



The Pinnacle

Volume 55 Issue 87

January 2024



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

AMA Gold Leader Club, Charter #340



On the Cover: Pinnacle Flying Field

Photo Credit: Calvin Hsieh

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495 R/C Squadron, Inc.

Next Meeting **Wednesday, Feb. 7th 6:30 P.M.**
Next Events Italian Banquet Feb 7th 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)

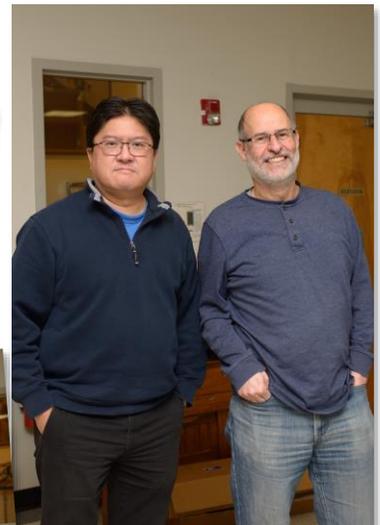
I hope that everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season! It's now January 2024!

The 18th annual Italian Banquet and Awards Night is fast approaching! The banquet will be on Wednesday, Feb. 7th, at 6:30PM. Caesar salad, spaghetti & meatballs, rolls, juice and soda, followed by a special dessert! You can't get a better deal for just \$5 bucks!

Make sure you sign up here <https://www.495thsquadron.org/event/italian-banquet-2023/>

See you all on Feb. 7th !

Calvin Hsieh
495th Newsletter Editor



Club Banquet (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.

I hope that everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season! Maybe it's just me, but the years in general, and the holidays in particular, always seem to pass by so quickly! With the world more-or-less back to 'normal', and the winter months upon us, my travel schedule has been quite busy! I'm writing this column from my hotel overlooking the Danube River in Budapest, Hungary. Tomorrow, I board a flight on Turkish airlines from Budapest to Istanbul, Turkey. After a short transit stay in Istanbul, I'll be headed to Mumbai, India to visit a number of customers. While 'Mumbai' is a name that is not widely recognized, its former name of 'Bombay' is well known! In the world of electronic manufacturing, areas like China are becoming less important (mostly due to cost, but also due to geo-political tensions), and areas like India are rising! On this trip, I'll be presenting a number of technical seminars on material heat transfer and thermal management in electronic packaging, as a subject matter expert (SME) in these areas. We manufacture products in these fields that are used to characterize electronic package thermal performance, and the attendees are all potential/likely customers. These issues are currently a 'hot' topic in the industry at the moment! The travel to these parts of the world can be a bit arduous, but the trips are always fun and interesting! For better or worse, we all live in an inter-connected world, where goods are sold to, and sourced from, every corner of the world!

While I didn't receive any model related gifts over the holidays, I did take delivery of a new ARF model airplane just before Christmas! This airplane is made by Seagull Models of Vietnam, and is sold by Legend Hobby, and is a very nice 35% scale rendition of the Cessna L-19 'Birdog'. I happened to see this model featured on FlyingGiants.com a few months ago, and it really caught my eye! I've been flying a full-scale Birdog for the past two seasons as a tow pilot for the Greater Boston Soaring Club (www.gbosc.org), so I couldn't resist acquiring a model of this aircraft! The downtime around the holidays provided a lot of time to work on assembling this impressive model! The build quality is excellent, and the provided hardware is very good quality.

While this impressively detailed model is not an inexpensive model (about \$1.2K), it does provide a great value for the demanding modeler! I plan to power this model with a 70cc twin-cylinder Desert Aircraft DA-70 two-cycle gasoline engine! This engine has been on my radar for a while – I already own the smaller 50cc single-cylinder DA-50 engine – and I finally found the appropriate airframe for it! With a 'ready-to-fly' weight of over 20 lbs., this model demands high quality, high torque servos and linkages, and is not a model to cut corners on! I plan to have this model completed sometime in February, and then I can get back to several other projects that I leap-frogged to get this one completed! Stay tuned for more progress reports, and the first flights in the spring! If all goes according to plan, I hope to use this airplane for aero-towing model gliders this summer!

On New Year's Day 2024, a number of hardy members took to the skies of Ogonowski Field for a traditional 'First Flight' celebration to celebrate the New Year! A lunch of hot dogs, chips and hot chocolate was served to all in attendance, and a great time was had by all! The idea of this gathering 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! In attendance – pictured left to right below – were Greg Thomson, Mike Wall, Jamie Boudreau, Bill Smeltzer, Lew Sanderson, Mark Stira, Bob Merlino, Bernard Marion, John Morley, Eddie De Guiseppe, and Bill Lentine.



Photo by Elizabeth Thompson

Coming up at the February meeting on Feb. 7th, will be the 18th 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. **Please visit the website to sign-up!!**

In order to help pass the long winter 'off-season', the club will be conducting several 'field trips' this winter. The first field trip will be to the American Heritage Museum in Hudson, MA on Feb. 24th from 10AM to 2PM. Located on the grounds of the Collings Foundation, the museum is a military history museum consisting of over 100 artifacts, made up mainly of cars, tanks, and airplanes. The museum collection is immaculate, and the presentation is extremely well done,

making this venue a real jewel, especially given the proximity to the Boston area. **Please visit the website to sign-up!!** Later in the winter – venue & date to be determined – we will plan another trip to either Guillow's in Wakefield, MA, or Plane Sense in Portsmouth, NH. We will be announcing the plans for the 2nd field trip in mid-February!

In order to improve safety by helping to keep keeping our modeling activities separate from the flight line, the pit area, and the spectator area, we will be installing new signage at the field next spring. These signs will include **"No 'armed' or running models beyond this point!"** to denote the pit area, and **"No 'armed' or running models in this area!"** to denote the spectator area, and protect the area immediately behind the five pilot stations. While airplane movements/operations in these restricted areas are not a huge problem, it does happen and should be avoided!

I want to remind everyone that there are **four things** required to fly at the Ogonowski Memorial Model Flying Field. (1) The first requirement is AMA membership. (2) The second requirement is club membership. (3) The third requirement is FAA registration of your UAS/Drone. (4) 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!

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 Jan. 31st, 2024 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.

Jan. 20th, 2024

2024 Officers and BOD Member

The club held its 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



Flying Without Frozen Fingers

Mike Wall

Flying with frozen fingers during the winter months may give you bragging rights at the flying field but it's no fun for your frozen, numb hands, and it can be dangerous when you can no longer feel the gimbals and switches of your transmitter. I have tried a few different options to keep the feeling in my hands and fingers when flying during the winter months and have found one solution that works a bit better than others.

One option I tried was using ice fishing gloves. These gloves have the tops of the fingers that can fold back so that fishermen can use the dexterity of their fingers and thumbs to tie their fishing line, and then fold the tops back over their fingers to keep them warm while waiting for a fish to bite. I thought this would be a good option to try, holding the transmitter with the gloves and folding the tops of the fingers to have a better sensation of the gimbals and switches. Some RC pilots may find this option suitable for them, but for me personally, I like feeling the transmitter with my hands and found that I can more easily find the switches I need, like flaps, landing gear, and dual rates, when not wearing any gloves. After a few attempts of flying with the ice fishing gloves I moved onto another option.



Ice fishing gloves with exposed finger tips

I had seen some other members flying with a transmitter mitten and thought that was a great idea. There were not many options available when I first searched online but I did manage to find two differently designed transmitter mittens. One was a no-name brand that was available on Ebay for a reasonable price, and the other was from Wtotoy and was available from Amazon. I decided to order both to see what each had to offer. A benefit of using one of these transmitter mittens is that a hand warmer could be placed inside to keep your hands nice and toasty. Like any pair of mittens or gloves, the real warmth comes from your own body heat, but because the interior of these mittens is much more voluminous than a standard pair of gloves, I found that they did not really warm up inside unless I had some other heat source. Using some electronic hand warmers seemed to do the trick and there was plenty of room inside of these mittens for my transmitter, a hand warmer and, of course, my own hands. The transmitter mittens also keep the wind off your hands when flying at the field. To me, this is the most advantageous benefit of using a transmitter mitten, as wind chills can quickly numb one's fingers.

The no-name transmitter mitten was made of black canvas, had a window to see the transmitter, and had elastic cuffs similar to what one would find on a sweatshirt. The quality of the mitten seemed very good and the thick canvas kept out the wind quite well. There was plenty of room



No name transmitter mitten with neck strap

inside the mitten for my NX10 transmitter and there was even a storage compartment that could hold some small items. The transmitter slides into the zippered opening at the top of this mitten. The size of this mitten means that the transmitter's antenna stays inside the mitten. I have not noticed any signal loss while using this transmitter mitten. The selling point of this mitten, however, was that it came with a neck strap, similar to other transmitter straps used during the warmer months. I really wanted to like this transmitter, but I found that the thick canvas had one significant drawback. The material between the hand slots was quite rigid and made it difficult for moving my hands inside the mitten. While my hands were warmer than before, the thicker canvas made it challenging to move my

hands to quickly find the switches on the transmitter. With time, it may be possible to work the material in order to soften it so that finding the switches would be easier. This transmitter mitten did not have any insulating material on the inside, and while the quality of it was very good, I found it did not keep my hands as warm as other options.

The Wtotoys transmitter mitten has a Nylon outer shell and a thin layer of insulating material on the inside. This mitten is a bit smaller in size and is not rigid in any way, making it easier for my hands to move about and finding any switch is effortless. The downside to this is that the mitten does collapse around my hands and are always in contact with the inside material. This can be a distraction at times. The transmitter is placed into the top opening of the mitten and is secured with the top flaps and Velcro tabs. Because of this mitten's size, the transmitter's antenna does stick out the top opening. There are also Velcro width adjustments on the hand openings to accommodate various thickness winter coat arms. Like the previous mitten, there is a window on the front allowing one to see the transmitter so that making any changes to settings, like the timer, is almost as seamless as using the transmitter without the mitten. The Wtotoy mitten does not come with a neck strap, so this might be something you will miss if you are accustomed to flying with a neck strap. Truthfully, though, the quality of this mitten felt cheaper than the some other options, but it did offer some advantages, and this is the mitten I find myself using most of the time. Because of the simple design of the mitten, it also offers some possibilities to modify it to fit one's personal preferences.



Wtotoys transmitter mitten

The first modification I made to this mitten was to glue a piece of high density foam to the top of the plastic window to create some space between the transmitter and the window. This would push the mitten away from the transmitter and freed up some space between the mitten's

window and the gimbals. This helped some but the mitten was still resting on some of the switches. Without a neck strap there was no way to keep the mitten from interfering with some of the switches on the transmitter. I decided to add more high density foam to the bottom of the mitten to create a platform for the transmitter to rest upon and to help generate more space between the transmitter and the inside of the mitten. This seemed to work much better but it still needed one more modification. I glued some square tube Styrene along the top opening of the mitten to make it more rigid, keeping the top surface of the mitten off the transmitter switches. To complete the modified transmitter mitten, I made a pocket in the foam platform to secure the hand warmer. It's not a perfect design, but it works well enough to keep my hands from going numb while flying during the winter months.



Spektrum NX10 fits nicely inside modified Wotoys transmitter mitten

Even during the colder winter months, flying our model aircraft can still be enjoyable. I have been using this modified transmitter mitten to fly for the past two winter seasons. It is not a perfect design, but I have been pleased with the results of these simple modifications. Spring is still a few months away, but there are some decent choices available to fly without frozen fingers. See you at the field!



Wotoys mitten with addition of foam inserts and styrene supports



Transmitter and foam platform is visible through the window. Notice the space for a hand warmer



Mike Wall

Member Picnic 2000

September 16, 2000

I was going thru some old club archives over the holidays and came across a picture book featuring the Annual Member Picnic 2000 of the 495th R/C Squadron, Inc. Held at the Pinnacle Street flying field (this event pre-dates the naming of the field for Captain John A. Ogonowski), and organized by member Roy Crane, the weather on Sept. 16th, 2000 appeared to ideal for the member event!

Over 100 members, family and friends were in attendance for the member picnic, with food provided by Steve's Catering, who I believe was member Ed Silva's son. Flying demonstrations by Dick Adams with his distinctive yellow Bucker BU-133 Jungmeister biplane, and a candy drop by Rupert Kosmala were highlights of the event! Other demonstrations included a parachute drop, and flying under a limbo line! And, proving that the members of the 495th R/C Squadron have always been on the cutting edge of model technology, the event even featured an electric LT-40 airplane! Today, electric model airplanes are the rule, but certainly 24 years ago in 2000, they were the exception!



Unrelated to the club event, but perfectly timed nonetheless, was a fly-over by the Hood blimp!

Members that I identified in the included pictures include:

John Joyce (with son), David Houston, Larry Fixler, Dick Adams, Armand Francoeur, Roy Crane, Rupert Kosmala (airplane only), Jack Berglund, Dick Fedorchuk, George Werber, Ralph Dionne(?), Ed Silva, Gus Deltwas (with Balsa USA Sopwith Pup), Fred Broulliete, Zareh Crutchian, Vin Caccamesi, and Kevin Griffin.

If you spot a member, or anyone else present, that I didn't recognize, I would appreciate it if you would help me fill in the blanks!



John Morley

Member Picnic
(2000.9.16)





A Visit to Desert Aircraft

Tucson, AZ 1/12/2024

On a recent business trip to California, I stopped in Tucson, Arizona on the way back to Boston to visit my son David. David is an aerospace engineer working for the Raytheon Company on the AMRAAM missile program. While in Tucson, I paid a visit to the folks at Desert Aircraft. As many modelers know, Desert Aircraft has been a supplier of high-end, two-cycle, gasoline engines for model aircraft for many years. Ranging from the single cylinder 35cc DA-35 to the four cylinder 200cc DA-200, these engines have been flown by the top pilots in our hobby for more than 30 years! Known for their high quality, and robust design, DA engines are the 'gold standard' for gasoline engines in the modeling industry.

My visit to Desert Aircraft was prompted in no small part by my desire to power my current winter project, a 122" Cessna L-19 'Birddog', with a 70cc DA-70 motor. This engine has a reputation for unrivaled power in its class, and smooth running – due to the twin cylinder design - so it was an obvious choice for my application! Knowing that I'd be in Tucson for a few days, I called ahead to schedule a visit, and pick-up my new engine!

Desert Aircraft resides in a relatively non-descript commercial office development on the outskirts of the city of Tucson. Inside the building, however, is a totally modern manufacturing facility with separate areas for design/engineering, engine assembly, engine test, and a state-of-the-art machine shop. Business offices, a conference room, and a large shipping and receiving department, complete the facility. In each area of the factory, workers were busy designing, building, testing, and shipping DA engines! For me, the most impressive part of the tour was the machine shop area where solid blocks of billet aircraft grade aluminum were being turned into model aircraft engine parts such as crankcases, front cases, and other parts. Of course, as is typical in a modern machine shop, most everything is automated, and CNC controlled!



John Morley and Casey Johnson are pictured with a brand new DA-70 engine and set of mufflers!

Note: Casey is 6' 8" tall!

Cylinders for DA engines are cast aluminum, and are supplied to DA design specifications by a 3rd party casting vendor. Assembled with red anodized hardware 'bling', a Desert Aircraft motor is as pretty as it is reliable and powerful!

In addition to their signature selection of engines, DA also produces the 'Slimline' line of mufflers and exhaust components for their engines following the recent acquisitions of Slimline brand mufflers. The components for these mufflers are laser cut, and then brazed to create the final assembly. After machining the exhaust flange, these mufflers are bead blasted to a great looking finish! DA supplied mufflers are designed to be as quiet as possible without robbing precious RPM from the engine!

Although model aircraft engines have always been the 'bread and butter' of Desert Aircraft, in recent years they have branched out in to the commercial and military UAV/UAS and drone markets. This 'side of the house' now makes up about 75% of their overall business! A sister company, HFE, located in an adjacent building, provides electronic fuel injection and Mil-Spec testing for DA engines intended for 'non-model' applications!

Al I the staff at Desert Aircraft was helpful and friendly during my visit, and it was abundantly clear that everyone at DA takes enormous pride in their work! I especially want to thank Casey Johnson, who was my host, and conducted the tour of the facility. After the tour was completed, I picked up my brand new DA-70 engine and a pair of Slimline mufflers. Now, I can't wait to get this project finished up, and to fly this new model and engine combo this spring!



John Morley

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 https://www.horizonhobby.com	(603) 458-6481 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