

Charles River Radio Controllers

Flight Log

December 2025



Photo Credit: Michael Whidden



December Meeting

Wednesday, December 17th, 7:30 pm

In Person at

Goodnow Library, Sudbury

President's Message

As we head into the end of the year, I hope that everyone has a chance to enjoy the holidays whether it's being with family, enjoying some time off, or maybe doing some cold-weather flying!

We have had a pretty busy year. In addition to our activities at the School St and Davis Field fields, we continue to hold successful events like our July 4th Demo Day, NERDS drone races and the ALES and Fritz Bien Soar-In glider events. In addition, we held our 2nd annual Memorial Day Flea n' Fly, a second Patton Homestead event, a new Fall Fun Fly and a resumption of the Acton-Boxborough HS STEM fair.

The success of any club depends on its members. Thank you to everyone who has come out to meetings, the flying fields and the events over the past year. And a special call out to members John Epling, Tom David and Dave Walter. John has been involved for years as an organizer and instructor, and Tom and Dave organized this year's Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In. It's great to see people getting involved and I hope that over the next year, more people get involved with club activities. If anyone has thoughts or an idea on this, please don't hesitate to reach out.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank the members of the CRRRC Board of Directors: Dan Sullivan, Adam Smith, Roger Silva, Dave Marshall, Mike Whidden, Jimi Two Feathers, Scott Ritter and Shawn Silva. They keep the club running whether it's negotiating access to the fields, communicating with the rest of the club, or taking point on our various events throughout the year. The time and effort they give to the club is truly appreciated. Thank you!

And finally, this year the club lost long time member Dick Williamson. Over the years, Dick held various positions within the club and was a great advocate for the club with the town of Sudbury.

Our last meeting of 2025 will be Wed, Dec 17th at 7:30pm at the Goodnow Library in Sudbury. Bring a current project for show & tell and feel free to share any current or future projects with the rest of the club. Our final event of the year, or (technically) the first event of 2026, will be the Frozen Finger Fun Fly on January 1st at Davis Field. Bring your aircraft and a warm pair of gloves to ring in the new year!

Thanks and See You in 2026....

Club Meeting - Wednesday Dec. 17

Our November meeting is scheduled to be ***in-person at Goodnow Library at 7:30 p.m.*** Bring something to fly, something to show & tell, or just come for some friendly company.



This will be a good meeting as we have Sue Benua who will be talking about her experience as a full-scale autogyro pilot.

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

Frozen Finger Fun Fly 2026

Our first event of 2026 is the Frozen Finger Fun Fly at Davis Field on January 1st at 9am. Come dressed for the weather, and bring something to fly. It's been pretty mild the last couple of years, if memory serves. Maybe this year will be a real frost-biter? Come to Davis Field and find out!

November Meeting

Our annual meeting was held last month on November 19th. There were no nominations for new officers, but fortunately the current slate of officers were willing to stay on for another year to keep the club running.

Club member and Membership Secretary Adam Smith, who also makes a hobby of amateur radio, gave a well-prepared and informative talk about the history of radio control protocols (see photo on cover). If you weren't at the meeting, you missed a fun talk. (And make sure not to miss out again — come hear Sue Benua talk on December 17th!).

For Show & Tell, Tom David talked about his Mountain Models Smoothie, the second plane he ever built. It's built of tape-covered foam and has never been in a crash! Ray Harlan, a free-flight fan, showed us a gasser that was given to him by a former member.



[Photos by Michael Whidden]

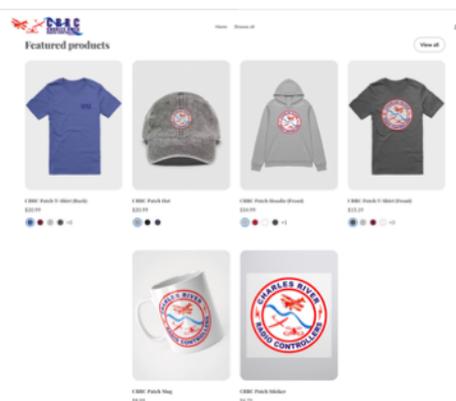
Club Expenses

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 membership@charlesriverrc.org.

Volunteers Needed 2026

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 will need help organizing an auction and all the 2026 events that need planning, and of course, club officer positions for 2026.

Online Store!



Did you know that our webmaster has been quietly hard at work maintaining our website *and* bringing online the new Charles River RC online storefront? If you've seen Shawn and Roger at the field wearing CRRC "swag" and felt a twinge of envy, you can visit <https://shop.charlesriverrc.org/> or click the link on our website.

Proceeds benefit the club, so stock up!

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 - 2026	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>Interim Chief Instructor</i> Scott Ritter 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> Scott Ritter exofficio at charlesriverrc.org</p>	<p>To inquire about instruction please contact Interim Chief Instructor, Scott Ritter.</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>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 / 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 style="text-align: center;">Tom Hurney 508-272-7489</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sean Comer 781-444-1227 thescomer@gmail.com</p>

© 2023 Charles River Radio Controllers.

Text and images used by permission of contributors (as indicated) are subject to contributor's copyright.

Membership Application - 2026

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 it 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** payable to **Charles River RC**, or send **PayPal** to the email above.

Member category	Before March 1, 2026	After March 1, 2026
OPEN Member	\$60	\$65
SENIOR member If age 60 before July 1st	\$50	\$55
SENIOR member If age 75 before July 1st	<i>Free if AMA member (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>	