



# The Pinnacle

Volume 56 Issue 91

October 2024



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

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



Club Member Dana's 67" Skywing Extra 300 NG

Photo by Calvin Hsieh

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## 495 R/C Squadron, Inc.

**Next Meeting** ..... **Wednesday, Nov 6th 7:30 P.M.**  
 Next Events ..... Business Meeting and Election  
 Club web site ..... <http://www.495thsquadron.org>  
 Club Facebook ..... <https://www.facebook.com/495th-RC-Squadron-240759615414>

## 495 R/C Squadron, Inc. - Club Officers:

|                        |                        |                    |  |
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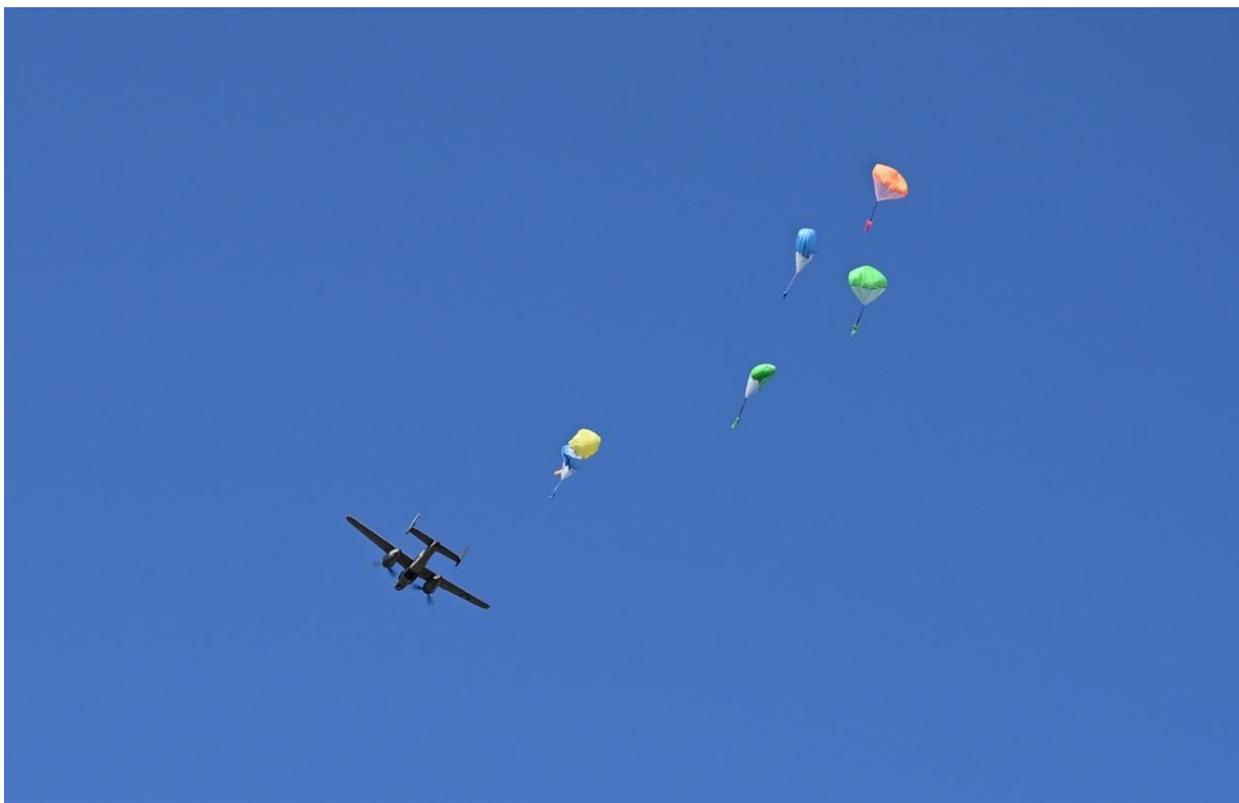
## From the Editor

Newsletter is for everyone. If you have great ideas, stories and photos to share, please do not hesitate to contact me @ ([sales@advancednotebook.com](mailto:sales@advancednotebook.com))

What a busy month for our club! We got model rail road presentation, field trip to Plane Sense , annual member picnics... For those who can't make it to the events, we have lots of pictures here for you to take a look. John as usually did a nice wrap up for every event. Mike Wall also spent time writing a detailed report for Fay's model rail road presentation. There is a link to a youtube video in his article to see the real action. Don't forget to click on it !

We got quite a few un-season warm days lately. Let's make the most of it before winter comes !

**Calvin Hsieh**  
495th R/C Squadron Newsletter Editor



**Club Member Bernie's B-25 doing parachute drop (2024.9.15)**

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

**A**s I write this column, it's the middle of October, and the New England foliage is nearing the 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!

As always, we will summarize the club finances for 2024, and discuss funding priorities for the upcoming year! Obviously, we've all heard about the high inflation that has plagued our economy for the last few years. In spite of rising costs on just about everything, the club has once again managed to operate in the 'black' this year! That is to say that our expenditures were equal to or less than the dues income for the year! Although we try to maintain this status on any given year, large capital expenditures and/or improvements will occasionally force us into the 'red'. On the Wishlist for 2024, are permanent sun shades, a solar charging system, and a new mower to replace our current 20 year old model!

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 members 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 will continue to enforce these two requirements in the coming months, so be sure to bring your member cards to the field! Lanyards are available for all members. Please see me to get your free lanyard!

Delicious Lunch after Planesense visit



Airport Café at the Hampton Airfield in North Hampton, NH

As the end of the year approaches, please keep in mind that club memberships expired at midnight on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>! 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. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023! Please don't wait, and get your renewal done as soon as possible! We plan to start club membership renewals at the November and December 2024 club meetings, 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 October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:30 PM.

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.

Oct. 12th, 2024



**On the field (2024.9.15)**



# Plane Sense Field Trip

On Saturday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, the 495<sup>th</sup> R/C Squadron conducted a field trip to PlaneSense in Portsmouth, NH. PlaneSense is a world class fractional aircraft ownership company based at the Portsmouth International Tradeport. PlaneSense currently operates a mixed fleet consisting of the Pilatus PC-21 turboprop and PC-24 turbofan aircraft. This event was hosted by member Mark Pied of PlaneSense.



Meeting at the Pinnacle St. flying field at 9AM, the group split into manageable car pool groups, and got underway for the 45 minute ride to Portsmouth at about 9:45AM.

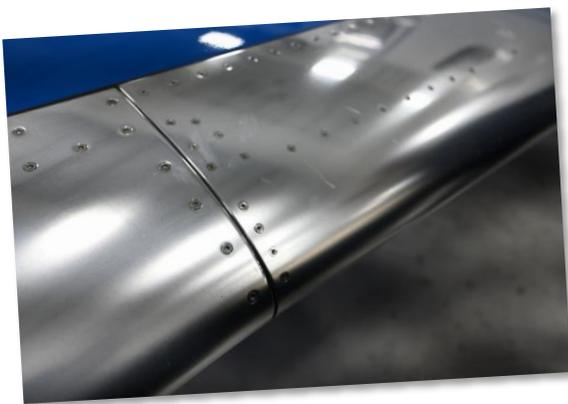
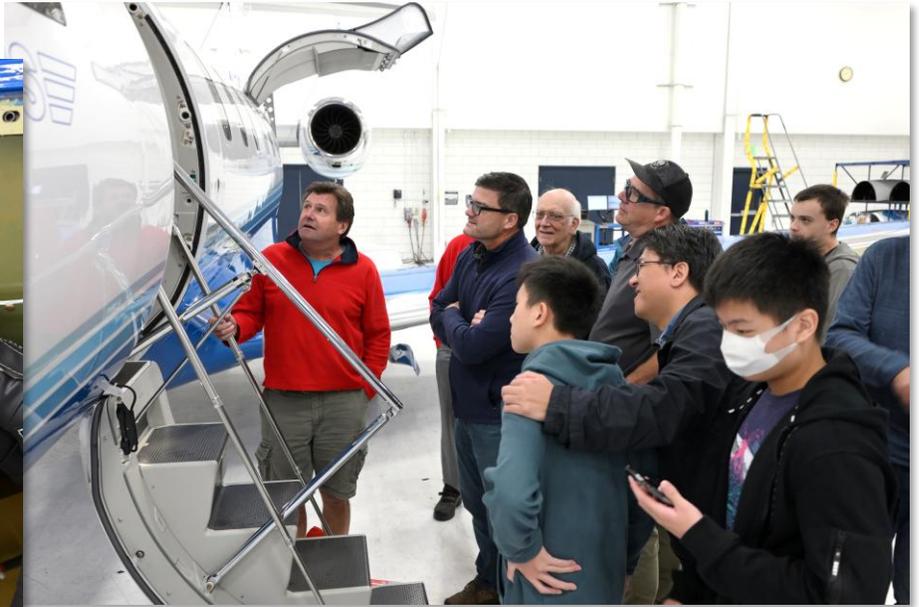
Upon our arrival, and following a quick introduction to the company and a mandatory safety briefing, our group of 17 members was escorted to the main PlaneSense maintenance hangar where we spend about 90 minutes looking at PC-12 and PC-24 aircraft in various states of disassembly, and asking loads of questions! Our host, Mark Pied, patiently described each aircraft, the in-progress maintenance operation, and answered all our questions!!

Members who participated in the PlaneSense tour were: John Morley, Vinayak Rajmane, Krishnakumar 'KK' Malu, Mikey Shih, Lucy Shih (wife), Adam Shih, Alex Shih, Calvin Hsieh, Bill Lentine, Vin Caccamesi, Rob Janoch, Bob Merlino, Joel Ventura, Mark Auclair, Bill Smeltzer, Eddie Di Giuseppe, Dan Knightly, and Mark Pied (Host).

At the conclusion of the tour, eight members traveled to the Airport Café at the Hampton Airfield in North Hampton, NH for a delicious lunch. The haddock sandwich is a café specialty, and it did not disappoint!

**Submitted by: John Morley**  
**Date: Sept. 23, 2024**







# 'N' Gauge Model Railroad Presentation

**A**t the October 5th, 2024 club meeting, member Fay Chin, ably assisted by his wife, Jane, presented a complete operating table top N gauge model railroad layout. Built using the modular T-TRAK concept, the layout was completed over a number of years, and featured many scale details designed and 3D printed or laser cut by Fay. These features included a working drawbridge, loads of LED lighting, and many scale structures around the layout!

Fay's presentation also featured a discussion of the Arduino microcontrollers used to control animation and lighting around the layout, as well as the techniques used to design and 3D print & laser cut components in the layout. A tutorial of the software used in the design and fabrication of these components was also presented.

Building and showing such an intricate model railroad layout takes an enormous amount of skill and patience! Fay and his wife Jane travel all over the New England region every year attending model train shows to display his layout, and to network with other like-minded railroad modelers!

Thank you Fay and Jane for sharing your passion!

**Submitted by: John Morley**

**Date: Oct. 14, 2024**



# Fay Chin's Model Railroad

## Mike Wall

At the October 2nd club meeting, member Fay Chin proudly presented some of his model train layout. The N scale model was an impressive display that spanned almost the entire width of the club meeting room. For those unfamiliar with N scale model railroading, this scale is the second smallest in size. Only the Z scale is smaller. After a little bit of research, I found the N scale is the second most popular scale in North America, and many hobbyists find it appealing because one can add quite a bit of scale detail into a smaller space. For reference, N scale has a model to full size ratio of about 1:160. Fay mentioned that he has even more scenic railroads set up at home and frequently attends many local model railroad shows. His arsenal of model railroad trains, layouts and animations is truly impressive. During our monthly meeting, the layout only required two full size folding tables placed together. In an upcoming show, Fay has requested 100 tables for the layout! He and his fellow model railroaders are sure to put on an outstanding display of the world in 1:160 scale.

The model railroad featured many buildings, roads, cars and trucks, and even a scale container ship. There were several features that had animations like drawbridges and a coal dumper. A scale solar farm used functioning photovoltaic cells that actually produced a voltage when in light. A meter displayed the voltage output for this solar farm and a similar meter displayed voltage output from scale wind turbines at the other end of the display. All of the lights were soldered by hand and there were many of them to add a sense of realism to the layout. The N scale requires a steady, skilled hand when wiring the tiny wires, LEDs, and control boards. Fay's years as an electrical engineer are certainly evident in his model railroad displays.



Fay shared with us some of the components he uses when constructing his model railroad worlds. There were plenty of samples passed around the room so that members could see firsthand some of the control boards, servos, and other electronic components that are needed to make the miniature world come to life. The detail on the handcrafted buildings is remarkable. These buildings can literally fit in the palm of your hand and have exquisite detail at such a small scale. To construct many of these railroad accessories, Fay used 3-D printing and laser cutting. He shared with us many of his custom models and the techniques he used to build them. Just like with our model aircrafts, the hobbyist must be skilled in many areas to build such convincing replicas of the real world.

Please enjoy some photos of Fay's model railroad display. There is even a short video of his layout at our October meeting. Thank you for sharing your hobby with us!

See you at the field!



**Mike Wall**

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**Click here for Model Railroad Video**

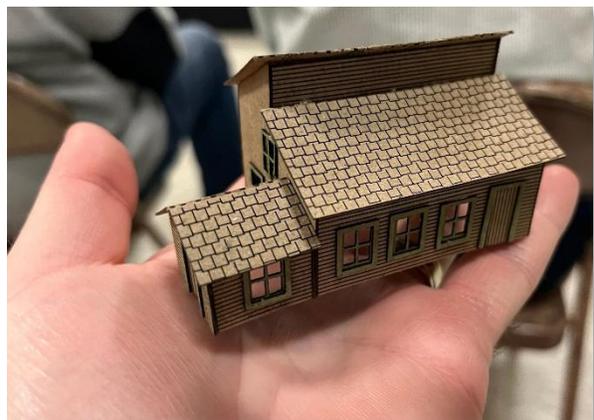


**<https://bit.ly/47TI69D>**









# Flight Training Success Story

This season was extremely active for the club flight training program on Thursday evenings! Starting in Late April, and continuing until early October, Training Night was very busy for the entire season! One of our star students, Mokshaa Bhutani, completed our full training program from complete beginner to solo over the course of the 2024 season. Mokshaa is a 15 year old sophomore at Andover High School who was Introduced to our program by club member Mike Wall, a science instructor at Andover High. Mokshaa's training was provided by John Morley, who was ably assisted by Bob Merlino!

Learning on the E-flite Turbo Timber airplane, Mokshaa credits her progress in the training program with her use of the RealFlight simulator, and consistent practice! Mokshaa is interested in aviation, and is considering a career in the field!

In addition to her studies at Andover High, Mokshaa is also active in Andover High Track and Field.

**Submitted by: John Morley**  
**Date: Oct. 12, 2024**



**Instructor John Morley and Mokshaa Bhutani**

# Picnic 2024

The 495th R/C Squadron, Inc. held its annual member picnic on Saturday Sept. 14th, 2024, which turned out to be an absolutely beautiful, sunny, warm day. The annual picnic is one of the most popular, and highly anticipated events in the Club calendar each year, and this year's event was one of the best! The picnic was well attended, and a good time was had by all!

Beginning at 10AM, there was a constant buzz of activity at the Ogonowski Memorial Flying Field virtually all day long. Some of the highlights of the day include:

- Intro Pilot Flying
- Static Model Display
- Giant Scale Aircraft Demo
- Helicopter Aerobatic Demo
- Huge Raffle
- Huge Family Style Picnic
- Candy Drop



## The Annual Membership Picnic

For the past number of years, the club has endeavored to conduct a "family style" picnic by hosting a barbeque at the annual member picnic. This effort is a lot of work, but ultimately helps to create a family atmosphere that is more in keeping with the mission of the 495th R/C Squadron, Inc. Besides, it is a lot of fun!! The picnic could not have been possible without the help of these dedicated members:

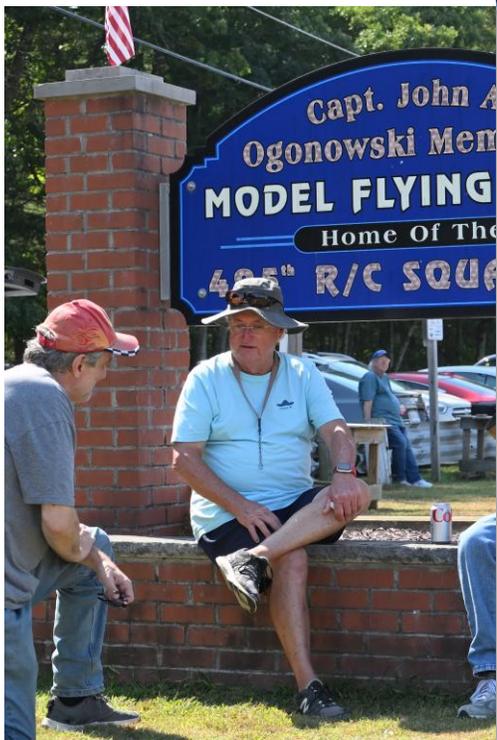
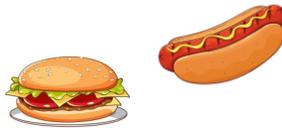
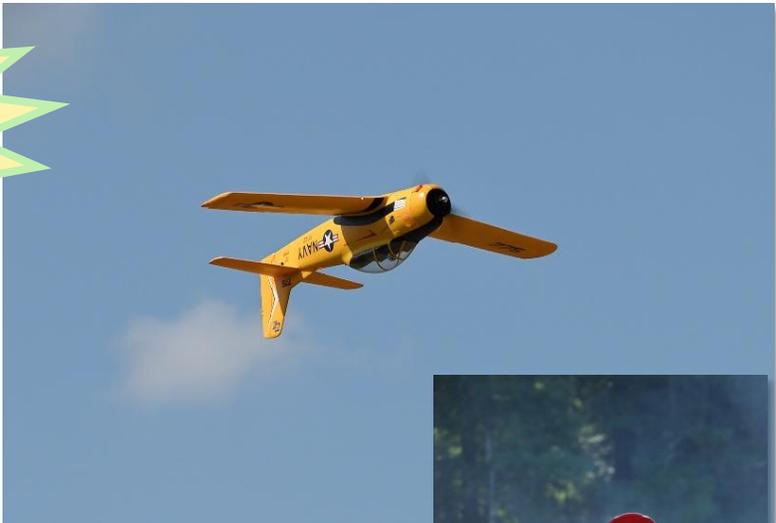
### Picnic Committee

- John Morley - Food Purchase & Cooking, Buddy-Box Flying, & Candy Drop
- Jennifer Karp – Food Preparation & Cooking
- Bob Merlino – Raffle Purchase, Food Cooking
- Bob Goulet - Sound System General Setup/Cleanup
- Bill Smeltzer – Setup/Cleanup

The final food consumption tally for the picnic was: 120 hamburgers, 120 hotdogs, 60 bags of potato chips, 2 bags of salad, 2 boxes of cookies, and 12 cases of soda! Wow, you should have seen that BJ's basket!!

Note: I know that I have surely forgotten to list some of the people that helped to make this picnic such a great success!! I assure you that any omission on my part was purely accidental, and no offense should be taken! I will correct any omission that is brought to my attention as soon as possible.

Photos by Rita,  
Mike Wall &  
Calvin







09.14.2024





09.14.2024

# New Home for a Drone

Longtime 495<sup>th</sup> member, Vinny Caccamesi, was not putting his drone to use in recent years and wanted to find a new home. At September's club meeting, Vinny approached Greg to see if he and Elizabeth might be interested. Absolutely! Greg, Elizabeth and her boyfriend Chris swung by Vinny's home a week later. The drone appeared to be in terrific shape. The drone, batteries and accessories were neatly organized in a rolling airline carryon. It was as if the carryon was made for the drone system. Vinny briefly explained each component, including the FPV camera system. He explained that although the drone has some stability control, one must really fly and pilot the craft at all times.

At home, Greg read the instructions, charged up a battery and, cautiously and tentatively, conducted low test flights in his front yard in Arlington. The test flights attracted the attention of a number of middle school boys and a few adults out for their early evening walks. Greg's goal on this initial flight at dusk - hover the drone just outside the living room window so that Kathleen could see the drone peering into the living room. Scared the bejesus out of her.

With several batteries charged, Greg brought the drone to the 495<sup>th</sup> annual cookout. No one needs a midair collision so Greg worked on getting a better feel for the controls at the south end of the pilot area just off the flight area. Through the course of three batteries, his brain was getting the hang of it. The following week it was Elizabeth's turn. At first she practiced basic control in their backyard. The following weekend it was time for the 495<sup>th</sup> field. With each battery, her control and confidence increased. By the last battery, she was getting comfortable and demonstrating good control. When visiting in Arlington, Elizabeth's boyfriend Chris flew several times at Robbins Farm Park. He too was quickly getting the hang of it.



Next up, Greg and Elizabeth plan to figure out the camera and video system. Greg and Elizabeth have really enjoyed the drone and are feeling increasingly confident in its operation and control. Greg and Elizabeth greatly appreciate Vinny thinking of us as he was looking for a new home.

Thanks Vinny!!

Sincerely, Greg and Elizabeth Thompson!!!



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## Club Calendar

### Club Events

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 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:

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

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