

Charles River Radio Controllers

Flight Log

October 2024



Member Joey Harkin and his new-member friends.

Photo by Jeremy Harkin



October Meeting:
Wednesday, October 16th, 7:30pm
In Person at
Goodnow Library, Sudbury

President's Message

Happy Fall everyone! I hope everyone has been able to get out and enjoy the nice weather we've been having lately. Fall weekends for me are busy with kid soccer games, but I have been able to get to Davis a few times to fly. I'm the one flying my little UMX Radian next to all the other members' much larger aircraft.

While the fall is generally quiet in terms of club events, we have been busy securing our access to both the School St field for next year and Davis field for this season. Due to bad weather, we were not able to vote on funding School St at the September meeting, so a special virtual meeting was held the next week. We have had some very generous members in the past who have contributed above and beyond to help fund School St. This year, our plan is to cap those members' contributions and have the club fund the rest. Our goal next year will then be to have the club fully fund School St. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the School St. funding and thanks to Jimi Two Feathers, Adam Smith and Scott Ritter for their work securing our field access with Acton and Sudbury.

Our next meeting will be this Wednesday, October 16th 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. And if you happen to know a friend, family member or even a complete stranger who has an interest in flying, bring them to the meeting! Thanks and I hope to see you there.

-Joe

October Meeting-Wednesday Oct. 16

Our next general meeting is scheduled to be ***in-person at Goodnow Library in Sudbury at 7:30pm.***

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

We are back to meeting in doors for a few months, so **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

The Soar-In was in August, but here are some photos from the event that didn't make it into the September edition, courtesy of club president Joe Sicree.





What's a Drone?

Club member David Spielman provided this article on "drones".

-Ed.

How confusing. Ever since those multi-rotor aircraft came along, we had to define what we call our aircraft. Well, per the FAA, all remote-control model aircraft are drones. That doesn't make it easy. Most of us call the multi-rotor aircraft drones and airplanes, helicopters, jets and tilt wing VTOL aircraft by their description. So now we know that everything RC is a drone, sheesh!



This is where it gets really confusing. There are subsets of multi-rotor drones: race drones, freestyle drones, cinema drones, standard drones and whoop drones not to mention toy drones. DJI makes the most popular standard drone and many cinema drones. This product line comes with geofencing and complies with full factory remote ID. The DJI drones are so sophisticated the geofencing won't let you take off if you are close to a restricted area like a stadium or airport. DJI even includes a Mavic mini that is under 249 grams, so it avoids FAA restrictions.



DJI Mavic



Drone and FPV

Goggles



Cinema drones have subtle differences from standard drones. Cinema drones are usually larger and tuned for cinema level photography and often flown with first person video (FPV) goggles. They tend to be faster and can handle higher winds to do things like a high-speed chase. Performance and flight time varies. This lineup has more sensors to protect the drone, meaning you don't crash as much. After all, no one wants to crash a multi-thousand dollar drone.

8 MOTOR CINEMA
DRONE!DJI CINEMA
DRONE!

Freestyle drone: This is a class of multi-rotor we commonly call quadcopter, that is used for stunt flying. It's flown FPV, first person video, like you are in it, by using a drone mounted camera and video transmitted to goggles you wear. These quad copters are usually built on an extremely strong frame to withstand crashes and range in size from a 2.5" to 7" span. The sweet point for now seems to be 5". Expect flight times from 3 to 5 minutes depending on how hard you fly. You need an FCC license in addition to all the other memberships to fly an FPV drone because you are broadcasting video on the 5.8GHz Ham band. Speed is typically 55 to 75 mph



Freestyle Drone & Digital FPV Goggles

Race drone: Very similar to a freestyle drone, but made for speed. FPV cameras are tilted up to the sky which helps the drone pilot fly faster. When the FPV image is at the normal viewing angle, the motors are facing forward, the position for higher speed. Cameras are made for very low latency so you may see analog goggles and cameras or digital. These drones are changing often so shape and speed are optimized. The spike on the top of this drone aids in flipping a crashed quadcopter right side up using the turtle mode function. Races with these multi-rotors are often set up with multilevel gates that the race quad must fly through. Race courses are set up in a few hours and have safety fencing to catch an errant drone. Expect flight times of 3 to 4 minutes. Speed can exceed 100 mph.



Multi-GP race course and Race Drone & Analog Goggles

Whoop Drones are small and are flown indoors, but some can be flown outside. They are flown while wearing FPV goggles like freestyle and race drones. Don't underestimate the performance of these drones. They fly fast and are very maneuverable. There are competitions with whoop drones with courses set up indoors. Their weight is under the 250-gram restriction, so no FAA restrictions on these.



Whoop Drones & FPV Goggles

Resources:

Get FPV

<https://www.getfpv.com>

Race Day Quads

<https://www.racedayquads.com>

Ready Made RC

<https://www.readymaderc.com>

Rotor Riot

<https://rotorriot.com>

New Bee Drone

<https://newbeedrone.com>

Web photos from these suppliers are used in this article. Drone race track photo by Adam Smith.

- David Spielman

Youth Members At Medfield

Jeremy Harkin shared these great photos of his son Joey, who at the age of 13 has already been an active member of Charles River RC for 8 years. He built a Sopwith Pup from a Balsa USA kit and had it in the air at Medfield. While there he was also training some friends from school, who will be our newest youth members.

Thanks Joey, for reaching out and inspiring a love of RC flight among your peers, and to Jeremy for the photos.



2025 Officer Elections

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 [2025]. 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 an 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 roll 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 presidents 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 straight forward 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 book keeper, 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 Eppling)

The membership secretary maintains the membership list. This involves processing membership applications and any fees received (checks are deposited via mobile banking application while PayPal payments go directory into 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 is enter the member info into Excel spreadsheet, write member name on ID card, stick it in an envelope, address it, stamp it, and put it in the mail box.

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 web site 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 he Chief Instructor is not a club officer, but 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.

School Street Flying Schedule

OCTOBER						
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	31		

SCHOOL STREET FIELDS 2024

CRRC (ALL DAY - START 11 AM)
RC (EVENINGS)
CRICKET (ALL DAY)
CRICKET (EVENINGS)

ROCKETS
BOY SCOUT CAMP
ACTON TOWN FAIR

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										
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JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER											
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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
<i>President</i> Joe Sicree president at charlesriverrc.org <i>Vice President</i> Dan Sullivan vicepresident at charlesriverrc.org <i>Treasurer</i> Dave Marshall treasurer at charlesriverrc.org <i>Membership Secretary</i> Adam Smith membership at charlesriverrc.org <i>Recording Secretary</i> Roger Silva secretary at charlesriverrc.org <i>Webmaster</i> Shawn Silva webmaster at charlesriverrc.org <i>Newsletter Editor</i> Mike Whidden newsletter at charlesriverrc.org <i>Interim Chief Instructor</i> Scott Ritter chiefinstructor at charlesriverrc.org <i>Safety Coordinator</i> Jimi Two Feathers safety at charlesriverrc.org <i>Raffle Chairman</i> John Eppling exofficio at charlesriverrc.org	To inquire about instruction please call the Chief Instructor, Dick Williamson. <u>Types of instruction</u> 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	<u>Flying Sites</u> 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. <u>Keys to Medfield /</u> <u>Bill Martin Field</u> To get a key for Bill Martin Field in Medfield please email key-master Ken Antonellis at kxa@verizon.net. <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> <u>Tree Climbers</u> 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 - 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 (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	\$40	\$45
Family member additional to OPEN membership		
Additional / optional donation (supports field rental)	Voluntary \$10 / \$25 / \$50 / etc	