

Charles River Radio Controllers

Flight Log

August, 2021



Prep time at the NERDS drone race on July 30th,
hosted by CRRC at Davis Field, Sudbury.



August Meeting:

Saturday the 14th, 10AM

IN PERSON at Bill Martin Field, Medfield

RAIN DATE: Wednesday, Aug 18th

Online by ZOOM

President's Message

Dear Members,

This month we look forward to the 4th Annual Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In on August 21st and 22nd. I did not have the pleasure to know Fritz, but I know from stories and from club history that he was someone very special to our club, and whose loss in 2017 was felt by many, and will continue to be felt for a long time to come. I'm happy that we are continuing to honor and remember Fritz's importance to our club, our community, and our hobby with this event each year. Please be sure to stop by and enjoy some soaring.

We had two successful events in July, both the ALES contest and the NERDs drone race. Both were well-attended, and the NERDs race in particular had a number of spectators show up to watch, including being able to see a pilot's view on a monitor set up for the public. Jason McCarthy of NERDs was particularly good about engaging the public and conveying enthusiasm for our hobby, both multirotor and fixed-wing. If you've not seen a racing wing streak through the sky over Davis field after a drone race, you missed something spectacular!

If you haven't yet, please do be sure to complete the TRUST test discussed in the last newsletter. It is required by law, and quite simple to pass.

This month we are awarding wings to two pilots, Sheldon Apsel and Roger Silva. Congratulations!

If you are reading this before August 14th , remember that we meet this month on that day at the Medfield flying site at 10am. In case of rain we'll have a Zoom meeting at 8pm on August 18th.

Fly well,

- Mike Whidden, CRRC President



Recent Events

Two very different, but each exciting, events have graced Davis Field recently - the Altitude Limited Electric Soaring weekend hosted by CRRC, and the NERDs drone race. In the interest of publishing time for this edition, I'm going to spread the photos and descriptions of each out over a couple of issues of the Newsletter.



As a teaser, here's a photo of the NERDs race course, courtesy of John Eppling.

Final Standings for that event (thanks to Mike Whidden for reporting on groups.io)

- 1: Timbo FPV
- 2: ARM FPV
- 3: The Wizard of Gozz
- 4: Hawkney
- 5: ScottR (our very own)
- 6: Dug-dug
- 7: A four-way tie for last place between RawFPV, JC12, Quadrosaurus and Yours Truly :-)

CRRC Upcoming Events

We have been lucky enough to hold more events this year than last - all events are subject to the ongoing public health situation and national/state/local guidance. Thanks to all participants for your collaboration to keep everyone - contestants and others - safe & legal.

Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In - August 21-22

Unlimited thermal duration soaring - register at <http://www.flyesl.com/Contest.aspx?contestid=367>. Come enjoy our signature soaring event - as pilot, audience, or volunteer (we do need volunteers). \$25 each day, pilot's meeting 9AM, first flights ~9:15AM. Contest Director Chris Schuch.

August Meeting

Our next general meeting is scheduled to be ***in-person at Bill Martin Field / Medfield***, Sudbury, on **Saturday, August 14th, at 10AM**.

Club meetings are open to the public, we welcome visitors and guests to learn about model aviation and CRRC!

For access instructions regarding online meetings, please contact a member or email webmaster@charlesriverrc.org

Club Receives Significant Donation

On July 24, we picked up a hugely generous donation from an AMA member who reached out to CRRC in recognition of our upstanding reputation and our commitment to the model RC community. Mike Whidden, Dan Sullivan, and I went to the Essex mini-storage and met our benefactor, David Fish, at 9:00 AM. With a 15 foot rental box truck backed up to the warehouse and dollies in hand, we were led to a storage room. What was it going to be like?...The suspense was there. Were we going to see a pile of junk or a warehouse full of our lusted-over hobby items? Dun-dun-dun-dun-da... (suspenseful music from Jaws). What we found was a 10'x10'x10' room, packed from floor to ceiling. There were over 50 boxes of really great items and only 3 items with box damage. Hooray!! That was such good news and we had such a generous host.

Dan, Mike, and I moved the items from the warehouse room, to the warehouse, to the truck. I was in the storage room, Dan in the truck, and Mike in the elevator. After about an hour and a half, we had moved all the items and the truck was packed. From the warehouse I went to Dave's house and picked up some more small items and electronics. Dave donated a number of new transmitters, about 4 to 6 years old that are just out of being current, but they are excellent radios: 2 DX6-9's, a DX6i, 2 or 3 Tactics, an Aurora 9X, a Hitec 7-channel, plus some used DX5 and DX4 radios. There are also 4 Spektrum 6-channel receivers and about 6 Tower and Tactic receivers. There are LiPo chargers and balancers, and servo testers too. A Dynamite 4-channel 100 w/channel charger was there, and a few multi-channel UMX battery chargers, like a Hitec. There are far too many planes and items to note them all here. I can say that Corsair is popular. Tidewater, Calipso, Consendo and UMX are also in the mix. There's one Radian and a spare wing set. We sent the spare Radian wing home with Adam so that he can update the club Radian trainer with a newer wing.

We also have a bunch of beginner planes that are unfamiliar to me. There is even a Proxxon jewelers drill press. We received some electric boats, as well. They are powered by brushed motors. There are probably about 10 altogether, of 4 different models. Oh, did I mention there is a QX4 quadcopter and case?



(left) Here I am after we removed a few larger models in the front of the storage room. I had to wear a mask so you couldn't see the smile on my face. Plus with the Delta variant, I didn't want to expose or be exposed to the invisible threat!

(right) We were well on our way to emptying the room. You can see plastic shoeboxes of items on the back shelf.



(left) Done emptying the room! This was a nice clean warehouse. A roof leak a year ago did result in water damage to the boxes of a few Multiplex pusher airplanes.



(right) The truck is almost full!



(left) Here we are with the last cartload of items for the truck. Mr. Fish was excited to see all these items go to good use. The BOD voted to award him a lifetime membership for service to the club. We all had smiles as you can see by the squinting eyes.



(right) Mike and Dan began rearranging the items so they would not be jostled by the move to the secret location. Yes, a secret location only known by a few people sworn to protect the club's newly found airplanes. What to do now?...

The CRRC Board of Directors convened to determine how best to distribute all of these items. With fairness to our members and the wish of our benefactor that all items go to good use foremost in mind, we devised and voted into place the plan described below. Please note that, other than the wing for the club's trainer, no items have been taken from the lot.

The club will distribute the items according to the following priorities, listed from highest to lowest:

1. **Items to be used by the club**, i.e., training gear. The BOD will select these items.
2. **Items for members in need**. These are internal donations to members undergoing financial hardship, and also to help outfit our very youngest members. The BOD will approve these donations. Depending on the circumstances of the recipients, these donations may remain private. *Please write the club president with any nominees.*
3. **Raffle prizes** for the monthly club meeting raffle. Some likely choices are UMX items, since these are popular and relatively small to store. The BOD will select these items.
4. **Club Auction**. The BOD will organize a silent, online auction. A silent auction is one where participants privately post bids for items and the highest bid wins. You cannot see how much others bid. This gives fair access to all remaining items at very good prices while still providing some revenue for the club. To keep things manageable and efficient: 1) the auction will be open to only CRRC and MMAC members, 2) there will be minimum required bids for some items, and 3) all items must be picked up by the winners (or their friends) – no items will be shipped. The BOD will provide an item list and other details prior to the event.
5. **Donations to other clubs**. These items will be donated to other clubs. For example, no-bid boats may be donated to the club with which we had the last Float Fly. The BOD will select these items.
6. **Other venues**. Remaining items will be distributed as quickly and efficiently as possible. They may be either donated to charities (e.g., for holiday gifts) or sold in lots (e.g., on RC Groups), depending on what options are available. In the latter case, all revenue will go to the club. The BOD will select these venues.

Enjoy,

- David Spielman

Remember When?

As a blast-from-the-past, please enjoy this article from Vincent Massa, in the CRRC Newsletter ca. 25 years ago (Thank Mike Whidden for finding this gem)

"DON'T FLY TODAY" SAID DAVE ON SATURDAY JULY 27, 1996, AS I DROVE DOWN THE PATH TO THE MEDFIELD FLYING FIELD. "JOHN'S PLANE FLEW AWAY AND RUANE HAD A CRASH".

NATURALLY I IGNORED THE WARNING AND FLEW MY ELECTRIC GLIDER ANYWAY. AFTER 2 OR 3 MINUTES, THE GLIDER SUDDENLY TURNED LEFT AND STAYED IN A DOWNWARD LEFT TURN REGARDLESS OF MY INPUT. IT DISAPPEARED. LATER, AS I WALKED THE PATH I MET DAVE, WHO WAS HELPING JOHN LOOK FOR HIS PLANE. DAVE HAD SEEN MY GLIDER GO DOWN IN THE SWAMP. JOHN LOOKED FOR BOTH PLANES BUT COULD FIND NEITHER.

MONDAY MORNING I TRUDGED THROUGH THE SWAMP FOR AN HOUR BUT HAD NO LUCK. THE SWAMP WAS TOUGH GOING.... A FOOT OF WATER PLUS SHRUBS PLUS ALLIGATORS PLUS VINES THAT GRAB AT YOUR FEET AND HOLD YOU DOWN FOR THE MOSQUITOES TO ATTACK (OR SO IT SEEMED). I GAVE UP DISGUSTED AND FROM THE LOSS OF BLOOD, THINKING THAT THE \$300.00 OR SO I HAD IN THE PLANE WAS NOT WORTH THE TREK.

AT 6:00 PM THAT EVENING I RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE STATE POLICE! SGT. RICHARD WELBY OF THE STATE POLICE AVIATION DIVISION ASKED FOR ME. (OH-OH, DID I KILL SOMEONE WITH MY GLIDER?) THE STATE POLICE USE THE MEDFIELD CLUB SITE FOR HELICOPTER TRAINING, IT TURNED OUT, WHEN WE ARE NOT USING IT. ABOUT 1 PM ON MONDAY SGT. WELBY WAS PILOTING A HELICOPTER WHEN HIS COPILOT, TROOPER JOHN HANAFIN, SAW A PLANE IN THE SWAMP. TROOPER HANAFIN LEANED OUT OF THE HELICOPTER, AND LOWERED A RESCUE LIFE PRESERVER OVER MY GLIDER WHILE THE HELICOPTER HOVERED. THEY PULLED THE GLIDER OUT AND TOOK IT TO THEIR BASE AT NORWOOD AIRPORT. WHEN THEY REMOVED THE WING, THEY FOUND MY NAME AND CALLED ME. I CONSIDER THIS A VERY HAPPY ENDING AND AM NOW A BIG FAN OF THE STATE POLICE. MANY THANKS TO SGT. RICHARD WELBY AND TROOPER JOHN HANAFIN!

P.S. LATER I FOUND THAT MY RUDDER SERVO HAD BURNED OUT.

Can You Help the Club?

A quick reminder that in November (not really that far off, shockingly) we'll elect new club officers for next year. Who are these mysterious servants of the greater good? Why, they're just like you! The majority of the current board have served for five years or more - fresh ideas and energy would be welcome!

Please consider what CRRC does for you, and whether you could help keep the club "flying" by volunteering a little time and light effort. You'll find it's fun too!

COVID Protocols

CRRC requests all members to follow state guidelines and any location or facility based requirements at all fields & meetings. Please maintain safe and healthy practices for our own and other members' sakes, as well as for the sake of other users of our shared fields and meeting rooms.

Update: June 2021 - As of the time of writing, the original Massachusetts "emergency" declaration and most public restrictions have been lifted by the Governor and the State. CRRC has not received specific new guidance from the Town of Sudbury. Please continue to be aware both of state & local guidance and requirements, as well as considerate of the health and preferences of those around us, as the situation evolves.

FAA Registration and TRUST Test

Please remember to visit <https://faadronezone.faa.gov/#/> to check and renew your FAA registration ID. Also, beware some commercial entities who are claiming to process registrations - often for increased prices. The fee is \$5 for a three-year registration / extension from your existing expiry. Check your registration when you mark each new plane/drone, so you don't forget!

Also in recent news, the FAA has authorized several organizations including the AMA to administer the knowledge and safety test required by congressional action. ***You are now required to show proof of passing the test (along with your FAA ID number) to law enforcement or FAA representatives upon request.***

According to reports from members, the test takes about 15 minutes to complete (largely due to unimpressive performance loading each successive page). You can't proceed without providing the correct answers, and at the end you'll receive a confirmation number as well as link to a printable certificate/card. The test is free! Take it at: <https://trust.modelaircraft.org/>

Club Information

Officers - 2021

President

Mike Whidden
[president at charlesriverrc.org](mailto:president@charlesriverrc.org)

Vice President

Dan Sullivan
[vicepresident at charlesriverrc.org](mailto:vicepresident@charlesriverrc.org)

Treasurer

Dave Marshall
[treasurer at charlesriverrc.org](mailto:treasurer@charlesriverrc.org)

Membership Secretary

John Eppling
[membership at charlesriverrc.org](mailto:membership@charlesriverrc.org)

Recording Secretary (vacant)

[secretary at charlesriverrc.org](mailto:secretary@charlesriverrc.org)

Webmaster

Joel Foner
[webmaster at charlesriverrc.org](mailto:webmaster@charlesriverrc.org)

Newsletter Editor

Adam Smith
[newsletter at charlesriverrc.org](mailto:newsletter@charlesriverrc.org)

Chief Instructor

Dick Williamson
[chiefinstructor at charlesriverrc.org](mailto:chiefinstructor@charlesriverrc.org)

Safety Coordinator

David Spielman
[safety at charlesriverrc.org](mailto:safety@charlesriverrc.org)

Raffle Chairman

David Spielman
[exofficio at charlesriverrc.org](mailto:exofficio@charlesriverrc.org)

Instruction

To inquire about instruction please call the Chief Instructor, Dick Williamson.

Types of instruction

B = Building
 G = Glider
 E = Electric
 F = Fuel
 H = Helicopter
 Q = Quadcopter/
 Multirotor

Dick Williamson - B,G,E
 Sudbury - 978-618-5475

David Spielman - B,E
[dspielma \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:dspielma@gmail.com)

John Weigel - B
 Natick - 508-655-2138
 Richard Gammon - B,G,E,F
 West Boylston -

508-835-2049

Ken Antonellis - G,E,F
 Natick - 508-653-8369

Lincoln Ross - G,E
 Waltham - 781-891-0332

Dave Walter - G
 Hudson - 978-562-5400

Jon Leehey - F
 Wayland - 508-358-5721

Tony Davids - H
 Stow - 978-568-9598

Scott Ritter - Q
 Sudbury - 978-443-2373

General Info

Flying Sites

Go to the [CRRC Website](http://www.charlesriverrc.org) and select the Flying Sites tab to see the various sites. The site page will give current weather and site information.

Keys to the

Bill Martin Field

To get a key for Bill Martin Field in Medfield please email Ken Antonellis at kxa@verizon.net. Ken is the key-master. The key for the 2021 season is key #15. Ken may have keys at the meeting. A \$5 deposit is required the first time you receive a key.

Tree Climbers

Tom Hurney
 508-272-7489

Scott (Sudbury)
 508-203-3845

Stephen Canessa
 The Tree Guy
 978-460-1000

Hartney Greymont (Medfield)
 Sean Comer
 781-444-1227
thescomer@gmail.com

Membership Application - 2021

Name					
Street					
Town		State		Zip	
Telephone		Email			
AMA No.		Birth Date			
I agree: []	Club membership and activities are bound by the CRRC handbook, available at: http://charlesriverrc.org/newsite/Documents/CRRC%20Handbook%202020.pdf				

IMPORTANT: You must be an Academy of Model Aeronautics member to join CRRC.
AMA Junior membership is free! <http://www.modelaircraft.org/membership/youth.aspx>
 By submitting this membership application you agree to comply with the AMA safety code,
 including documents 550 and 560 found at: www.modelaircraft.org/documents.aspx

To receive a membership card, bring this application to a club meeting or
 mail to the membership secretary:

John Eppling
Membership Secretary CRRC
43 Nylander, Acton, MA 01720
membership@charlesriverrc.org

You may pay by check or use PayPal.

Make **checks** to **Charles River RC**, or send **PayPal** to the email above.

Member category	Before March 1, 2021	After March 1, 2021
OPEN Member	\$60	\$65
SENIOR member If age 60 before July 1st	\$50	\$55
SENIOR member If age 75 before July 1st	Free if AMA member (Voluntary donation appreciated - e.g. \$50)	Free if AMA member (Voluntary donation appreciated - e.g. \$50)
JUNIOR Member Under 19 before July 1st		
NON-FLYING member If age 75 before July 1st	(Voluntary donation appreciated)	(Voluntary donation appreciated)
Full time STUDENT	\$40	\$45
Family member additional to OPEN membership		
Additional / optional donation (supports field rental)	Voluntary \$10 / \$25 / \$50 / etc	