

Charles River Radio Controllers

Flight Log

September 2026



Photo by Christopher Badessa



September Meeting
Saturday, September 19th, 9:45 am

In Person at
Davis Field, Sudbury

President's Message

Hi everyone! Hope you're all still getting chances to fly in as the weather cools. I managed to get out and try my repaired Turbo Timber with a re-attached front end and that very same front end snapped off again on the first flight. Maybe it's a sign?

It's been a busy summer for the club! Back in July, we had a great turnout for the July 4th Demo Day, the club participated in the Patton Homestead event in Hamilton, and we hosted the NERDs Drone Race at Davis Field. Then in August, we wrapped things up with another great Fritz Bien Memorial Soar-In weekend at Davis Field. Thanks to everyone who came out to fly, volunteer, or just cheer everyone on - none of these events happen without the members who show up and pitch in.

Looking ahead, we've got a fun opportunity to represent the club out in the community. On Sunday, September 27th from 2-4pm, the Goodnow Library in Sudbury is holding their "Find Your People Fair", a community fair celebrating the people and organizations that make us stronger. We have been asked to participate and are looking for a few volunteers to help staff a table for CRRC. If you can spare a little time that afternoon, please reach out to a member of the Board.

Our last outdoor meeting for 2026 will be Saturday, September 19th at 9:45am at Davis Field — bring something to fly afterward, or just come by to talk shop.

And finally, Roger Silva will be stepping down as our Recording Secretary after 6 years in the role. Thank you Roger for everything you've done for the club over the years. We wish you all the best and hope to hear about your flying adventures in southern MA! If anyone is interested in taking on the Recording Secretary position, please reach out to a member of the Board.

As always, thanks for being part of the club, and see you at the field!

Thanks,

Joe

Club Meeting - Saturday September 19

Our September club meeting is at 9:45am on Saturday September 19th at Davis Field.

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

Upcoming Events

- **September 27:** "Find Your People Fair" at Goodnow Library. 2-4 p.m. Contact president@charlesriverrc.org or newsletter@charlesriverrc.org if you can assist by attending.

7th Annual CRRC/NERDs Drone Races

by Michael Whidden

I can hardly believe that this past July held our 7th annual CRRC with NERDS drone race at Davis Field. I'd met some members of New England Racing Drones in 2019, if I recall correctly, and pitched the idea of a co-hosted drone race to the CRRC Board in the spring of 2020, deep in the heart of COVID. Yet we had a great turnout, with 15 racers in attendance.

COVID lockdown is long gone, but we are still racing every year. Attendance this year was down a bit, but I feel like we had more spectators than in past years, so it was great to talk with people who came out to watch, or just heard the doppler-shifting screaming of hot brushless motors and stopped by to see what was up. We had 8 officially registered, one or two more

racing just for fun who weren't ranked, and of course Jason McCarthy who brings the trailer with the equipment, the barbecue grill, and lunch.



Photo by Jim Coutre

Unfortunately, Jason's trailer blew a tire, so to salvage the day, I ran home to grab the racing equipment that several CRRCCers drone racers (looking at you John E, Roger S, Scott R, and me) had bought for practicing. Well, that equipment saw some real racing that day, because we Pedro "Pino" Cacaes had the entire course laid out, and several pilots had the entire course put up and ready to fly before Jason got back from Sullivan Tire.



Photo by Jim Coutre

We flew 41 heats! Not every pilot flew in every heat, but that was quite a pace to maintain. Each heat is a 2 minute race. For the heat to count toward your final score, you must complete at least three laps, and the time to complete your fastest three consecutive laps is your score.



Photo by Jim Coutre



Photo by Jim Coutre

Pilot	Fastest Three Consecutive Laps
Pedro 'Pino' Caceres	(Best Round: 21) 31.710
Robert 'baggszilla' Baggs Jr.	(Best Round: 8) 44.635
Ian 'FlyGuyian' Burwell	(Best Round: 34) 01:01.920
Shawn 'Shawn_188' Decourcey	(Best Round: 28) 01:03.895
Irek 'papfpv' Romaniuk	(Best Round: 17) 01:04.795
Scott 'ScottR' Ritter	(Best Round: 27) 01:10.641
Michael 'hubris' Whidden	(Best Round: 10) 01:28.729
Mark 'Fiddy' Silva	(Best Round: 27) 01:29.789

Fritz Bien Memorial ALES

Competition Report

by Tom David



Photo by Tom David

As the sun began to climb higher in the sky on Saturday August 29, the first group of 4 soaring pilots launched to 150 meters of altitude and began looking for lift. This marked the start of the 2026 Fritz Bien Memorial ALES Soar-In. In all, 12 pilots from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New York, New Jersey and Virginia would compete for the weekend's top honors. Lift proved hard to find at first, but by the second round competitors were catching strong, tight, small-diameter thermals. Then came the cries of "What's up with the wind?" In spite of a forecast calling for calm winds throughout the day, conditions on the ground for much of the morning were

briskly breezy, and at altitude thermals were blowing steadily downwind. Those conditions lasted for a couple of hours, but before lunch the weather settled down to follow the forecast and provided calm and very enjoyable soaring conditions for the rest of the day. Most pilots made their target times and their landings. The main risk was a hawk way down past the southeast corner of the field, who attacked a couple of planes that found thermals down there. Fortunately neither plane showed any damage, so maybe the hawk was content with just driving us off. The result of the fine weather was scores that were tightly packed at the top. More than half the pilots had Saturday scores within 10% of the first place finisher, Mike Lachowski of New Jersey.



Photo by Tom David

Sunday was windier right from the start and many pilots found their scores reduced by tricky conditions. Gusts that blew you away from the landing tape, thermals that took you too far downwind and not high enough, a clear blue sky with no cumulus clouds to indicate lift, winds that seemed to indicate thermals on one side of the field only to have them show up on the other side instead – all the usual challenges of a windy soaring day were present. It was a rare pilot that didn't get fooled at least once or twice. In

the afternoon, a light overcast moved in, and though it didn't look like much it effectively killed the lift. We wrapped up before 3:00 to give our long-distance visitors a chance to get a start on their drives home.

In the end, Mike Lachowski finished first again on Sunday and took home the weekend Grand Champion award. Second place honors went to Tom David on Saturday and David Immanuel on Sunday, while Chris Badessa and Dave Walter took the respective third places. Special thanks to Dave Marshall for keeping score and to Andy Richard who did the run for the subs from Rossini's for lunch both days. Mostly, thanks to everyone who participated and made it a great weekend.

It's also worth pointing out that since the bike path opened, we got a lot of people stopping by to see what was going on. At a guess, a couple of dozen people were interested enough to stay for a while, watch with interest and ask questions. Several pilots took the time to chat with these visitors. All the comments I heard were very positive and friendly. This is great community relations for the club.



[On the cover - photo by Christopher Badessa, from left to right: Tom Broeski, Leszek Zyga, Welcome Bender, Michael Lachowski, Dave Walter, Alexander Hall, David Immanuel, Maarten Broes, James Rochette, Chris Badessa, Tom David]

Be Aware of Scams

There are plenty of scams out there, including “phishing” scams where criminals may attempt to impersonate someone or an organization you trust. Please be attentive, and skeptical of any requests for money. Charles River RC will never send an individual club member a request for money other than for membership dues or donations, and all electronic donations should be made only via PayPal to **membership@charlesriverrc.org**, or in person to one of the club officers . Stay cyber-safe!

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 and 2027

Our event season is closing out, 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 STILL have an opportunity coming up, the “Find Your People Fair”, and of course club officer positions for 2027.

2026 School Street Calendar

Standard (M/W/F 5PM-7PM) Weekend / Custom Hours Unavailable (Lion's Fair)

May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5PM-7PM	2
3	4 5PM-7PM	5	6 5PM-7PM	7	8 5PM-7PM	9
10	11 5PM-7PM	12	13 5PM-7PM	14	15 5PM-7PM	16
17 2PM-8PM	18 5PM-7PM	19	20 5PM-7PM	21	22 5PM-7PM	23
24 8AM-8PM	25 8AM-8PM	26	27 5PM-7PM	28	29 5PM-7PM	30
31						

June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5PM-7PM	2	3 5PM-7PM	4	5 5PM-7PM	6 2PM-8PM
7	8 5PM-7PM	9	10 5PM-7PM	11	12 5PM-7PM	13
14	15 Lion's Fair	16	17 Lion's Fair	18	19 Lion's Fair	20
21	22 5PM-7PM	23	24 5PM-7PM	25	26 5PM-7PM	27 ~4PM-8PM (rockets)
28	29 5PM-7PM	30				

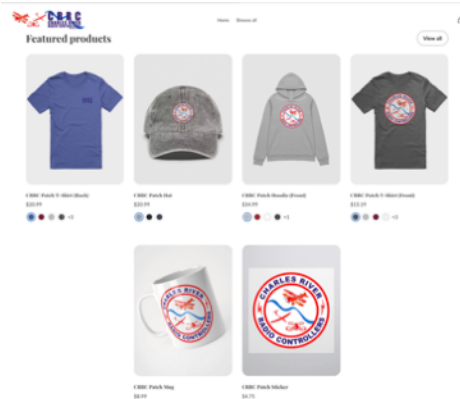
July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5PM-7PM	2	3 5PM-7PM	4 8AM-8PM
5 8AM-8PM	6 5PM-7PM	7	8 5PM-7PM	9	10 5PM-7PM	11
12	13 5PM-7PM	14	15 5PM-7PM	16	17 5PM-7PM	18
19 2PM-8PM	20 5PM-7PM	21	22 5PM-7PM	23	24 5PM-7PM	25
26	27 5PM-7PM	28	29 5PM-7PM	30	31 5PM-7PM	

August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2PM-8PM
2	3 5PM-7PM	4	5 5PM-7PM	6	7 5PM-7PM	8
9	10 5PM-7PM	11	12 5PM-7PM	13	14 5PM-7PM	15 2PM-8PM
16	17 5PM-7PM	18	19 5PM-7PM	20	21 5PM-7PM	22
23	24 5PM-7PM	25	26 5PM-7PM	27	28 5PM-7PM	29 2PM-8PM
30	31 5PM-7PM					

September						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5PM-7PM	3	4 5PM-7PM	5 2PM-8PM
6	7 5PM-7PM	8	9 5PM-7PM	10	11 5PM-7PM	12 2PM-8PM
13	14 5PM-7PM	15	16 5PM-7PM	17	18 5PM-7PM	19 2PM-8PM
20	21 5PM-7PM	22	23 5PM-7PM	24	25 5PM-7PM	26 2PM-8PM
27	28 5PM-7PM	29	30 5PM-7PM			

October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 2PM-8PM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 2PM-8PM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Noon-8PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Noon-8PM
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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@charlesriverrrc.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

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)

Interim 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

Scott Ritter

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

Instruction

To inquire about instruction please contact Interim Chief Instructor, Scott Ritter.

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 2026 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

Sean Comer
781-444-1227
thescomer@gmail.com

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