

Charles River Radio Controllers

Flight Log

August, 2025



Planes on display at the Fourth-of-July Demonstration Day at Davis Field, 7/4/2025.



August Meeting:

Saturday, August 16th, 9:45AM

In Person at

Davis Field, Sudbury

President's Message

Dear CRRC'ers -

Happy summer everyone! I hope you all are having a good summer and getting to enjoy some time outside.

We have had 2 events over the last few weeks. On July 19th, the club participated in the Patton Homestead event. Thanks to Mike, Roger, and Jimmy for representing the club!

The next weekend, July 26th, the CRRC hosted NERDs for their annual drone race at Davis Field. We had a number of club members compete and overall everyone had a great time. Thanks (again!) to Mike for coordinating this event.

In upcoming events, our next meeting will be Sat, Aug 16th at Davis Field. We will have a short meeting followed by open flying at the field.

On Aug 23-24, we will be holding the Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In at Davis field. If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please contact a board member for more details.

Thanks!

- Joe Sicree, CRRC President



Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In 8/23-24

The Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In (August 23-24) is now an electric launch ALES contest, and we especially want to encourage participation from pilots who are flying older or smaller planes.

To promote that, in addition to the usual 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards, we will have a Handicap Champion award. Only pilots flying non-composite planes will be eligible. Handicapping will be by plane size and construction. Woodie fliers and Radian pilots take note!

Handicap Champion Award 2025

Construction	Bonus Per Round	Example
All Foam, under 2.5m	60	Radian
All Wood, under 2.5m	100	Oly II
Wood/composit spar or Dbox, under 2.9m	50	Yellow Jacket 2.5M
Wood/composit spar or Dbox, 2.9m and up	0	Yellow Jacket 3M

Composite planes are not eligible for the Handicap Champion Award

Sign up on the ESL web site at <http://flyesl.org/Contest.aspx?contestid=436>
 Any questions can be directed to the Contest Directors, Tom David tom7748@verizon.net or Dave Walter davewalter@comcast.net

- Tom David, Soar-In CD

CRRC and Soar-In History

The following article was found in club files during a digital move, and was written by Fritz Bien and dated 12/09/04... please enjoy this piece of history!

I came to Massachusetts from California in Feb. 1971, with a big box of airplanes, including several slope soarers. Being into the hobby for all of my life, the first thing I did whenever coming to a new town was to check out the entire hobby shops in the area. I found Fisher R/C in the Yellow Pages, but didn't know it was in the basement of somebody's house. I was still driving a rental car, and I remember it was snowing, so tromping around in a residential neighborhood leaving footprints in the snow while asking about the location of a hobby shop didn't look like a great idea. I drove back to the hotel, and called Fisher R/C the next Monday morning, in what I thought would be normal store hours (10:00AM). The woman on the line told me Bob was at work until 6:00PM told me the store hours and how to get there, and admonished me for not going in the Friday night before. Once I found the hobby shop, I asked about slope sites and glider flying in New England. Bob Fish told me what to do with the gliders (get somebody to tow you up), and put me in touch with Dick Janssen, a published local expert on model sailplanes. (He designed a neat Galloping Ghost transmitter published in at the time the technical rag Grid Leaks). Dick and Bob were both Charles River Radio Controllers (CRRC) members so I joined. CRRC was flying at the Wayland High School where Bob said I could stretch out a high-start over the Wayland Swamp. He was able to sell me a high-start if I was willing to wait a couple of weeks for delivery. Since my box of airplanes hadn't come from the West Coast yet, I waited.

When the high-start arrived, it was mud season in New England and the Wayland Swamp was –a swamp. Fortunately, in 1971 Massachusetts had contests in the area. There was the spring contest in Northern CT, local contests in Canton and Hadley, and the New England Championships in Orange. There were also 3 other contests in Connecticut, one within the ECSS circuit. The local contests were mainly attended by power flyers who tried their hand at gliding... This was the way I was able to launch my sailplanes without setting out a high-start over the Wayland swamp. We went to Cape Cod in the spring and also sloped out of Plymouth in 1971. The prizes usually consisted of the top 3 places splitting up the entrance fees. Stu Richmond, Bob and I had several nice dinners from all of our winnings. Stu flew a Graupner Amigo II, Bob flew a Glass-craft Phoebus, and I had my trusty Graupner Cirrus.

HISTORY OF THE CRRC SOAR-IN

In 1972, I talked Bob Fish into running a glider contest. Since I was putting most of my hard-earned money into the hobby, he agreed to run a club contest. That became the first CRRC Soar-In. Bob donated kits that had sat on his shelves for more than a year as prizes. The winners that day included Grant Cary, John Weigel, and I. We also tried to run a Frozen Finger soaring contest that winter, off the ice on Lake Cochichuate next to Bob's house. For those who haven't tried, stretching a hi-start on pond-ice is great fun. Unfortunately, it snowed the night before the contest and we couldn't find the anchor points for the high-start on the day of the contest.

I became CRRC President in 1973, just after CRRC got permission to fly at Callahan State Park and built its then new field (1972). Being young and stupid, the guys talked me into running a bunch of contests at the "new field". Since I was railroaded to become president, I railroaded others to run contests. We ran Scale, 2 H-Ray Pylon events, a Fun-Fly and a glider contest. We had a rule at the time that Contest Directors were not allowed to fly in their own run contests. We thus split the duties so that we could fly in the contests that we were most interested in. Bob Fish and I each ran an H-Ray Pylon race, Al Spievack ran the Scale, Bob ran the Fun-Fly. Jim Peghiny ran our first Open CRRC Soar-In. Dick Janssen supplied the winches, one gas powered, and the other based on the Ford Long-shaft. This is the winch I have to this day. The motor has been changed twice, the frame 3 times, different switches, solenoids, and cables over the years, but the same winch. We called the contest a Soar-In to try to encourage people not interested in competition to still enter.

HOW THE CRRC SOAR-IN BECAME PART OF THE ESL

When I came to the East Coast, the big contests here in the east were Valley Forge, DCRC, Trumbull CT, and Elmira. They were in a group called the ECSS; (East Coast Soaring Society) which included clubs all of the way into Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. York and Lancaster started having contests in 1972, the same time as CRRC. These contests formed the nucleus of the old ECSS. Otto Heithecker was the reigning ECSS champion, and he came from the Greater Detroit Soaring and Hiking Society. In order to get year-end points people, like Ray Hayes, would travel from Indiana to compete with the locals. CRRC aspired to have the glamour of hosting a large ECSS contest also. This was particularly being pushed by Dick Janssen.

The group out in Chicago was pushing for a national soaring event and started having the "Soar-Nat's". Mark Smith from Los Angeles went to the event and cleaned everybody's clock with his Windward and Windfree. By 1973, the big rivalry

between the East and West was in full swing and talk was to have a unified soaring group. The ECSS merged with the West Coast and the Inter-Mountain clubs in about 1975 to form the National Soaring Society (NSS).

CRRC became a member of the NSS and as such, the Soar-In went onto the national calendar. East Coast contests were held in Brewster, Pine Bush, Binghamton and Elmira NY, Wyckoff and Lakehurst NJ, Wilmington and Dover DE, York, Lancaster, Reading, and Valley Forge PA, Trumbull CT, Manassas VA, and Pittsfield and Framingham MA. A classic line written by Neil Liptak in Flying Models about that era was "How do you tell your secretary on Monday morning that you just spent 12 hours in a car coming back from a toy airplane contest?"

The NSS sort of faded away with infighting between the East and the West. The East Coast group formed the ESL, to which CRRC was a de facto member from its NSS membership. The first years of ESL we had contests in Pine Bush NY, Syosset, NY, Pittsfield MA, and CRRC at Callahan Field in Framingham, 2 contests in New Jersey, a contest in Valley Forge and Daniel Boone, one in York, and furthest south we had one at DCRC at Manassas. We had an annual awards dinner on Saturday night after the WRAM Show in White Plains NY.

-Fritz

NERDS Drone Race - 7/26

We had beautiful weather for the 6th annual CRRC/NERDs drone race at Davis Field. We had 13 competitors registered to race and a few more there to support logistics like scoring and grilling burgers. A number of CRRC members showed up to help out and observe. A crew of a half-dozen set up the course and safety netting. Racing lasted all of the late morning and most of the afternoon. I don't remember how many rounds were flown, but it was over two dozen. One of the competitors was 10 years old and just getting started with RC flying! It was a lot of fun, and thanks to John H, Roger S, Dave W and others I'm sure I'm forgetting for showing up to help and support.

- Mike Whidden

Photos from the NERDs drone race at Davis Field, 7/26/2025 - thanks to David Walter for contributing!





August Meeting - Saturday 8/16

Our next general meeting is scheduled to be ***in-person at Davis Field, Sudbury on Saturday, August 16th, at 9:45AM.***

Field meetings are generally short on business and long on flying afterward, conditions permitting. Bring something to show off, and preferably to put in the air!

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

Volunteers Needed 2025

Our event season is well underway, and it's never too soon to start thinking about how you can support this club in one of the most important ways: volunteering. Without volunteers, we don't have a club. If you see someone helping out, say thank you, and if you see a way to help, please do! We STILL have a number of opportunities coming up, including the August Soar-In and of course club officer positions for 2026.

Club Expenses

You might be aware that our club membership is down from our highs, but field costs continue to be our primary expense. We have reserves, but dues alone are not sufficient to cover expenses. The club always accepts donations, which you can send in with your membership dues, bring to a club meeting, or send with PayPal to www.charlesriverrc.org or membership@charlesriverrc.org.

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 - 2025

President

Joe Sicree

[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

Adam Smith

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

Recording Secretary

Roger Silva

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

Webmaster

Shawn Silva

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

Newsletter Editor

Mike Whidden

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

Chief Instructor

Scott Ritter

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

Safety Coordinator

Jimi Two Feathers

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

Raffle Chairman

John Epling

[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

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 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.

Keys to Medfield /

Bill Martin Field

To get a key for Bill Martin Field in Medfield please email key-master Ken Antonellis at kxa@verizon.net.

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.

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

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Membership Application - 2025

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, 2025	After March 1, 2025
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	