



The Pinnacle



Volume 54 Issue 78

January 2023



The Official Journal of the 495th R/C Squadron
Tewksbury, MA

AMA Gold Leader Club, Charter #340

The Italian Banquet



(Photo Credit: Calvin Hsieh)

This newsletter is e-mailed to whomever wants a copy each month. If you would like to be added to the list (or if you are receiving a copy and would like to be removed from the list) please contact the Editor at sales@advancednotebook.com

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495 R/C Squadron, Inc.

Next Meeting	Wednesday, March 1 st 7:30 P.M.
Next Events	Scale Building with John Hayes
Club web site	http://www.495thsquadron.org
Club Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/495th-RC-Squadron-240759615414

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From the Editor

Newsletter is for everyone. If you have great ideas, stories and photos to share, please do email me @ (sales@advancednotebook.com)

Now wintertime is here (- 10° F while I am writing this) , great time to get down to the basement and get all the planes (cars) fixed, what we usually call the “winter project”. I myself have several repair/upgrade projects to do. I like my Eflite Viper Jet so much so I decide to give it a brand new fuselage. Not just to move all the parts from old to the new, but at the same time I have some ideas to reinforce the nose gear area (with fiberglass cloth & epoxy). Because the fuselage front breaks easily even from a normal landing. I like this Jet so much so I want it not just flies good but also looks great in the air.

Mike Wall just finished repairing his favorite 1400mm FMS P-40. It’s so nice for him to document the whole project and share it to us. It looks like a brand new plane to me. Nice Job Mike !

What is your winter project?

Enjoy all the pictures took from the banquet. I will see you guys soon

Calvin Hsieh
495th Newsletter Editor



2023 Club Calendar

Please be sure to check the 'Events' page on the club website on a regular basis, and stay up-to-date with all the fun and important activities we have planned this year

Date	Location	Event Description
Jan. 4, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
Feb. 1, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Italian Banquet!
Mar. 1, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Scale Building with John Hayes!
April 5, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Winter Project Show-n-Tell!
April 18, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Car Night Begins for 2023!
April 20, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Training Night Begins for 2023!
April 22, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Opening Day and Field Cleanup!
May 3, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
May 13, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Spring Fun Fly
May 20, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Heli fun Fly!
June 7, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
June 10, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - 'Kid's Day' Fun Fly and BBQ
June 17, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Summer Fun Fly - Mike Pangione
July 5, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!!
July 8, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Scale Fun Fly
Aug. 2, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Ice Cream Social
Aug. 12, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - National Model Aviation Day Fun Fly
Aug. 19, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Multi-Club Fun Fly and BBQ!
Sept. 6, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Annual Swap Meet
Sept. 9, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field - Annual Member Picnic!
Oct. 4, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!
Oct. 14, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Ogonowski Field Work Party!
Oct. 15, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Andover Pack 76 - Rockets!
Oct. 21, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Fall Classic Car Rally!
Nov. 1, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - Annual Business Meeting and Elections
Dec. 6, 2023	Tewksbury, MA	Club Meeting - TBD!!

View From The Left Seat™

By
John Morley, President, The 495th R/C Squadron, Inc.

As I look outside my office window, it's hard to believe that it's already the end of January! Right now, it's 45° F outside, and there is very little sign of snow anywhere on the ground! Just yesterday, Jan. 29th, we had a 50° F day, and I got a chance to fly my ¼ Scale Piper Cub for the first time in 2023!! It's always nice when we get a mid-winter break in the weather that allows us to get out to the field for some flying fun! Like many of you, I've also been busy in my workshop working on a couple of "winter projects". After pledging to myself not to take on any more new projects until the old ones are completed (yeah right!), I am now in the process of assembling a new helicopter! I've flown helicopters in past years, but haven't done so in several years. For some reason, the 'heli bug' got me again, and I recently purchased a Miniature Aircraft 'Whiplash V2' gasoline powered helicopter. It's powered by a 30cc Zenoah 2 stroke gas engine, and will be outfitted with all the latest 'bells-and-whistles'! The kit is made in Germany, and the engineering and materials are absolutely amazing! When it's done, I will definitely bring it to a club meeting for "show-n-tell", and to allow anyone interested to take a look!!

The long Winter months are always hard for R/C modelers here in New England. The days are short, and frequently cold and windy. Not exactly the conditions that are conducive to getting outside and having fun at the field! For many of us, the monthly meetings are a time to reconnect with our fellow club members – something that must suffice until we can all get back to the field in the Spring! To help pass the long winter months, I've tried to come up with some interesting meeting



Beechcraft V-35 Bonanza

entertainment to provide the membership. At the March meeting (Mar. 1st, 2023), the club will host Mr. John Hayes of Litchfield, NH, a prolific scale builder and flyer. John will present his recently completed Top

Flight Beechcraft V-35 Bonanza model, and a Cessna C-337 Skymaster with a very unique power plant scheme. This should be an excellent presentation as John describes his building techniques, and fields questions from the audience!

Many of us have heard the term 'Remote ID' with respect to our model airplanes, but really have no idea what it means for us as modelers. Several years ago, Congress mandated that the FAA implement a system to track Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (SUAS), which includes 'drones' and (unfortunately) our model airplanes. Tracking of SUAS will involve fitting a small continuously broadcasting transmitter to the aircraft to provide for 'deconfliction' and enhanced safety as more and more aircraft (manned and unmanned) occupy the National Airspace System. This transmitter transmits position and altitude whenever the aircraft is airborne. On the surface, this seems like an extremely onerous burden for R/C modelers to bear. Fortunately, the news is not all bad. There are three exceptions to the Remote ID requirement as follows – (1) models flown indoors are exempt, (2) models weighing under 250 grams (8.8 oz.) are exempt, and (3) models flown at an FAA FRIA are exempt. The last exemption, flying at an FAA FRIA, is the one most modeler's will benefit from. A FRIA, or a Federally Recognized ID Area, is an area accepted by with the FAA as a model flying area. Flights within the boundaries of the FRIA may be conducted without Remote ID. Recognized Community Based Organizations (CBO's), such as the AMA, will be coordinating the establishment of FRIA's within the National Airspace system. As soon as this process is underway, the 495th R/C Squadron, Inc. will act to designate our flying field as a FRIA. Currently, the Remote ID deadline is Sept. 16, 2023.

One of the things that I am focusing on this year is fun, new activities for our club members. These will come in the form of exciting meeting speakers, such as a presentation on scale building at the March 1st meeting, a Helicopter Fun Fly on May 20th, and many more flying events at the Ogonowski Field throughout the year. In short, the BOD and I are committed to making this year the best ever for the club, and to that end, we are going to do everything possible to encourage our members to get out and fly, and to enjoy their club membership!!

Don't forget that all club memberships expire at midnight on Dec. 31st! This means that unless you renew your club memberships prior to Jan. 1st, you won't be eligible to fly at our club field until you do! Please don't wait, and get your renewal done as soon as possible so that you don't lose your club privileges!!

As I mentioned the last time, we will once again be holding an Italian Banquet and Awards night at the February meeting. This is one of the few non-flying social events that the club holds each year, and we want to encourage member participation as much as possible. With that in mind, we have decided to subsidize a large portion of the cost of the meal for each member. A nominal charge of \$5 per person (that's less than a McDonald's meal, folks!) will be charged for each person that attends the Banquet, and the club will kick in the balance. In addition to the banquet, we will be presenting a number of awards (some serious, some not so serious!), so please put Feb. 1st on your calendar!! Pre-registration will be required to attend this event, so watch the website for more details and sign-up information!

Again, a reminder that each month the BOD will meet on the Wednesday evening immediately preceding the regular club meeting. Our meetings are held at the 99 Restaurant on Rt. 38 in Tewksbury, beginning at 7:30PM. There is plenty of room, and the atmosphere is informal, so we encourage interested members to attend!

I'm looking forward to an exciting year in 2023, and I hope you see all of you at upcoming club meetings, and at the field!



John Morley

President, The 495th R/C Squadron, Inc.

Jan. 30, 2023

Italian Banquet

We will be hosting the 17th Annual 495th R/C Squadron **Italian Banquet and Awards Ceremony** at the Feb. 1st club meeting, and sign-ups are now open! Starting at 6:30PM on Feb. 1st, and running until 8PM, the Club will serve a full Italian dinner consisting of Salad, Rolls, Spaghetti with Meatballs, Dessert and Soft Drinks/Juices. This event is being prepared by John and Jennifer Morley, and is being served at the regular meeting location by members of the BOD, and other volunteers. Following dinner, we will conduct a short, informal Awards Ceremony to recognize a number of individuals whose contributions to the Club were especially noteworthy this past year!! Immediately after the Banquet and Awards Ceremony, we will hold the regular monthly business meeting at approximately 8PM.

This event promises to be a lot of fun for the whole club! Won't you please plan to attend and show your support for the 495th R/C Squadron, Inc.?? Our Club is only as strong as we all make it, so let's kick-off a new year with a great time for all!!!

The cost for the Banquet this year is a modest \$5! Yes folks, that's right, *for only \$5*, a complete Italian dinner!! In order to encourage member participation in this event, we are offering the banquet at this low price, with the Club picking up a majority of the cost! Because we expect a large turn-out, you must sign up for the Banquet in advance as we must have an accurate head count before the event.



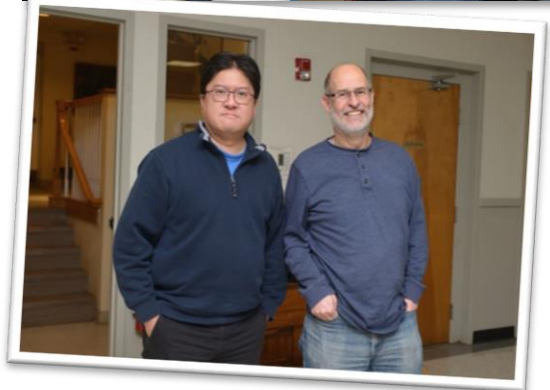
Let's Party !



Italian Banquet

(2023.2.01)





Repairing of my favorite Plane

Mike Wall

It was a perfect midsummer day with clear skies, warm temps and light winds. The first two flights of my favorite plane, the *FMS 1400mm P-40*, were fun and went exactly as expected. It's an easy bird to land and responds very well to the sticks. I loaded in another battery to keep flying, only this flight did not go as expected. Shortly after taking off and banking right onto the crosswind leg, my usually quiet electric plane sounded like a helicopter, shaking violently and ejecting the canopy hatch to the ground.

With only a little altitude to work with and no thrust to help get back to the runway, the plane landed hard and split into two when it finally got reacquainted with the ground. Some post-crash investigation found that one of the three props had broken off during the short flight, causing the raucous vibrations. This is what shook free the canopy and chewed up the front cowling on my P-40. Some repairs would be needed to fly my favorite plane again.

Repairing the two halves of the fuselage would not be an issue. A little bit of *Foam-Tac* and some carbon fiber rods for extra support easily joined the two halves back together. *Foam-Tac*, and other products like it, creating a new bond with the foam that can be even stronger than the original, undamaged foam on our planes. I ended up using four carbon fiber rods, two on each side of the fuselage.

The issue with this crash was the damage to the cowling. The unbalanced prop caused the spinner to chew up a sizable amount of the foam in the front of the cowling. It was ugly and needed to be repaired. For this repair I used some lightweight foam putty that I picked up from [ABC RC & Hobbies](#). As an alternative, one could also use a lightweight spackle used to repair and finish drywall. The process can take a while as it may take multiple layers of applying and



FMS 1400 P-40 damaged after hard landing



Chewed up cowling



Two halves rejoined with Foam-Tac and carbon fiber rods

sanding the foam putty. I started by applying the putty to fill in the foam gaps and leaving extra goops of it sticking out to be reshaped later.



First application of the foam putty. It will be shaped and smoothed out when dried



Using the fuselage and the spinners to shape the repairs

After drying for a few hours the foam can be cut and roughly shaped with a hobby knife and then sanded for a smoother finish. Sanding will reveal imperfections in the repair and the areas that still need to be filled in, reshaped, or sanded again. I used the spinner plate as a guide to see where more foam putty needed to be added so that the repair would join the contour of the fuselage and the spinner. Several applications of applying the foam putty, shaping and sanding were needed to finally achieve the desired shape.



Smoothed out putty with drywall tape and epoxy reinforcement

To reinforce the newly applied foam putty I cut a strip of drywall tape and added it to the inside of the cowling with some 30-minute epoxy. This should add plenty of strength to the repaired front end of the plane. The foam putty can also be used to fill in other gaps of damaged foam or even the seams where pieces are glued back together. This is what I did on both sides of the fuselage where the two halves were reattached using the *Foam-Tac*.

Once the foam was repaired to my liking, it was time to paint the putty so the new repairs would not be so obvious. These are just foam planes, after all, so the aesthetics do not need to be perfect. Matching touchup paint to the factory paint is not always an easy task, especially for



Paint applied to the repaired cowling

someone who is colorblind like me. Using trial and error, and a little help from my wife and daughter, I finally matched the paint as best as a colorblind RC pilot could do. It is not a perfect match, but it is good enough to fit in with the weathered look of a war battered World War II plane. The white putty is covered up and from a distance or when in flight, one should not be able to notice that repairs were made.

The spinner and prop had to be replaced from the crash and the plane was thoroughly examined for other damage. The motor mount had come loose during the crash and was fastened in place using 30-minute epoxy. A few other minor repairs were needed but nothing that would keep it from getting into the air again. The motor has been reinstalled, wires reconnected and the plane rebalanced again to achieve the correct CG. Once the weather gets a little better it will be time to re-maiden the P-40 and see if she flies just as well as she did before the rough landing in August.



Painted the repaired areas to blend in the color with the weathered theme of the plane.

See you at the field!



Mike Wall

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R/C Suppliers:

ABC RC & Hobby

11 Rockingham Rd, Windham, NH

(603) 458-6481

<https://www.horizonhobby.com>

All Around

<http://hobbyking.com>

All Around

<https://rcexcitement.com>

Cars

<https://twistedhobbys.com>

Profile Foamies

<https://innov8tivedesigns.com>

Great Motors

<https://fpvlab.com/>

FPV Equipment

<http://www.crashtesthobby.com>

Toughest Planes

<https://www.towerhobbies.com>

All Around

<http://www.amazon.com>

Extra All Around

Handy Links:

Renew Your AMA Membership Online

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/joinrenew.aspx>

495th Membership Application

http://www.495thsquadron.org/PDF_Files/Membership_Application.pdf

Online Groups

<http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/index.php>

<http://www.helifreak.com>

<http://www.wattflyer.com/forums>

<http://www.rcuniverse.com>

Local R/C Groups

<http://www.mcrfc.org>

Billerica, Mass

<http://www.burlington-rc.com>

Burlington, Mass

<http://www.nhflyingtigers.com/>

Derry, NH

<http://www.snhbcc.org>

Hudson, NH

<http://www.snhflyingeagles.org>

Merrimack, NH

R/C Related Podcast

<http://allthingsthatfly.com/>

Excellent electric power help

<http://rctodayshow.com/>

Mixed group with great advice