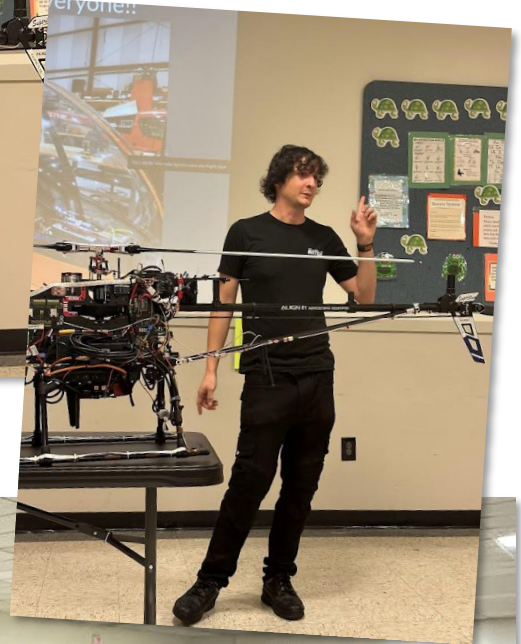
Photo by Rita Smeltzer (2023.10.14)

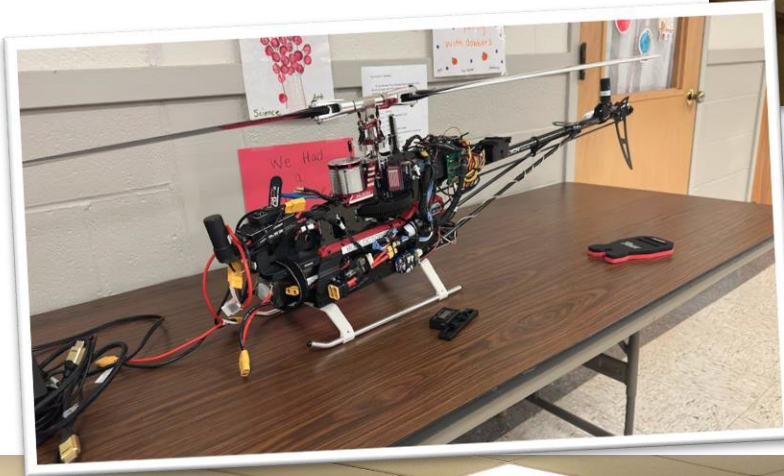




Special Presentation

Guest Speaker: Andrew Merlino
(2023.8.04)





Annual Rocket Launch Event

(Photo Credit: John Morley)

On Sunday, Oct. 15th, 2023, the 495th R/C Squadron, Inc. hosted Scout Pack 76 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!

John Morley

Member Picnic

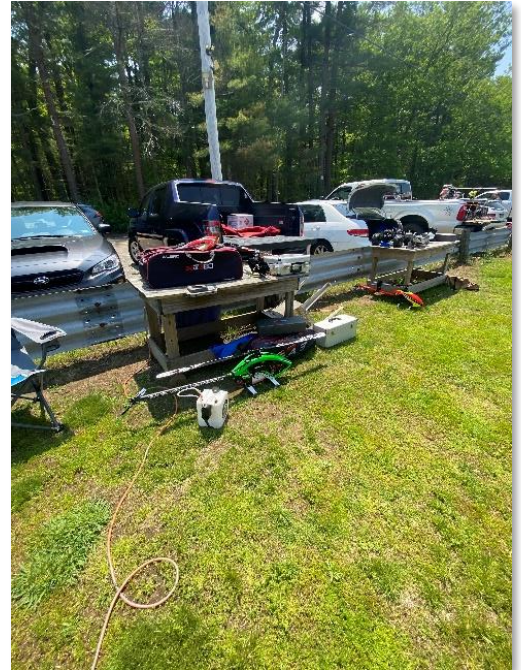
Photo by Rita Smeltzer (2023.09.09)

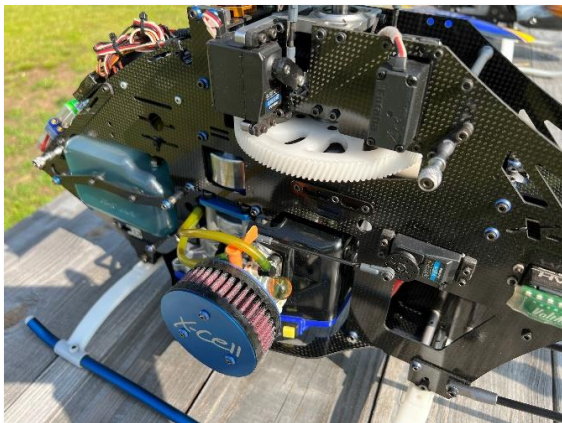




Heli Fun Fly

Photo by John Morley (2023.05.20)





Opening Day / Field Clean-up

Photo by Calvin Hsieh (2023.04.22)



Winter Project Show n Tell

Photo by Calvin Hsieh (2023.04.05)



Scale Building Presentation

Guest Speaker: John Hayes (2023.03.01)



Italian Banquet

2023.02.01



Proposed Shed Purchase for the Car Track

At the moment, the club owns two utility tractors. One tractor, our 15 year old Husqvarna model, is fitted with a mower deck, and is used exclusively to mow the runway and accompanying field areas. The second tractor, a Cub Cadet model, has the mower deck removed (we have it, in storage!), and is used exclusively to maintain the car track. We currently have storage space in our shed at the field for only one tractor, and we've been keeping the Husqvarna machine there. The Cub Cadet model is stored off-site, and is trailered to the field each time it's needed. This is a big effort on the part of Bill Smeltzer, and probably results in less track maintenance - although Bill does a great job! - simply due to the extra effort! A proposal has been made that the club acquire a second shed for track related storage, including this tractor. This would significantly reduce the effort needed to maintain the car track, and would likely translate into better overall track conditions due to ready tractor availability!

After much discussion, the BOD has come up with four options to address this issue

The first option - the **Gold option** - is to purchase a commercially made shed, similar to the existing shed currently at the field. Including ground prep., this option would cost in the range of \$7K to \$8K. The second option

- the **Silver option** - is to purchase a commercially available steel storage container. Including ground prep. and aesthetic improvements, this option would cost in the range of \$4K to \$5K. The third option –
- the **Bronze option** - would be to accept the donation of an existing used shed, similar to the existing shed currently at the field. Including ground prep. the necessary transport and repairs, this option would cost in the range of \$1K to \$2K. Finally, the fourth option
- the **Lead option** - would be to do nothing and maintain the status quo. Clearly there is a 'need' for more storage at the field if we are to continue to own two tractors. As President, my only hesitation about this new expense is that the cost of the car track has been somewhat more expensive than originally anticipated. As such, the BOD wants to be completely transparent, and have as much member input as possible before we proceed.

Submitted by: John Moley

Date: Oct. 1, 2023

Club Calendar

Club Events

April 18, 2023	Car Night Begins for 2023!
April 20, 2023	Training Night Begins for 2023!
April 22, 2023	Opening Day and Field Cleanup!
May 3, 2023	Club Meeting
May 13, 2023	Spring Fun Fly
May 20, 2023	Heli fun Fly!
June 7, 2023	Club Meeting
June 10, 2023	'Kid's Day' Fun Fly and BBQ
June 17, 2023	Summer Fun Fly - Mike Pangione
July 5, 2023	Club Meeting
July 8, 2023	Scale Fun Fly
Aug. 2, 2023	Club Meeting - Ice Cream Social
Aug. 12, 2023	National Model Aviation Day Fun Fly
Aug. 19, 2023	Multi-Club Fun Fly and BBQ!
Sept. 6, 2023	Club Meeting - Annual Swap Meet
Sept. 9, 2023	Annual Member Picnic!
Oct. 4, 2023	Club Meeting
Oct. 14, 2023	Ogonowski Field Work Party!
Oct. 15, 2023	Andover Pack 76 - Rockets!
Oct. 21, 2023	Fall Classic Car Rally!
Nov. 1, 2023	Club Meeting - Annual Business Meeting and Elections
Dec. 6, 2023	Club Meeting

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.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