



The Pinnacle

Volume 55 Issue 90

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

AMA Gold Leader Club, Charter #340



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, Sep. 4th 7:30 P.M.**
 Next Events Annual Member Picnic, Sep. 14th
 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)

This year, I was assigned multiple big projects by the company, thanks to the booming AI technology. In the cloud server business, I've been traveling to meet clients and explore opportunities we can seize from this wave.

I haven't been to the field for almost three months. Thank you John, for the activities report and Mike Wall for the pictures, which really helps me to finish this newsletter. I'm glad to see everyone in Mike's photos looking energetic and smiling.

I will see you all in Annual Member Picnic on September 14th !

Calvin Hsieh
495th R/C Squadron Newsletter Editor



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

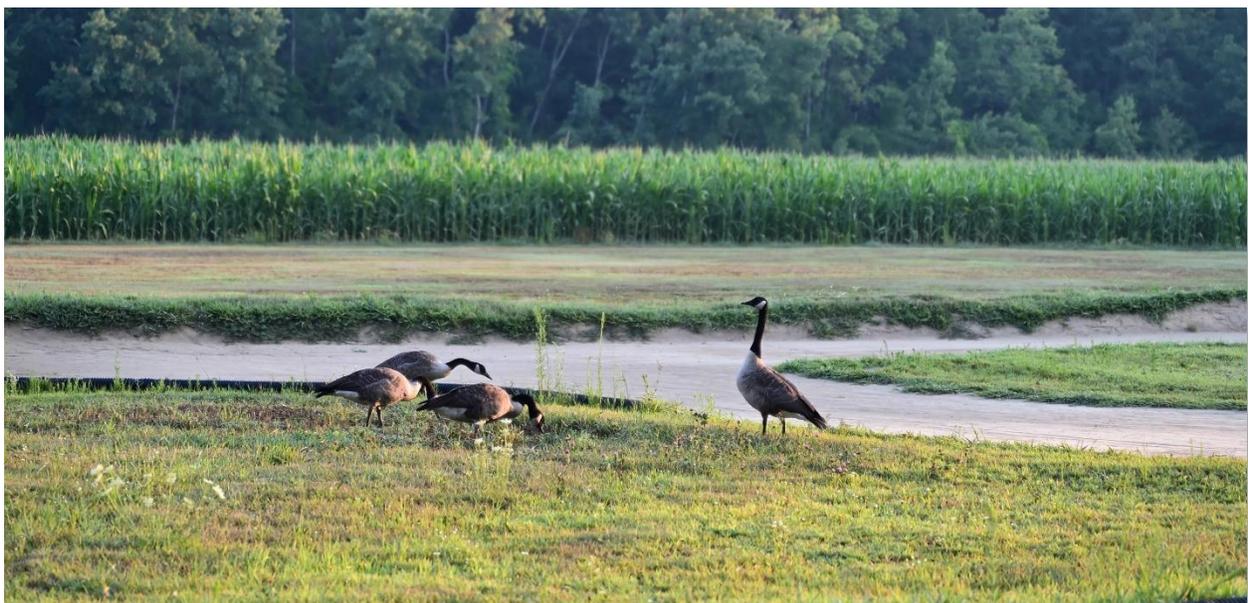
By

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

As I write this newsletter column, we are about 10 days away from Labor Day, which for many is the traditional end to the Summer! Just like that, it seems like the summer has flown by, so it's even more important now to take advantage of everything it has left to offer!! The weather has cooled a bit, and we've actually received a little bit of rain, so the flying field and the car track are both in excellent condition! As we enter the month of September – which I still consider to be the final month of Summer – the weather can be ideal for flying and driving! The days are typically cooler and much drier than earlier in the Summer, so it's much more comfortable to be outside! Personally, I consider September to be the best outdoor month in New England! Considering the colder weather that is just around the corner (Ugh!), 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!

Long-time members will recognize that I've been at this task – writing a monthly newsletter column – for a long time! In fact, this is my 101st column written for the club newsletter, the Pinnacle! It's been quite a ride, and as I still have a bit of gas in the tank, I plan to continue for the foreseeable future! Here is to the next 100 View From The Left Seat columns!

We've had a very busy and robust training program at the field this summer! With the help of Bob Merlino who has been instrumental in setting up the club trainer, charging batteries, and configuring radios, I have been successful in working with a good number of students! Several new members have recently achieved 'solo' flight status at the Pinnacle St. field. That means that they can fly at the field anytime without the supervision of an instructor. The first and foremost consideration when granting solo status to a new pilot is whether they can operate in a



consistently safe manner, both to themselves, and to other members! An ability to demonstrate the ability to take-off, fly, and land safely without endangering anyone is always the goal! As always, safety is our number one priority for all concerned. Although injuries do happen, accidents and incidents are thankfully extremely rare! Still, we must all do our part to ensure that safety is always 'Job 1' at the field!

The latter part of the summer has provided a fairly consistent amount of rainfall, so in spite of drier conditions earlier in the summer, the runway at the field is in remarkably good condition. Under the current conditions, mowing operations have resumed, and the runway continues to remain smooth and hard! Other than after a heavy rain, the car track remains in great shape, with significantly less dust than earlier in the summer. Overall, our facilities at the Pinnacle St. field remain in excellent condition for the membership

Coming up in the month of September, we have the annual 'Swap Meet' at the monthly meeting on September 4th. This is the meeting where we encourage members to bring unused and unwanted planes, engines, tools and supplies to sell and/or give-away to their fellow members! This is a great opportunity to clean out your workshop or garage, or to acquire a new model for your collection! At the Swap Meet, I will have a number of very high quality airplanes donated to the club by a former member that I will be 'auctioning' away for a modest donation to the club! On Sept. 7th, the club will travel to the Rhinebeck Aerodrome in Rhinebeck, NY, a world renowned 'flying museum' for antique aircraft for the annual Mid-Hudson R/C Society Jamboree. Depending on interest, we will either travel by 15 passenger van or by car pool in private automobiles. Finally, on September 14th, we will celebrate 52 years of continuous operation by the club at our annual member picnic!! In addition to a great barbeque, we will have 'buddy box' training, flight demo's – airplanes and helicopters – a kid's candy drop, and desserts for all! Please be sure to put all these great events on your calendar, and I look forward to seeing you all at each one of these events!

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 Aug. 28th, 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.

August 20th, 2024

Full Size Heli Buzzes Our Flying Field

Mike Wall

I had just arrived for some late afternoon flying on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend and noticed that the parking lot was empty and no one was flying or driving anything radio controlled. I started unloading my planes and gear for some flying to commemorate the unofficial beginning of the summer season. The weather was perfect today!

Moments later I could hear the beating air from the blades of a low flying helicopter. Just over the trees approaching from the north a Robinson R44 helicopter announced its arrival with the thrum of its engines cruising less than a thousand feet off the ground. The Robinson made an initial circle of our flying field, low enough that I could see the pilot and passenger in the front



The Robinson R44 on a very short final.

seats. On its second circuit the helicopter dropped to a lower altitude as it turned onto a right downwind leg. Just out of sight behind the tall trees next to Pinnacle Street, I could hear the Robinson start to turn to base and then appeared again just before turning onto short final. Lined up with the model airplane runway, the helicopter cleared the trees and made a stable approach right down the flying field's centerline. Twenty feet off the ground, the helicopter gracefully glided by the flying stations before once again gaining altitude to continue on its journey.



The Robinson R44 just mere feet about the pilot flying stations.

It makes sense that if a helicopter would buzz our field that it would be a Robinson R44 because it has been the best selling general aviation helicopter since 1999 (As long as you believe what Wikipedia has to say about it.) If only the pilot had planned a little bit better and checked out the events page on our club's website, the Robinson could have made its flyby during the Heli Fun Fly last weekend. Maybe next time! You can watch the short video of the helicopter's flight on YouTube by going to this link: <https://bit.ly/3Ve0KEE>

See you at the field!



Mike Wall

Father's Day Fun Fly

June 16, 2024

While it may not have been an official flying event on the club's calendar, this year's Father's Day had perfect weather for an impromptu fun fly. With temperatures in the mid 70's and a five to ten mile per hour wind, RC pilot dads could not ask for a better way to celebrate Father's Day at the field. There were a variety of planes that took flight on Sunday, from scale warbirds to aerobatic fliers, to small and large EDF's, and even helicopters.

Some folks arrived early during the 8 o'clock hour to take advantage of the light winds, clear skies and best sun position for our field. Other's arrive later, enjoying the mid-June weather and great flying conditions. Some spectators lined the guard rails to watch the flying spectacle. When I left just after noon on Sunday there were still members flying at the pilot stations and others prepping their planes for their next flight. The "second shift" of pilots were making their way to the field to continue flying on this splendid June day. I am sure that the field was used to its full potential today. Please enjoy some of the photos from this Father's Day Fun Fly.

See you at the field!



**Report and photograph
by Mike Wall**







Summer Picnic



On Wednesday, July 10th – a week late due to the July 4th holiday – the club met for the July meeting at the Pinnacle Street field. Twice a year – July and August – we try to get away from the indoor church location, and hold our monthly membership meeting at the field! A group of about 30 members and friends enjoyed a BBQ dinner of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda, and chocolate chip cookies. The shopping for the BBQ was done by John Morley, who was then ably assisted by Bob Merlino on grill duties! A number of members took advantage of the beautiful weather to get in some summer evening flying! Thanks to all who participated!

Submitted by: John Morley Aug. 21, 2024



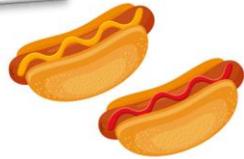
Photos by Mike Wall





BBQ





Ice Cream Social

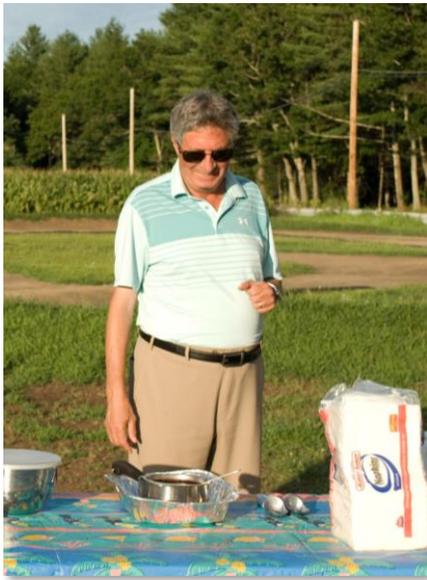
On Wednesday, August 7th, the club met for the August meeting at the Pinnacle Street field for the annual Ice Cream Social. Twice a year – July and August – we try to get away from the indoor church location, and hold our monthly membership meeting at the field!

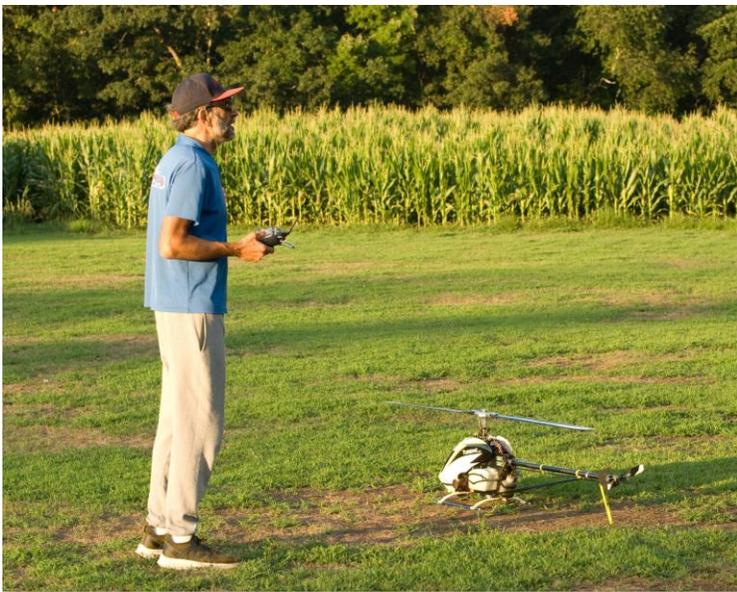
A group of about 30 members and friends enjoyed ice cream sundaes featuring Richardsons Chocolate and Vanilla ice cream, homemade hot fudge, and homemade whipped cream! The shopping for the Ice Cream Social was done by John Morley, who was then ably assisted by Bob Goulet on serving duties! A number of members took advantage of the beautiful weather to get in some summer evening flying, and we were all treated to a turbine powered helicopter flight demonstration by Raja Borsch! Thanks to all who participated!

Submitted by: John Morley



Photos by Mike Wall







Ed Becotte



I am sorry to report that Ed Becotte, a long-time member and friend has passed away recently following a two year battle with cancer. Ed was 88 years old.

Born in Lawrence, Ed was a graduate of Central Catholic, Merrimac College, and Northeastern University. An electrical engineer by profession, Ed served in the Air National Guard and deployed to France during the Berlin crisis. Returning to the US, Ed was employed for many years at MIT Lincoln Labs. In addition to flying model airplanes, Ed was an avid sailor, fisherman, and gardener. On a personal note, Ed always had a smile on his face, and greeted everyone with a hearty laugh! Ed was a big coffee drinker, and would always admonish me to 'be sure to have the coffee' for all our club meetings! I will miss him! Please keep Ed and his family in your thoughts!

Submitted by: John Morley
August 21, 2024



Ed @ 2018 Annual Member Picnic

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:

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