

Charles River Radio Controllers

Flight Log

October 2025



Photo Credit: Michael Whidden



October Meeting

Saturday, October 11th, 1:00 pm

In Person at

School Street Field, Acton

President's Message

Happy Fall everyone! I hope everyone has been able to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather!

Our last outdoor meeting of the year will be our inaugural "Fall Fun Fly" next Sat, October 11th at 1 p.m. at the School St. field (note the time and location change!). We hope to have a large crowd in attendance and we have also invited other local clubs to join us. There will be a raffle and we will be collecting donations for the Sudbury Community Food Pantry. I encourage you to come on out for one last fly as a club until the "Frozen Finger Fun Fly" on January 1st.

During the winter months, we hold our meetings indoors, usually at the Goodnow library in Sudbury. For these meetings, we try to have various speakers come and give talks. In the past, we have had everything from a talk on building walkalong paper gliders to a closeup look at a conversion of an electric Mig to a jet turbine aircraft. We even had a visit from the Concord Carlisle High School FIRST Robotics team! If you have an idea for a talk, or know of someone who might be interested in giving a talk, please let someone from the Board know! We would love to add some new and interesting topics to help get through the winter months.

Thanks!

Club Meeting - Saturday October

Our September meeting is scheduled to be ***in-person at School Street field in Acton at 1:00 p.m.*** Bring something to fly, something to show & tell, or just come for some friendly company. We'll also be collecting donations for the Sudbury Community Food Pantry. If you need some ideas, they are in need of the following items in particular:

- Tomato Sauce
- Cereal
- Baking – cake & brownie mix
- Pasta
- Boxed & Canned Meals – stew/chili, boxed potatoes & stuffing
- Boxed Rice – for example: Near East / Rice A Roni
- Large Soup – Progresso / Chunky
- Mac & Cheese
- Condiments – salad dressing, ketchup, mayo

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

November Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting and officer election is coming up in November! Please consider running for an office. It's fun, rewarding, and not as much work as you probably think!

Here is what Adam Smith wrote about our Board of Directors.

November is the club's Annual Meeting, and we will elect officers to the Board of Directors for 2026. To be elected as an officer, you need to be

nominated by a fellow member and accept that nomination. The officer positions forming the Board are: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Safety Coordinator, and Webmaster. We also have a Chief Instructor and welcome the efforts of Contest Directors and other event volunteers, in particular. The following pages have descriptions of the various roles. The Board meets monthly (usually the Tuesday after the club meeting, via Zoom), and most of the positions have a modest "required" effort but also the chance to be creative in how you apply yourself to the club's benefit. If you have any interest, contact a current or former Officer.

Our club Bylaws encourage spreading the load of running the club by suggesting that officer positions are changed regularly. Ideally, this distributes knowledge and experience within the club and helps prevent individuals from burning out. Specifically: "At the end of two consecutive terms in the same elected office, a person may be nominated for further terms in the same office only if there are no other nominees." In point of fact, though, over the last 5-10 years, many Board members have served repeatedly— and five current officers have been continuously in one office or another for a decade or more.

While contributions to the club come in many forms, please consider whether the coming year might be one in which you could take on a more "official" role within CRRC. If a Board position isn't in the cards for you at this time, that's fine! Consider nominating/encouraging someone you think would be a good choice to get involved— and remember to thank the officers and other volunteers who keep the Club running!

Adam Smith

CRRC President (by David Spielman)

The president's position has awesome powers associated with it. From the president's pilot seat, you can get things done, especially if you do them yourself. Make friends with other club members, and you'll get people to help you. The president's job is to be yourself, advocate for the club where you can, and help to promote goodwill between the public and the club. Go to the flying field, bring some planes, see your friends, talk to visitors, and promote the club. Delegate tasks when you can, and remember not to ask for anything that

you wouldn't be willing to do yourself, but delegate so you aren't the only contributor. You do not have to go out of your way very often. Fly at your usual locations, see your friends who put you in the role, and write about what's happening once a month. Also, help the Board of Directors plan out the events calendar. The president's position is not difficult and not very time-consuming. As president, I like to attend all the general and board meetings. I visit the field about once a week, but also understand that I have work and family obligations that keep me from visiting the fields as often as I want. The position uses about 8 hours a month, including attending general meetings, board meetings, scheduling events at the library, and writing the president's letter. Your family may think you're spending more time, but secretly, you're shopping for parts for your next project or Googling stupid things people do with quads. There is a "term limit" for president, to help you move on to do other things and, if need be, recharge your internal batteries. I remember leaving the newsletter editors' position and really enjoying reading the next person's newsletter. Reading the newsletter cover to cover, rereading my president's letter, and seeing all the fun our club members are having is one of many rewards of the president's position.

Vice President (by Brian Rickman)

The primary responsibility of the Vice President is to find guest speakers or activities for the monthly meetings. Scheduling speakers usually takes an hour or two per month. I feel obligated to attend all the monthly CRRC meetings (3 hours per month), and the BOD meetings (2 hours per month). So the total time commitment for this position is about 7 hours per month. Doing this job requires some organizational skills and a willingness to contact people you don't know on behalf of the club. Club members often suggest guest speakers, so doing this job does not require that you have a huge social network. [Editor's note - the Vice President also acts as a stand-in for the President, in case that officer is unavailable for a meeting, event, etc.]

Treasurer (by Dave Marshall)

Treasurer, or caretaker of the club's funds, is a straightforward job that takes relatively little time. With online banking, you may only visit the bank two times, once to transfer the account to your name and once to transfer the account to your successor. Writing checks and making deposit runs is a thing of the past, since this is all done online too. You do have to be computer savvy with skills in online banking, PayPal, Quicken, and Excel. Honesty is the best policy in this job, so if temptation is your weakness, another CRRC job would be better. You will be responsible for balancing the books and providing a treasurer's report each month. If you have been in finance, accounting, or are a home bookkeeper, this job is easy.

Recording Secretary (by Daniel Sullivan)

The recording secretary's role is to take notes and prepare minutes of each CRRC meeting for the newsletter. Mostly this means he/she must attend all the CRRC meetings and record any official decisions. In addition, other activities at the meetings (raffle winners and show and tell descriptions) are recorded for publishing in the newsletter.

Membership Secretary (by John Epling)

The membership secretary maintains the membership list. This involves processing membership applications and any fees received (checks are deposited via the mobile banking application while PayPal payments go directly into the CRRC banking account), and sends out membership ID cards. The membership secretary also maintains the CRRC Handbook. Besides attending the monthly general meeting as well as the Board-of-Directors' meeting, the role does not take much time. It takes just a few minutes to process each application as they come in. The application processing involves entering the member info into an Excel spreadsheet, writing the member's name on the ID card, sticking it in an envelope, addressing it, stamping it, and putting it in the mailbox.

Webmaster (by Adam Smith)

CRRC Webmaster is a simple or complex job depending on your interest and abilities. Regular duties include timely posting of newsletters and other announcements to the website, and maintenance of the "upcoming event" and calendar information for club meetings and events. This requires as little as a few minutes a week, though it's good to be able to post promptly when updated information is available. Some technical experience is required to deal with the site content via FTP or the web Panel interface; depending on your objectives, experience with more complex web technologies could be useful. The existing website has lots of great content, but most of it is static and doesn't need ongoing maintenance. Irregular updates may be required as field access and use or other details of the club's activities change. For a motivated webmaster with online publishing experience, more extensive updates could be possible to update and extend the CRRC site. Like the newsletter post, being Webmaster is a good way to learn about and stay connected to a broad range of Club activities and people.

Newsletter Editor (by Bob Sisson)

Being a newsletter editor can be as simple as a sheet of paper with plain text or as complex as your mind wants it to be. The most important value is to make it an interesting document, something members will enjoy reading and viewing. It does require some sacrifices in time. If you want to include photos of club contests and you also want to participate in the contest, then you have to enlist the help of others to capture the activity. Being the newsletter editor can be a good way for a new member to become more familiar with the Club's activities. It does require some dedicated time to put everything together, but most of the text is supplied by others. Text is another area where you can enlist the help of others for newsletter content. Overall, being the newsletter editor is enjoyable and rewarding.

Safety Coordinator (by Adam Smith)

Since these descriptions were written, we've (re?)formalized the role of Safety Coordinator. This individual is responsible for promoting safe flying practices at the club's activities and at the fields, and is a point of contact to and from the AMA on safety-related issues. There is precedent for the Safety Coordinator to contribute articles to the Newsletter, but no requirement to do so every month. This would be a good role for someone who likes to spend time at the fields and who can get along with both club members and others and lead by influence and example.

Chief Instructor (by Brian Rickman)

[Editor's note: While the Chief Instructor is not a club officer, it nevertheless is an important position.] The primary responsibility of the Chief Instructor (CI) is to match new pilots who want help with experienced pilots who can provide that help. The CI also needs to maintain the list of volunteer flight instructors. The CI does not need to be an expert pilot. He (or she) does need to be organized, easy to contact via phone and email, and willing to help people. The time commitment for this position varies widely. If the CI chooses to do a lot of the teaching himself, then he is likely to spend 5 or more hours some summer weeks working with student pilots. If he chooses to do no teaching himself, then he might spend less than one hour per week matching student pilots with instructors. I found this role to be very satisfying. I met many interesting people and greatly improved my own piloting skills.

Memorial for Dick Williamson



There was a good turnout for the memorial for Dick Williamson held at Davis Field on September 14th. The event was organized by Dick's children and various folks associated with the town and organizations with which Dick was involved. People who

worked on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, coworkers, town staff, AMA members, and others attended. Our own Tony Davids addressed the crowd about Dick's long involvement in model aviation and CRRC.

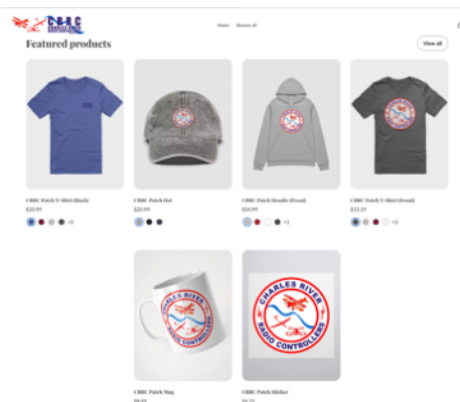
Volunteers Needed 2025

Our event season is over, but 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.

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.

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!

RC ACES Summer Auction

It's not really a "summer" auction, but the RC ACES club in North Hampton, NH asked us to share information about their auction this month.

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 | 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> John Epling 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> |

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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 | 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> | |