

# Charles River Radio Controllers

# Flight Log

August 2024



Photo by Adam Smith



August Meeting:

Saturday, August 17th, 9:45am

In Person at

Davis Field, Sudbury

## President's Message

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I hope everyone is having a great summer and getting out to enjoy the nice weather. I've noticed that the summer weekends seem to be busier than the rest of the year, which has limited my flying time, but I have been able to get out a couple of times.

Over the past month, the club participated in 2 events. In late July, Mike Whidden represented the club at an event at the Patton Homestead. The following week, Mike also helped organize the 5th Annual CCRC hosted NERDS Drone Race at Davis Field. Thanks Mike! This month, we have the Fritz Bien Memorial Soar In coming up on Aug 24-25 at Davis.

Our next meeting will be this Saturday, Aug 17th at Davis Field. The summer meetings are intentionally kept short to allow for more time flying afterward, so if you haven't been to a meeting in a while, I encourage you to come on out next Sat and do some flying!

Thanks,

Joe

## August Meeting - Saturday August 17

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Our next general meeting is scheduled to be *in-person at Davis Field, Sudbury at 9:45am.*

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

## Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In

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We're just two weeks away from the Fritz Bien Memorial ALES soaring competition at Davis Field in Sudbury. On Saturday and Sunday 8/24-8/25 CRRC will be hosting an Altitude Limited electric event, the same format as the ALES we ran in June. Note that there will be NO winches this year; it's strictly electric launch! Most participants will have an ALES CAM altitude limiter installed in their aircraft, but if you don't have one we can accommodate you by simply limiting your launch time. So if you have a motor glider, there's no excuse for not joining us!

Registration will open at 8:00AM and first round will commence at 9:00AM, weather permitting. Entrance fee is \$25/day, and that includes lunch (sandwiches) and cold drinks. If you have an ESL membership you can pre-register at <http://flyesl.org/Contest.aspx?contestid=422>, or you can also sign up the morning of the event. Hope to see you there!

-Dave Walter

## Patton Homestead Event Report

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the producer of the Military Service Day event at the General Patton Homestead in Hamilton, Massachusetts invited us and other area clubs to provide static displays and flight simulator stations. It was an excellent opportunity to reach out to the community about our hobby and responsible operation.



**My modest encampment.**



**There were many opportunities to chat with adults and kids while showing them how to assemble the FPG-9 glider.**

Unfortunately, due to last minute conflicts, including members of two other clubs who had expressed an intent to help out, I was the only one who was able attend, so our participation was significantly scaled back to just a few models. However, one of the models was a beautiful PT-17 (or was it a PT-13? I forgot to count the cylinders) that Jimi Two Feathers loaned me to display. I also had some pre-cut foam plate airplanes for

the kids to assemble and fly (<https://www.amaflightschool.org/diy/quick-projects-fpg-9>) which were very popular. Thankfully my wife and daughter stopped by and helped me keep up with the traffic and hold down the planes and tent when the state police helicopter landed and took off nearby. I also had some tri-fold brochures printed out (see below) that might encourage some interest.

Hopefully next year we'll be invited back and can get some more folks out there to run simulators, help answers questions, and run some simulator stations.

- Mike Whidden



**These soldiers were keen on the military applications of powered flight.**



## CRRC and NERDs Drone Race Report

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Our annual drone race at Davis Field, held in conjunction with North East Racing Drones was held on Saturday July 27th. We had a typical turnout of 8 pilots and organizers, though some unfortunate technical difficulties



**The well-received race course design by NERD Jason McCarthy  
(Photo Credit: Adam Smith)**

prevented our club member Jacob from getting in the air. The weather was about as good as it could have been (unlike last year's postponement due to rain).

Jason McCarthy of NERDs improvised the track design on-site, and it was a tremendous hit. All the pilots loved the layout, which was a very technical course including a corkscrew, two ladders, and an interested 2-level slalom that I'd never seen before.

As usual, the North East Racing Drones crew set up about 200 feet of 10-foot tall netting to protect the racers and spectators from any errant aircraft. There was a larger than expected number of spectators this year, many of whom had heard about the race on our Facebook page. Alexandra Kuchar who works with the Concord-Carlisle Robotics Team (who gave a presentation to our club, and to whom we demonstrated R/C aircraft) came out as well to see what we were up to.

A couple of kids showed up with their own sub-250g FPV drones and asked if they could fly nearby while we raced. We had to tell them that they couldn't because of the interference of video signals, but the whole group of racers approved that we should instead let them fly the race course on their own! One of the kids was able to successfully fly the entire course.



**A “Scott’s-Eye-View” of the track and Bobby “Bagzilla” Baggs’ quadcopter. (Photo Credit: Scott Ritter)**

Robert “Bagzilla” Baggs took 1st place with some impressively fast laps flying a Five33 HDZero LightSwitch. Our own Scott Ritter placed 4th in a Five33 Switchback and I placed 5th flying a Catalyst Machineworks MoFo.

-Mike Whidden

# Club Tri-Fold Handout

To help us advertise our club and the AMA, the club has a printable ti-fold brochure that can be handed out to anyone who wants to learn more about our hobby. Ask Mike Whidden or any of the board members if you need copies to distribute, or print them out yourself. Check our website to download a printable PDF (coming soon!). Print double-sided and make sure to choose "Flip on Short Edge" on your printer settings.

<p align="center"><b>AMA Membership</b></p>  <p>Your AMA membership gives you access to the AMA's monthly magazine, <i>Model Aviation</i>, as well as a wealth of online resources and assistance.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Want to Learn to Fly?</b></p> <p>Charles River RC has instructors who will teach children and adults to fly safely and in accordance with FAA rules. Get in touch with us if you would like to know more!</p> <p><a href="mailto:instructor@charlesriverrc.org">instructor@charlesriverrc.org</a></p> <p>Or scan this QR code to reach us on Facebook:</p>  	<p align="center"><b>Learn to Fly with AMA and CRRC</b></p>   
<p align="center"><b>Academy of Model Aeronautics</b></p>  <p>The Academy of Model Aeronautics has a national membership of 170,000 members, 2,459 chartered of 2,800 flying sites, and 2,000 sanctioned flying events each year. AMA is dedicated to the promotion of model aviation as a recognized sport and recreational activity that is fun and challenging.</p> <p>Model aviation is a STEM activity that can lead to industries such as aviation or engineering.</p>  <p>To learn more about AMA, visit <a href="https://www.modelaircraft.org">https://www.modelaircraft.org</a> or scan the QR code.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Charles River RC</b></p>  <p>Charles River RC was founded in Newton in 1964 and is one of the oldest AMA chapters in the country. Youth memberships are free.</p> <p>Charles River RC is a chapter of the AMA with flying fields in Sudbury, Acton, and Medfield, Massachusetts. Our club members fly a variety of aircraft, including electric- and gas-powered airplanes, electric and winch-launched sailplanes, helicopters, quadcopters, and more.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Events</b></p>  <p>The Academy of Model Aeronautics was created in 1936 and works with the FAA and other government agencies to ensure we can safely fly model aircraft.</p> <p>Throughout the year, Charles River RC hold several events, including the Frozen Finger Fun Fly, the July Fourth Demo Day, the Altitude-Limited Electric Soaring contest, the Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In, drone races, and more!</p>



## July Meeting Minutes

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14 Jul 2024 / 9:45 AM

Quorum met

- July 4th event had a good turn out.
- ALES went well even with the clouds.
- Dick Williamson has donated his equipment to the club.
- Next Saturday is the static event at Patton Homestead
  - Mike has glider kits for giveaways
- NERDS race is the following Saturday
- Darren, AMA Div 1 AVP wants every club to mention AMA more frequently
- Joe will email request to get a clear inventory of club property
- Soar In is on, event will be only electric like ALES. Help is needed

Business ended 10:10 AM

- Thanks to Club Secretary Roger Silva

# School Street Flying Schedule

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## SCHOOL STREET FIELDS 2024

- CRRC (ALL DAY - START 11 AM)
- RC (EVENINGS)
- CRICKET (ALL DAY)
- CRICKET (EVENINGS)

- ROCKETS
- BOY SCOUT CAMP
- ACTON TOWN FAIR

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
													31																												

  

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

## FAA Registration

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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 FAA charges \$5 for a three-year registration, or extension.

**Check your registration when you mark each new plane/drone, so you don't miss a renewal!**

## TRUST Test

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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.***

The test is free and can't be failed! Take it at:

**<https://trust.modelaircraft.org/>**

## CRRC Membership Renewal

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Support CRRC by renewing your annual membership! See the last page, or contact Adam Smith ([membership@charlesriverrc.org](mailto:membership@charlesriverrc.org)). Ages 75 and over, and under 19, are free for CRRC membership (AMA membership required to fly at fields/events, and discounted for juniors). Sixty-and-over receive a \$10 discount. Donations to the club are always welcome.

Make sure you have a current card to bring to in-person meetings and get a free raffle ticket!

## Club Information

Officers - 2024	Instruction	General Info
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>President</i> Joe Sicree <a href="mailto:president@charlesriverrc.org">president at charlesriverrc.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vice President</i> Dan Sullivan <a href="mailto:vicepresident@charlesriverrc.org">vicepresident at charlesriverrc.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Treasurer</i> Dave Marshall <a href="mailto:treasurer@charlesriverrc.org">treasurer at charlesriverrc.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Membership Secretary</i> Adam Smith <a href="mailto:membership@charlesriverrc.org">membership at charlesriverrc.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recording Secretary</i> Roger Silva <a href="mailto:secretary@charlesriverrc.org">secretary at charlesriverrc.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Webmaster</i> Shawn Silva <a href="mailto:webmaster@charlesriverrc.org">webmaster at charlesriverrc.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Newsletter Editor</i> Mike Whidden <a href="mailto:newsletter@charlesriverrc.org">newsletter at charlesriverrc.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chief Instructor</i> Dick Williamson <a href="mailto:chiefinstructor@charlesriverrc.org">chiefinstructor at charlesriverrc.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Safety Coordinator</i> Jimi Two Feathers <a href="mailto:safety@charlesriverrc.org">safety at charlesriverrc.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Raffle Chairman</i> John Eppling <a href="mailto:exofficio@charlesriverrc.org">exofficio at charlesriverrc.org</a></p>	<p>To inquire about instruction please call the Chief Instructor, Dick Williamson.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Types of instruction</u> B = Building G = Glider E = Electric F = Fuel H = Helicopter Q = Quadcopter/ Multirotor</p> <p>Dick Williamson - B,G,E Sudbury - 978-618-5475</p> <p>David Spielman - B,E dspielma (at) gmail.com</p> <p>John Weigel - B Natick - 508-655-2138</p> <p>Richard Gammon - B,G,E,F West Boylston - 508-835-2049</p> <p>Ken Antonellis - G,E,F Natick - 508-653-8369</p> <p>Lincoln Ross - G,E Waltham - 781-891-0332</p> <p>Dave Walter - G Hudson - 978-562-5400</p> <p>Jon Leehey - F Wayland - 508-358-5721</p> <p>Tony Davids - H Stow - 978-568-9598</p> <p>Scott Ritter - Q Sudbury - 978-443-2373</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Flying Sites</u></p> <p>Go to <a href="http://charlesriverrc.org">charlesriverrc.org</a> and select the Flying Sites tab to see the various sites. CRRC reserves time seasonally on Davis Field in Sudbury, and shares Bill Martin Field in Medfield with the MMAC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Keys to Medfield / Bill Martin Field</u></p> <p>To get a key for Bill Martin Field in Medfield please email key-master Ken Antonellis at <a href="mailto:kxa@verizon.net">kxa@verizon.net</a>.</p> <p><i>The key for 2023 will be updated in late April by MMAC. Keys may also be available at the monthly meeting. A \$5 deposit is required the first time you receive a key.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Tree Climbers</u></p> <p>Tom Hurney 508-272-7489</p> <p>Scott (Sudbury) 508-203-3845</p> <p>Stephen Canessa The Tree Guy 978-460-1000</p> <p>Hartney Greymont (Medfield) Sean Comer 781-444-1227 <a href="mailto:thescomer@gmail.com">thescomer@gmail.com</a></p>

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# Membership Application - 2024

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: <a href="http://charlesriverrc.org/newsite/Documents/CRRC%20Handbook%202020.pdf">http://charlesriverrc.org/newsite/Documents/CRRC%20Handbook%202020.pdf</a>				

**IMPORTANT:** You must be an Academy of Model Aeronautics member to join CRRC. **AMA Jr membership is discounted!** <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](http://www.modelaircraft.org/documents.aspx)

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

**Adam Smith**  
**Membership Secretary CRRC**  
**460 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720**  
[membership@charlesriverrc.org](mailto: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, 2024	After March 1, 2024
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	(Voluntary donation appreciated)	(Voluntary donation appreciated)
NON-FLYING member If age 75 before July 1st		
Full time STUDENT	\$40	\$45
Family member additional to OPEN membership		
Additional / optional donation (supports field rental)	Voluntary \$10 / \$25 / \$50 / etc	