

Charles River Radio Controllers

Flight Log

September 2024



From the archives, the annual
CRRC Soar In back in 2007



September Meeting:

Saturday, September 21st, 9:45am

In Person at

Davis Field, Sudbury

President's Message

Welcome to fall everyone (well, almost). I hope everyone had a great summer. Beginning with our first Flea & Fly in May, the July 4th Demo Day, ALES, the Patton Homestead event, NERDS 2024 and finally the Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In a few weeks ago, it was a busy few months. We also had good turnouts for our outdoor meetings / Saturday flying sessions over the summer that were a great way to get people together.

Our last outdoor meeting will be Saturday, Sept 21st at Davis Field. After that we will be resuming our meetings at the Goodnow library. In the next few weeks, we will be sending out an email asking people for some information on where they tend to fly and how often. We will use this information to better understand how we use the different fields and hopefully find ways to better help club members connect when they are out flying. If you are a member who hasn't been out in a while, I hope you can take advantage of the nicer, cooler weather over the next few months to get back into flying.

Thanks,

Joe

September Meeting-Saturday Sept. 21

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!

This will be our final field meeting of the year. And that means, **we need speakers** to present during our meetings in the library. **Please** get in touch with any of the club officers if you know someone who could give an interesting presentation to the club, or if you yourself would like to present.

Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In

CRRC hosted the Fritz Bien Memorial Soarin on the weekend of August 24-25 at Davis Field in Sudbury. This was an ALES competition, depending on electric motors to launch the gliders to a target altitude of 150 meters. We were blessed with splendid weather all weekend, mostly sunny skies and light, variable wind.

On Saturday we attracted 11 pilots to the competition, with a mix of abilities from rank novice to seasoned expert, drawn from New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, and western Massachusetts, as well as our own local club pilots. We flew 6 rounds of 10 minute tasks, with a relaxing break at lunch time to enjoy sandwiches from Rossini's Pizza place. At the end of the day, Mike Lachowski stood on top, with Maarten Broess in second place followed by George Hill in third.

Sunday weather was a near carbon copy of Saturday, with perhaps a bit more high altitude clouds. Just six pilots registered to fly, but that meant we were able to complete 6 rounds of 10 minute tasks by 2:00 pm, giving our

out-of-state folks an early start on the trip home. Those high clouds seemed to restrict the lift at times, so there were some challenging rounds in which pilots were all struggling to make their 10 minute flight tasks. Mike Lachowski demonstrated his skill and tenacity by making all his flight times and winning the competition. Dave Walter grabbed second place, followed closely by David Immanuel in third.

Many thanks to the club members who volunteered to help with the competition, and special thanks to Dave Marshall for providing scoring duties both days.

-Dave Walter

How to Begin With RC?

Club member David Spielman provided this article on getting started in RC. It can also be used to encourage new flyers and new club members. -Ed.

You've been to a CRRC flying field and purchased a new plane like an Aero Scout, now what do you do? The fickle finger of fate has pointed you to a really fun hobby. Hopefully the plane you have is perfect for a beginner pilot and experienced pilots too. It's a high wing plane and has inherent stability. It



Alison won an AeroScout on National Model Aviation day

flies with the same principles as the EDF jets and sailplanes that fly at our fields. Even the transmitter that came with the ready to fly plane

communicates with the same protocol as the EDF jet and Sailplane so you can expect similar range.

The first place to start is on a flight simulator. This gives you the feel of an airplane and its controls without leaving your desk. The most important part is to learn where up, down, right and left are. It also helps you remain calm when flying the real model. Some people spend a lot of time on a simulator before going out to fly and others only a brief time.

The perspective with the simulator can be different than real life. I like to project the image on a large screen TV and fix the pilots position on the ground in one place. I also like to see my surroundings so I don't zoom in. This is most like RC flying. Start with the basic settings and a simple plane like an Aero Scout.



You don't have to perfect your flying before going out to fly your plane at the field. You do need an instructor with a trainer radio that links to your transmitter. The instructor will be able to let you fly and rescue your plane when you direct it to crash. There's exceptions, but hey that's what life's about.

Things you need before you go to the field to fly. 1. Get a one-year AMA membership. 2. Get a recreational FAA registration number, just one is needed for all your aircraft. 3. Pass the TRUST test. It's one of those on-line tests that you can't fail. You learn as you take the test, but reading the AMA safety code helps a lot. 4. Join CRRC, we provide training and more importantly, we keep up the field with rentals and are the pilots voice to the parks



departments. We are the people who got the FRIA designations that allows you to fly without remote ID. More on that later.

Your benefits: AMA membership gives you \$2M of liability insurance, a magazine monthly, and the community base organization required by the FAA to fly at a FRIA. FAA rules in this hobby are kind of strict so you need to follow them. CRRC's field is a designated FRIA that allows you to fly without a radio location transponder. Yup, the FAA wants anything bigger than a baseball to have it's location broadcast unless you are at a designated FAA approved site.

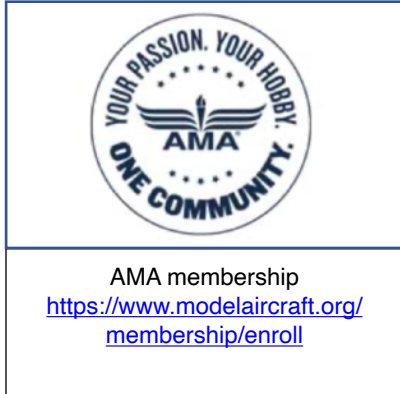
You know that FAA number? Well that needs to be attached to your aircraft anywhere on the outside. It has to be readable with the naked eye. 6 pt text is ok by these rules. It's the law that Congress has enacted.

Along with that, the AMA requires you put some other ID on your plane. At minimum your AMA member number, but preferably your name and contact info too. This helps you get your plane back when lost in the woods, corn field or surrounding farm. Some say if there's no ID, then I can't be found. That's been debunked so many times, and besides that the aircraft can be found with its FAA number.

Some parks departments require pilots to be AMA members for the insurance. Also, CRRC has insurance too. We buy that every year. They let us use the field free of charge. Some who fly at the field are not members. That's ok, but they don't get to use our equipment and don't have a voice with the parks department. Some of those pilots with expensive planes aren't members. It's odd where people are frugal. Winches and field rentals were paid for by CRRC and its members. The port-a-potties are also rented by us too.

We train pilots with what's called a buddy box. It's a set of transmitters linked together over the air or with a cable. It's a cool system that's been in use for decades. Most crashes are averted unless the plane is close to the ground or a difficult stall is encountered. The instructor may use one of their planes as well as yours.

Here are some links to important websites.



**Academy of Model Aeronautics
National Model Aircraft Safety Code**

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/system/files/documents/105.pdf>

FAA drone Zone

<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.

TRUST Test

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 Join and Renew

<https://charlesriverrc.org/about-us/join-crrc/>

All this information looks overwhelming, but do a bit at a time and it all fits together well. Best of all, the hobby is fun and the work minimal. You'll have a club of nearly 100 members who support you in your journey.

- David Spielman

(Be sure to read the October issue for another article by David about multirotor aircraft. -Ed)

School Street Field 2025

Prior to the 2024 flying season, School Street field had been reserved almost every day of 2023 by the cricket club (and had also been modified with the addition of concrete cricket pitches). Thanks to the hard work of a few folks who are passionate about the field, we were able to secure flying time at the field.

For the 2025 season, that group of volunteers is again spearheading the effort to secure flying days. School Street is an expensive field, and once the schedule has been negotiated with the Town of Acton and the cricket club, we'll have a solid figure for how much it will cost the club so we can keep flying there.

Expect there to be a vote for the expenditure at this month's meeting.

-Mike Whidden

Officer Elections

It's not too soon to start considering if some time on the CRRC Board of Directors is a way you would like to give back to the club. Our annual meeting and officer election is coming up in November!

August Meeting Minutes

17 Aug 2024 / 9:45 AM

Quorum met

- NERDS drone race went well. Three club members were among the racing pilots.
- Membership, couple new applications processed this month. Membership in the low 80's.
- Discussed September meeting location to be inside or outside. All agreed to remain outside unless the weather prohibits. Next meeting Sep 21st at Davis.
- Soar In next weekend.
 - Dave Marshall is scoring
 - Need table (Joe has), cold drinks and ice/coolers. Adam can assist on Saturday
- Need ideas from members on guest speakers for fall meetings.
- Vote required for additional funds (\$325.00) needed for Medfield extra grass cutting. Joe will advise Millis club to give us more advanced warning of next year's costs.
 - Vote was unanimous in approval for the expenditure.
- Joe will email members regarding the need to an accurate inventory of club property.
- Adam pointed out that within the next three months, there needs to be a discussion about School St schedule and funding for next year.

Business ended 10:18 AM

- Thanks to Club Secretary Roger Silva

School Street Flying Schedule

| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 | | | | | |

SCHOOL STREET FIELDS 2024

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| CRRC (ALL DAY - START 11 AM) | ROCKETS |
| RC (EVENINGS) | BOY SCOUT CAMP |
| CRICKET (ALL DAY) | ACTON TOWN FAIR |
| CRICKET (EVENINGS) | |

| 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 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | 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 | 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 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

FAA Registration

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

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

Support CRRC by renewing your annual membership! See the last page, or contact Adam Smith (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 president at charlesriverrc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vice President</i> Dan Sullivan vicepresident at charlesriverrc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Treasurer</i> Dave Marshall treasurer at charlesriverrc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Membership Secretary</i> Adam Smith membership at charlesriverrc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recording Secretary</i> Roger Silva secretary at charlesriverrc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Webmaster</i> Shawn Silva webmaster at charlesriverrc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Newsletter Editor</i> Mike Whidden newsletter at charlesriverrc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chief Instructor</i> Dick Williamson chiefinstructor at charlesriverrc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Safety Coordinator</i> Jimi Two Feathers safety at charlesriverrc.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Raffle Chairman</i> John Eppling exofficio at charlesriverrc.org</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 charlesriverrc.org 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 /</u> <u>Bill Martin Field</u></p> <p>To get a key for Bill Martin Field in Medfield please email key-master Ken Antonellis at kxa@verizon.net.</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 thescomer@gmail.com</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: http://charlesriverrc.org/newsite/Documents/CRRC%20Handbook%202020.pdf | | | | |

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

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

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 <i>(Voluntary donation appreciated - e.g. \$50)</i> | 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 | <i>(Voluntary donation appreciated)</i> | (Voluntary donation appreciated) |
| Full time STUDENT | \$40 | \$45 |
| Family member additional to OPEN membership | | |
| <i>Additional / optional donation (supports field rental)</i> | <i>Voluntary \$10 / \$25 / \$50 / etc</i> | |