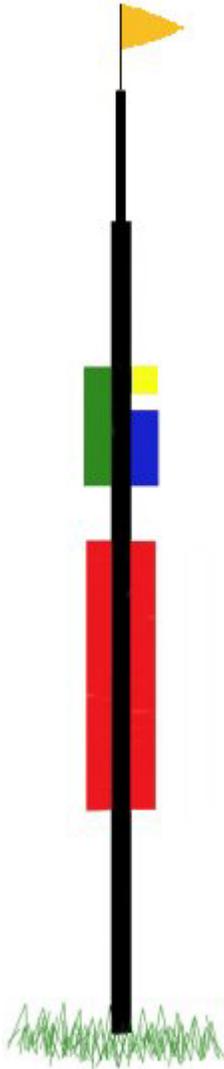




The 495th R/C Squadron, Inc.
 P.O. Box 426
 Tewksbury, MA 01876

Your Pin is Personal[®]



The pinpole at the Pinnacle Street field is the primary means of *frequency control* in use by the 495th R/C Squadron. The need for strict frequency control is due to the fact that **only one** R/C transmitter can be transmitting on a given R/C frequency at any time. Multiple R/C transmitters operating on the same frequency **will interfere** and cause loss of control of any models being operated on that frequency! This type of interference is commonly referred to as a "shoot-down", and has obvious safety and financial implications for the members of the club. If utilized correctly, the pinpole **will eliminate** any chance of a shoot-down and the resultant injury or loss of property.

In the United States there are 50 R/C frequencies in the 72 MHz (aircraft) band. These frequencies are represented by discrete channel numbers ranging from Ch. 11 to Ch. 60. There are also 18 R/C frequencies in the 50 MHz band that require an Amateur Radio license to use. Each member of the 495th R/C Squadron **is required** to have a frequency "Pin" showing the channel number for each of their R/C transmitters. This pin should be approximately 4 inches square, and should display the channel number on both sides in large, easily-readable numbers. The owners name must also be shown on the pin. Magnets or clothes pins are commonly affixed to the frequency pin as a means of attachment to the pinpole.

The basic operating principle of the pin pole is quite simple - before turning on your R/C transmitter, you must verify that your frequency is not already "in-use" on the pinpole, and then you must place your frequency pin on the pinpole. Once this has been done, you have placed your channel "in-use", and no other modeler may switch on their transmitter on the same frequency. If this process is **followed rigidly by all members**, it will prevent any possibility of frequency interference.

The pinpole is divided into multiple color-coded "segments" or "tabs" as described below:

Glider	Only 1 glider allowed in the air at a time.
Flying	Up to 3 powered (glow, gas, electric) in the air at a time.
Waiting	Pilots "on deck" to fly.
Ground	For ground test operations only.



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Recommendations for proper and safe frequency management.

- Remember *Your Pin is Personal*[®]. You should **NEVER** allow anyone to either put your pin up, or take your pin down. **Don't allow anyone to handle your pin except yourself!!**
- Always use the pinpole whenever you fly at Pinnacle Street. Even if you are alone, get in the habit of using your frequency pin all the time.
- Be proactive about frequency control! Make it a point to know who else at the field is using the same channel number as you, and let them know your channel number as well.
- Always verify that no one else is using your channel number before turning on your R/C transmitter! Be sure to check the Glider, Ground and Flying tabs **before** turning on!
- Don't just look at the pole to determine if the frequency is clear, put up your frequency pin first!!

Note: The color-coding on the Pinnacle Street pinpole will be implemented in the Spring of 2004.