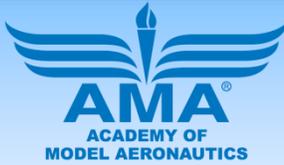




The Pinnacle

Volume 58 Issue 93

June 2025



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

In This Issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| 495th Club Info | 2 |
| From the Editor | 3 |
| 2025 Event Calendar | 4 |
| From The President (John Morley) | 5 |
| Annual Italian Banquet (Photo) | 7 |
| Amateur HAM Radio (Photo) | 11 |
| Winter Project Show n Tell | 12 |
| New Benches and Grass At The Field (Rita Smeltzer) | 13 |
| Another Winter, Another Project (Bob Merlino) | 15 |
| Paint Radial Engine (Mike Wall) | 21 |
| Club Photo: Winter Mower Storage (John Morley) | 25 |

495 R/C Squadron, Inc.

Next Meeting **Wednesday, July 2nd 7:30 P.M.**
Next Events July 12th, Scale Fun Fly
Club web site <http://www.495thsquadron.org>
Club Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/495th-RC-Squadron-240759615414>

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| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--|
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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)

It's been a while since the last newsletter. Both John and I were in Asia for an extended period of time. Fortunately, support from fellow club members like Mike Wall, Bob Merlino, and Rita Smeltzer continued, with contributions of articles and activity photos over the past few months. I've gathered enough material to put this newsletter together for you to read. Enjoy reading !

Looking forward to seeing you all in the field.

Calvin Hsieh
495th R/C Squadron Newsletter Editor



The 19th Italian Banquet (2025.2.05)

2025 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, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | New Years Day Flying! |
| Jan. 8, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - TBD! |
| Feb. 5, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - Italian Banquet! |
| Feb. 8, 2025 | Ogonowski Field | Frozen Finger Fun Fly! |
| Feb. 22, 2025 | Hudson, MA | American Heritage Museum Field Trip! |
| Mar. 5, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - TBD! |
| April 2, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - Winter Project Show-n-Tell! |
| April 15, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - Car Night Begins for 2025! |
| April 17, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - Training Night Begins for 2025! |
| April 19, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - Opening Day and Field Cleanup! |
| May 7, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - TBD! |
| May 10, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - Spring Fun Fly! |
| May 17, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - Heli Fun Fly! |
| June 4, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - TBD! |
| June 7, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - 'Kid's Day' Fun Fly and BBQ! |
| June 14, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - Summer Fun Fly - Mike Pangione |
| July 2, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - TBD! |
| July 12, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - Scale Fun Fly! |
| Aug. 6, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - Ice Cream Social! |
| Aug. 9, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - National Model Aviation Day! |
| Aug. 16, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - Multi-Club Fun Fly and BBQ! |
| Sept. 3, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - TBD! |
| Sept. 13, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field - Annual Member Picnic! |
| Oct. 1, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - TBD! |
| Oct. 11, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Ogonowski Field Work Party! |
| Oct. 18, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Fall Classic Car Rally! |
| Oct. 26, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Andover Pack 76 Rocket Day! |
| Nov. 5, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - Annual Business Meeting and Elections |
| Dec. 3, 2025 | Tewksbury, MA | Club Meeting - TBD! |

View From The Left Seat

By

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

As we approach the middle of June, the rainy weather pattern that has been with us all spring appears to be continuing! Yesterday, June 14th, was the 14th consecutive rainy Saturday! For us working folks, this has made flying very challenging! On the plus side, with all the rain we've received, the flying field and the car track are both in great shape! Everything is green and lush on the flying side of things, and on the driving side of things, the track is dust free and hard packed! This year, we 'over-seeded' and fertilized the runway and pit area and the new grass certainly appreciates the extra water. After a couple of dry summers, we'll probably need to put new seed down every year for a few years before switching to every other year. Unfortunately, it's really easy to lose grass to drought, and it's really hard to get it back! Please be sure to take advantage of the hard work that our volunteers provide to enjoy these precious club resources!

One other important rule that we need to re-emphasize is flying within the perimeter of our flying field regardless of whether you fly gas/glow or electric! We have several "noise sensitive" & "overfly sensitive" areas to the right (houses), and left (condo's) at the flying field. With regard to noise, sound level is a function of proximity, so the farther we stay away from our neighbors with our airplanes the better off we are! This means that there is absolutely no flying beyond the boundary defined by the tree line at the edges of the field. If you can't do that, it means you probably need more practice, or a smaller airplane! Out-of-bounds flying is a real concern that we all must take seriously!

I want to take this opportunity to remind the members regarding who is authorized to fly at the Ogonowski Model Flying Field. First, all flyer's must be current AMA members, second, all flyer's must be club members, and third, all flyer's must receive a solo checkout by a club officer. I routinely make myself available for solo checkouts! The first item ensures that there is insurance in the event of a mishap, and the third item helps ensure a mishap never occurs. The second item ensures that everyone is contributing to the upkeep of the field! Each one of these items are extremely important to all of us for the longevity and security of the club! I mention all this every year at this time because each year we have a number of individuals showing up at the field to fly without being members, and without the necessary credentials. So, this is a reminder to all members that everyone that flies at our field must fulfill the three requirements mentioned above! Please don't risk the security of our field by allowing non-members to use our field and put all our flying at risk!

As many of you have probably realized, the Town of Tewksbury recently repaved Pinnacle Street. The club was fortunate to arrange to have two large loads of crushed/ground asphalt taken from the old road surface left for our parking lot area. This asphalt material was spread in our parking area to fill in several low areas, and to level it with the newly paved roadway. As this new surface is driven on a bit, and as we get a bit of rain, the new surface will become firmer and more solid.

At the June meeting, the club voted to purchase a 'tri-axle' load of clay for the car track. This is approximately 18 to 20 yards of clay, and should last the club for at least 2 years. Once this material is delivered to the field, we will be looking for volunteers to help spread the new material.

The 2nd club shed will be arriving at the field in mid-July. A load of crushed gravel has been delivered to the field to form the base area. We will need to clear a 12' by 10' area adjacent to the car track to place the shed. We'll need to remove the sod and a couple of inches of soil and create a bed of crushed stone to support the shed and ensure proper drainage. Again, we'll be looking for volunteers to help with this effort. Please stay tuned!

A reminder that the weekly 'Car Race Night' on Tuesday evenings, and 'Flight Training Night' on Thursday night has resumed for the 2025 season! The weather has improved significantly, and we are off to a good start so far! The plan is to have an informal barbeque of hamburgers and hotdogs at each of these weekly events when the weather permits. These activities are a great excuse to get out of the house on a weekday evening, so please plan to come out and enjoy the fun on Tuesday and Thursday evenings all summer!

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 June 25th, 2025 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.

June 15th, 2025

Annual Italian Banquet

February 5th, 2025

Club meeting features the 19th Annual Italian Banquet and Awards Ceremony. Starting at 6:30PM, and running until 8PM, the Club will serve a full Italian dinner consisting of Caesar Salad, Spaghetti with Meatballs, Dessert and Soft Drinks/Juices. This event is being served at the regular meeting location by members of the BOD, and other volunteers.





Photos by Calvin Hsieh







Amateur 'Ham' Radio

March 5, 2025 Guest Speaker – Larry Banks W1DYJ

Amateur "Ham" Radio is a hobby that attracts people with a wide range of interests. Many amateurs begin with a fascination with radio communication and then combine other personal interests to make the hobby rewarding. Some of these areas include technical experimentation, radio propagation and solar weather, radio contesting, and public service communication. Larry will tell us ham radio history and highlight the above areas.



Winter Project Show n Tell

April Club Meeting (2025.04.02)



Photos by Rita Smeltzer



New benches and grass at the field

New benches at the field that Bill Smeltzer made and Jim Smeltzer helped deliver to the field, also seeded the grass few weeks prior is now coming up (2025.5.04)



Photos by Rita Smeltzer



Republic of Korea Piper L-19 'Birddog'

On a recent trip to Asia, I visited the Korean War History Museum in the Yongsan section of Seoul, South Korea. The museum features many aircraft from both the Korean War and Vietnam War conflicts. One of the aircraft that caught my eye was the ROK Cessna L-19 Birddog military liaison aircraft. I'm particularly fond of this aircraft as I fly one of these airplanes as a tow pilot for the Greater Boston Soaring Club, and I have a ¼ scale version model under construction. This airplane is a rugged workhorse, with many still in service to this day, more than 75 years after its first flight!



Piper L-19 'Birddog' – Seoul, Korea – Jan. 2025

Submitted by: John Morley

Date: February 2, 2025

Another Winter, Another Project

Robert Merlino

It was last summer at the EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh Wisconsin. The afternoon air show is in progress... RJ Gritter taxies out at center stage to wow the crowds with his white and blue Decathlon. He masters a beautiful aerobatic routine, ending with his signature maneuver... a low altitude super slow roll... straight as an arrow, right down the runway. The perfect execution of this difficult and graceful maneuver was so impressive given a high wing plane... pure stick and rudder skill. I wondered how much practice RJ had put into it.

And then an idea... the Decathlon would make a perfect modeling subject. I should build one... a perfect project for this long winter! And so it was, a winter project was born. Voila'.



The Decathlon was built from 1/5th scale plans found on Ebay. It was a scratch-build project. Needless to say, scratch building is a long process... not for those that want an airplane quick. It is indeed an exercise in delayed gratification. One sure thing about scratch building is... it goes on and on... and when you think you are 90% done... you still have 50% to go.

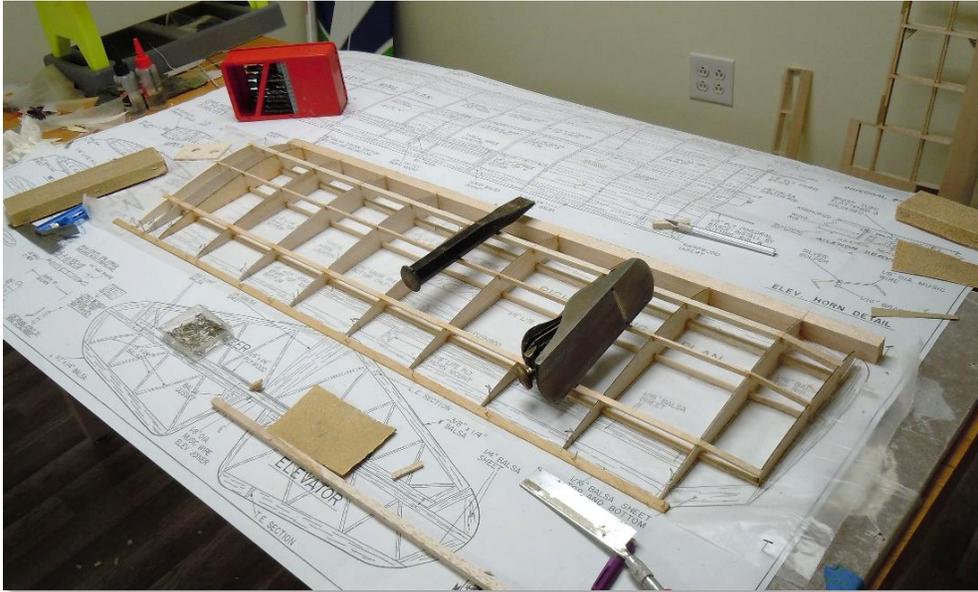
But I enjoyed it. It kept me busy all winter long and I had full control of the build. The Decathlon is powered by a suitable electric setup, similar to

my other planes.

I did purchase the partial kit offered by the plans vendor, however this disappointed. The quality of the wood or the precision of some of the cuts turned out to be unacceptable. Ended up cutting most pieces with my trusty scroll saw, which, in retrospect is what I should have done to begin with. Next time I will pass on the "Short Kit" sales shtick.



The wing construction was pretty straightforward. I considered making a two-piece wing with a carbon fiber tube, but ultimately I followed the plans with the one-piece wing design. The benefit of this approach is an overall lighter wing structure, constructed entirely of balsa. The down side is a more awkward 74 inch long wing for transport, specially since wing struts are attached to each half of the wing. To facilitate transport the struts were made foldable.



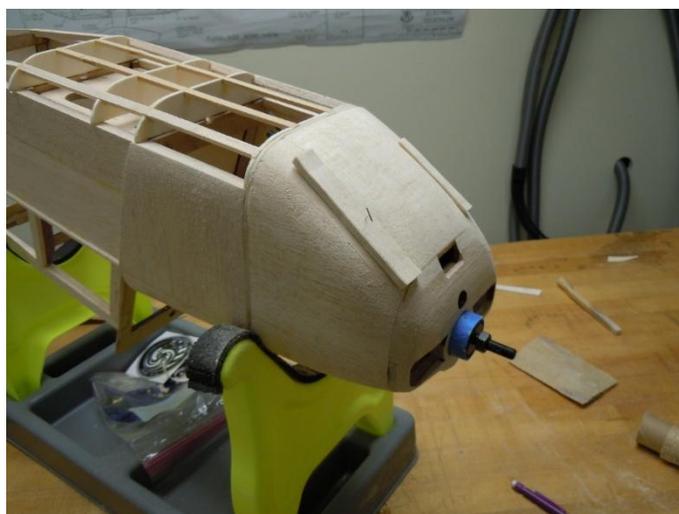
The fuselage build started with two balsa sides mounted on three bulkhead formers, then with additional formers back towards the tail and forward to the firewall. Early on I cut in the battery hatch, located right behind the firewall. Ordinarily I would wait until later to determine the location of the battery pack based on CG balance estimates, but in this model there wasn't much choice of battery location. The CG balance turned out ok, as we'll see later.



The only significant deviation from the plans was the support for the landing gear. Based on experience, most designs greatly underestimate the support needed for the landing gear. Over the years I learned the hard way... landings at Pinnacle are not always... ehm... shall we say textbook? I know better... so I considerably beefed up the landing gear support, such that the loads are spread throughout the center part of the fuse.

The cowl was built of soft balsa, requiring a considerable amount of work. After I mounted the motor to the firewall, the front face of the cowl was held in place by the motor. This provided the support for blocks of balsa between the cowl face and the fuselage, all the way around. After that, it was a

matter of carving and sanding the shape of the cowl to flow nicely with the fuse. It turned out ok, but easier said than done. Did I mention carving and shaving... and sanding and rinse and repeat?



As the project progressed, It seemed the plane was likely to end up nose heavy. I countered by mounting the elevator and rudder servos near the back of the fuse, as shown in the picture below. This was unusual for my builds, but turned out to be the right call.

Wing mounted, eilerons and tail surfaces built without too much trouble. Time to start thinking about covering. The Decathlon would sport UltraCote White and Apple Green colors.



Mounting the elevator and rudder servos near the back of the fuse





Once again I was lucky. Eddy volunteered his services as covering Superintendent. His able assistance made covering so much easier and quicker. He was very good with the stars, not to mention the custom decals work. Thanks Eddy, I owe you.



Like my other planes of similar size, the Decathlon would receive a proven avionics package: Scorpion 4020-420kv motor, Avian 100A ESC, AR637T+ receiver, KST DS589 mini servos, Master Airscrew 13x12 3-blade prop, all powered by a 6s 3300 Lipo pack.

But that's not all. For the first time ever I decided to model functional nav/running lights, no reason... just because. Oh yeah... also because Eddy talked me into it...he likes lights. Since I like nice equipment, I researched who makes the best light sets for RC airplanes. The consensus seemed to be uniLIGHT, a company in Germany. Apparently the hot-rod Jet guys swear by them. Well, my humble Decathlon may not be a hot-rod jet... but it will sport high end lights just like those guys.

The uniLIGHT Medium Kit arrived from Germany, consisting of the light controller, a landing light, a beacon, strobe and navigation lights for the wing tips and all required wiring and connectors. The four-channel controller can be programmed for a number of lighting schemes, as desired. All the lights are high-power LEDs, extremely bright. The light system is powered by a separate 2s 950mah little Lipo, thus avoiding any power burden on the main pack. Very fancy, I like it. Highly recommend if you like lights.



Latest Update: The Decathlon maiden was last Monday the 21st. Uneventful, she flew great from the get go. Very little trim was needed, handled great both on the ground and in the air. I can already tell this airplane is a keeper, I'm going to like it!! ... and yes... the nav lights are visible from far away, even in bright sunlight!

Now... if only I could learn how to do an RJ Gritter slow roll over the skies of Pinnacle...



Robert Merlino

Painting a Radial Engine

Mike Wall

Radio control models have come a long way in terms of their scale realism, but even those with copious amounts of scale details can be spruced up a bit to make them even more realistic. The FMS 1400 mm T-28 is a nice flying model and has some scale details to make the model look like the full size version. Even with those nice scale details there are some areas that can be touched up to make the model really stand out. One such place is the plastic molded radial engine. It has a nice look that mimics the real life engine but on the model the engine is only black plastic making a feature that is easily overlooked. There are some textures in the plastic for the cylinder heads, front engine casing, bolts and push rods but in the stock form, they are barely noticeable. With a few simple steps to add some color and contrast, the scale details will add to the overall realism of your model and set it apart from others.



The T-28 has a nice plastic faux radial engine. Because its all black it lacks depth and realism.

I used Tamiya acrylic paints and thinner when painting most of the plastic parts on this engine, and applied the paint using a Paasche airbrush. I am by no means an artist, and the steps that I used could be done by anyone. The Tamiya paints are easy to use and easy to clean up. If you make a mistake, or feel like you have added too much paint to your model, the paint can be easily cleaned or removed with the thinner. Mask or block what you do not want to be painted before starting with an airbrush. I have found that with painting and weathering RC models, less is more. When you are at the point where you want to add one more layer you are probably at a good point to stop. Also, the only mistakes that will be seen are by you. Other people looking at your model will likely never notice that one section that was oversprayed or if the color did not perfectly match your intentions. For painting the T-28 radial engine, I found some photos online and tried to replicate the full scale engines. Not every engine looked exactly the same, which means the model does not need to look perfectly like the full scale plane.



The front engine cover was painted first. Paper towels were used to prevent overspray from getting inside the plane.

After removing the prop I stuffed some paper towels into the air inlet at the front of the motor to prevent overspray from getting inside the plane. I then painted the front motor covering a dark

gray using the airbrush. When airbrushing, only a small amount of paint is needed. I usually mix the Tamiya paint and thinner with a 50:50 ratio. Start slowly and only add very thin layers of the paint during each pass with the airbrush. You will eventually start to see the paint get thicker on the surface of the plastic. Adding thin layers allows you to control how dark you want the paint to look and it also prevents the paint from running. You can always practice on a piece of paper before adding paint to your model.

The next step was to add some silver paint to the cylinder heads. Again I mixed a 50:50 solution of aluminum color paint and thinner and used the airbrush to paint the cylinder heads of the plastic radial engine. For this step it was okay for the overspray to hit the plastic behind the faux cylinder heads. This overspray would be touched up later. The airbrush made it easy to fill in the grooves on the cylinder head. By going slowly, and using light layers of paint, it wasn't necessary to block off any other areas of the engine from overspray. To add a little more depth to the engine, once the cylinders were done I used a brush to paint the control rods black. I chose a semi gloss black paint just to add more texture to the engine.

The space behind the cylinder heads were then airbrushed with a flat black, once again using the 50:50 mixture of paint and thinner. This covered the overspray from when the cylinder heads were painted and added to the depth of the engine. This contrasting color compared to the aluminum paint really made the cylinder heads stand out. At this point, the engine was almost completed. The last steps were to paint the ring around the engine and the bolts with silver paint. This was easily done with a brush (and some cheater eyeglasses!). The silver and aluminum colors are different enough to make the engine look more interesting.

Once the paint was dried the prop and spinner were reattached and the T-28 was ready to head to the field. The painting job certainly was not perfectly done, but it looks better than the stock black plastic engine. Being an old warbird, it would be expected that there would be dirt, grime and stains from years of use. Any mistakes during the painting process just add to the real-world weathering that would have occurred from decades of use. Take a look at one of your planes and see where you could add some new paint to make your plane stand out from the rest.



Cylinder heads are painted with aluminum color using a 50:50 mixture of Tamiya paint and thinner.



The area behind the cylinders were painted with flat black. The ring around the engine and bolts were painted silver. The control rods were painted using a semi gloss black paint.

See you at the field!



Mike Wall



The T-28 radial engine before and after photos. A few layers of paint really makes the engine come to life.

Piper L4 – ‘Rosie the Rocketer’

The American Heritage Museum in Hudson, MA recently held an evening lecture to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. The subject of the lecture was Major Charles Carpenter, an aerial observation pilot, and his Piper L4 liaison aircraft affectionately known as ‘Rosie the Rocketer’. Major Carpenter, or ‘Bazooka Charlie’ as he was called is famous for mounting four bazookas – two on each wing – to the Piper L4, the military version of the venerable Piper J3 Cub, to attack enemy tanks, trains and troops.

Major Carpenter would swoop in low over his prey at treetop level and fire at nearly point blank range to achieve a hit. Major Carpenter is credited with destroying several armored cars and at least six tanks during the war, and stopping the advance of an enemy convoy during the Battle of Arracourt in Sept. 1944. The actual Piper L4 ‘Rosie the Rocketer’ has been restored to like new WW2 condition, and is on display at the American Heritage Museum in Hudson, MA.



Piper L4 – Rosie the Rocketer, American Heritage Museum – May 2025

Submitted by: John Morley

Date: June 15, 2025

Winter Mower Storage

At the end of each flying season, the club lawn tractor is serviced by club member Bill Lentine, and is then transported to a hangar at the Lawrence Airport in No. Andover for winter storage. Off-site storage provides additional security, allows for easy battery maintenance, and greatly reduces the chance for rodent mischief/damage over the winter.

At the beginning of the flying season, the tractor is then transported back to the flying field, ready-to-go for a full flying season. This year, Bob Goulet and John Morley transported the tractor back to the flying field after its winter hibernation. Thanks to John and Bob.



Bob Goulet loading the Club lawn tractor for it's return to the Pinnacle St. Field – May 2025

Submitted by: John Morley

Date: June 15, 2025

Astronaut Robert 'Hoot' Gibson

Back in March, my son David and I visited the Pima Air and Space Museum during my visit to Tucson, AZ. While at the museum, I spotted a familiar face also enjoying the exhibits; NASA astronaut Robert 'Hoot' Gibson, who happened to be in Tucson for a book signing the next day. I approached Hoot to say hello, and he was gracious enough to spend about 15 minutes with us chatting about aviation!

Hoot is a former naval officer and aviator, test pilot, aeronautical engineer, and veteran of five Space Shuttle flights. Following his NASA career, he was a pilot for Southwest Airlines, and now fully retired, he enjoys recreational flying, and is a frequent competitor at the Reno National Air Races. Hoot is also an ambassador for the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), so he's 'one of us'!



David Morley & Robert 'Hoot' Gibson, Pima Air Museum – March 2025

Submitted by: John Morley

Date: June 15, 2025

Club Calendar

Club Events

- Feb. 5 Club Meeting - Italian Banquet!
- Feb. 8 Frozen Finger Fun Fly!
- Feb. 22 New England Air Museum Field Trip
- Mar. 5 Club Meeting - TBD!
- April 2 Club Meeting - Winter Project Show-n-Tell!
- April 15 Car Night Begins for 2025
- April 17 Training Night Begins for 2025
- April 19 Opening Day and Field Cleanup
- May 7 Club Meeting - TBD!
- May 17 Heli Fun Fly
- June 4 Club Meeting - TBD!
- June 7 'Kid's Day' Fun Fly and BBQ
- June 14 Summer Fun Fly - Mike Pangione
- July 2 Club Meeting - TBD!
- July 12 Scale Fun Fly
- Aug. 6 Club Meeting - Ice Cream Social
- Aug. 9 National Model Aviation Day
- Aug. 16 Multi-Club Fun Fly and BBQ
- Sept. 3 Club Meeting - TBD!.
- Sept. 13 Annual Member Picnic
- Oct. 1 Club Meeting - TBD!
- Oct. 11 Ogonowski Field Work Party
- Oct. 18 Fall Classic Car Rally
- Oct. 26 Andover Pack 76 Rocket Day
- Nov. 5 Club Meeting - Annual Business Meeting and Elections
- Dec. 3 Club Meeting - TBD!

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