

December  
2022

# NCRCC Flyer

[WWW.NCRCC.ORG](http://WWW.NCRCC.ORG)

*The last 2022  
"meeting" is the  
club's Holiday  
Party:*

- NCRCC December club meeting/holiday party - indoors at the Somers Public Library at 6:00 PM
- RSVP required
- See pg. 5 for details

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## Special Election Edition Newsletter

This is a special edition of the **NCRCC Flyer**. It's special because it's focused *primarily* on the election of club officers.

Inside, you will find information explaining the election process and – *more importantly* – brief narratives from each of the nominees explaining why they are running for office and what they will do, if elected. Since we have a contested election, please take the time to read this important information as it impacts the future of NCRCC.

Please also take the time to cast your ballot immediately after receiving it on **12/5/22**. Watch for the email blast message in your email's in-box (or, God forbid, in your spam folder). Your vote matters!

Along with the information concerning the election of club officers, this edition of the **NCRCC Flyer** also has some limited other important club information such as the November 2022 meeting minutes, the announcement of the NCRCC Holiday Party on 12/8/22, and the agenda for the January 2023 general membership meeting.

## **NCRCC General Membership Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Bob LaFlamme. The meeting was held at the Somers Public Library in Somers, CT.

Bob asked for any corrections to the October meeting minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. There were no corrections offered and a motion was made, seconded, and a vote approved the October 2022 meeting minutes.

### **President's Report:**

Bob LaFlamme welcomed the membership.

Bob announced the passing of long-time member Lewie Dighello ("Lewie D") and circulated some photos of Lewie.

Bob reviewed NCRCC's goals for 2022 and solicited feedback on how the club performed in relation to these goals. He then asked the members present for ideas for 2023 goals.

### **Vice President's Report:**

Mike Maznicki reviewed the list of instructors and confirmed with those present their willingness to continue in that role.

Mike spoke about the Tailgate Swap Meet. He shared feedback received from recent event attendees concerning the pros/cons on whether to host the event in the spring or in the fall.

Mike then solicited an informal show of hands among the members present and the result was fairly evenly split between the two choices. Mike noted that he will speak with Len Marchese (co-Contest Director) and report back on a date for 2023.

### **Secretary's Report:**

Stan Kulesa reported that NCRCC currently has a total of 192 members. There were 33 members and 4 guests attending tonight's meeting. Guests included Gino Palumbo, Lionel Hatten, Imany Hatten, and Alene Lang.

Stan reported that three members (John Packard, Paul Rottenberg, and Sarah Nillson) have not renewed their AMA membership and, because an active AMA membership is required for flying privileges at the flying field in Ellington that these members have been notified that they no longer have flying privileges pending proof of active AMA membership. Stan noted that many NCRCC members' AMA membership will expire on 12/31/22 and he urged members to quickly renew.

Stan asked the members present how they feel about the email blast messaging arrangement NCRCC has been using. The consensus was quite positive.

Stan advised that under normal circumstances, only two email blasts (newsletter and meeting reminder) are sent each month. However, over the next 45 days several special email blast messages will be sent on a range of time-sensitive topics and members were urged to respond to each as quickly as possible.

Stan gave a report regarding the club website. In October, there were 737 views (and 295 visitors). He encouraged members to periodically check the website's main page for important club news. Stan reminded the members that the password to access the 'Members Only' section is the same as the gate combination.

Stan reported about an inquiry through the website's 'Contact Us' feature through which an offer was made for a no-cost aerial video of our field and surrounding area using an FPV drone. That pilot took some video footage on 11/6/22 but experienced some technical difficulty. He will arrange to come another time. He did, however, take some aerial video footage of Bill Glode's and Darrell Vliegents' airborne models.

Stan announced that the

December meeting will be held at the Somers Public Library in Somers and that it will begin at 6:00 PM. No club business will be conducted. Instead, NCRCC will host its Holiday Party. Stan noted that in order for us to order enough food and set up enough chairs, a RSVP is required to attend. The party invitation will be sent via a blast email.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Via Zoom, Len Marchese reviewed club expenses, income, and balances for the month of October with the members. He noted that to date we had used ~79% of the 2022 operating budget.

Len reported that he has prepared a preliminary 2023 operating budget. He noted that our overall operational expenses have significantly risen due to excessive inflationary conditions. Len also cautioned that the preliminary operating budget is highly contingent upon the number of membership renewals. If the overall level of membership renewal is below his estimate, further budgetary cuts will be likely.

Len announced that the 2023 membership renewal drive is underway. Letters and a blast email were sent 11/1/22. Thus far, ~22% have sent in their renewals. Len urged the membership to return their renewals in as quickly as possible.

#### **Activities Director Report:**

Peter Tani reported that the December edition of the newsletter

will be primarily focused on the election of club officers. He thanked John Watkins for his excellent series of articles concerning in-roads by the FAA into our hobby and strongly recommended that John's articles be read.

Peter announced that the Holiday Party will be on 12/8/22 at 6:00 PM at the Somers Library. He urged members to respond with their RSVP so we can order enough food and have the correct number of tables and chairs. An email blast message with the RSVP request will be sent shortly. Peter is planning to give away tee-shirts from 2022 events as door prizes.

Peter reminded all that the indoor flying season at the dome in East Windsor will begin tomorrow.

#### **Liaison Officer Report:**

No report.

#### **Field Marshall/Safety Officer Report:**

Art Usher started his presentation by reminding members to properly lock the gate to the field, to make certain that the lock is totally closed, and to spin the lock's tumbler so that the combination is not unintentionally revealed to the public. Failure to take these actions might jeopardize the flying field if vandals are allowed past the gate.

Art thanked the volunteer mowing team for the excellent job they provided all members and guests throughout the season. The

members present gave a round of appreciative applause.

Art pleaded with members not to fly alone. He strongly recommended always having at least two adults present while flying. Because of the remoteness of the flying field, the safety risk is mitigated when there is more than one person present and able to react to emergency situations. Art called out the slogan, "Fly with a friend".

Art spoke about practicing safety at our flying field. He asked all members and guests to follow all club and AMA rules with a focus on all flying from the pilot stations, loudly calling landings/take-offs/low fly-bys/flight direction, following the established traffic pattern, and doing all flying in front of the berm by the pilot stations. John Palica reminded pilots that models should not be under the pavilion and should never have their motors/engines run under the pavilion.

#### **New Members:**

Lionel Hatten was introduced as a prospective new member. He is an experienced pilot.

Gino Palumbo had applied for Family Membership for him and his 8-year old son. His application for membership was voted on and approved.

#### **Old Business:**

Tom Munsell gave the Nominating Committee report. He began by identifying the club officer slate that

has been nominated:

Executive Committee (*one-year term*) – **select one of two candidates for VP**

- *President* – Bob LaFlamme
- *Vice President* – Mike Maznicki
- *Vice President* – George Hawes
- *Secretary* – Stan Kulesa
- *Treasurer* – Len Marchese
- *Activities Director* – Peter Tani
- *Liaison Officer* – John Blossick
- *Field Marshall/Safety Officer* – Art Usher

Board of Directors (*two-year term*) – **select three of these five**

- Buddy Beaudoin
- Lloyd Burnham
- Mike Fiorito
- Dennis Thibodeau
- Irv Thurrott

Tom asked for any additional nominees. Hearing none, he declared the nomination process as closed. Tom gave an overview of the upcoming election process and the corresponding timelines. He requested that members look for the special election edition of the newsletter for more information and that they immediately cast their votes once their ballots are received. Election results will be

tabulated and reported during the January meeting.

Bob LaFlamme gave an update regarding the proposed three-year action plan for NCRCC. He shared the polling results but cautioned that further analysis is warranted. Bob solicited volunteers to work on the first ad hoc committee for the top-rated recommendation dealing with the tree line to the left of the pilot stations. Several members expressed an interest to work on the committee. Ultimately, Bob will designate the committee members and those selected will be contacted. However, before any work can be initiated, Bob spoke about the need to develop a project plan format which will capture and track scope definition, timeframes, budget, safety concerns, monthly reporting, etc.

Bob LaFlamme gave a high-level overview of recent activity by the FAA impacting our hobby. In deference to the rulemaking process, once the AMA is formally designated as a community-based organization, then it will begin the application process for chartered clubs so that they can obtain their FRIA status. Bob will work

with John Watkins to provide the AMA with information specific to NCRCC's FRIA application. Bob will also initiate communication with our neighbors for over-flight permission. These issues will continue to be monitored.

#### **New Business:**

No new business.

#### **Announcements:**

Dennis Thibodeau reminded our veterans that tomorrow is Veteran's Day and a number of area restaurants celebrate with free or discounted meals/items.

Bob LaFlamme reminded the members that they will be receiving several time-sensitive email blast messages over the next 45 days and he urged members to respond rapidly.

Ola Nordell announced that he's selling a new Futaba radio system.

#### **Show & Tell:**

Irv Thurrott rose and held up an electric-powered Extra. Instead of doing a show & tell, he raffled off the model.

#### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Stan Kulesa, Secretary.



## The Election Process

In accordance with its by-laws, NCRCC is conducting an election of its club officers. The positions up for election include the seven members of the Executive Committee and the three members of the Board of Directors.

The Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Director, Liaison Officer, and the Field Marshall/Safety Officer.

Please refer to the club by-laws for a description of each of these roles. The by-laws can be found on the club website under the 'Members Only' tab. The password to access this section of the website is the same as the combination to the gate lock.

We have a **contested** election for the Vice President and for the Board of Directors. In other words, NCRCC members will be asked to vote for one of the two nominees for Vice President and for three of the five nominees for the Board of Directors.

The other club officer positions are **not being contested**.

The nominees for the **contested** election were invited to submit a photo and a brief narrative describing why they want the position for which they've been nominated and what their plan is, if elected. You'll find these inside this edition of the club newsletter. Please take the time to read their messages before casting your vote.

The nominees for club officer positions that are **not being contested** will not be providing a photo or brief narrative.

An electronic ballot for the **contested** nominations will be **emailed on 12/5/22** to all members for use in casting their vote. Check your email on 12/5/22! Members are being urged to cast their vote immediately upon receipt of their ballot. All ballots MUST be received by no later than 12/12/22. (Please note that we have five members who do not use email. Those five members will be sent a paper ballot via US Mail.)

The vote for the club officer positions that are **not being contested** will be held using a hand-count vote during the January meeting (1/12/23).

### Holiday Party Details

NCRCC is pleased to announce that our Holiday Party will be held on Thursday (12/8/22) at the Somers Public Library. Festivities will begin at 6:00 PM.

NCRCC will provide pizza, beverages, and plates/napkins/utensils. You are invited to bring along a desert and/or your favorite signature dish to share with members and guests.

In order for us to order enough food and set up enough chairs, your RSVP is required to attend. If you can attend, please RSVP to Stan Kulesa (Secretary) with your name and the number in your party on or before 12/1/22. You can reach Stan by calling or texting him at (914) 882-7997 or by emailing him at [Stanley.kulesa@yahoo.com](mailto:Stanley.kulesa@yahoo.com).

We hope you are able to come and enjoy some holiday cheer with your fellow members of NCRCC!

## NCRCC – 1/12/2023 General Membership Meeting

### Agenda

- Call to order
- November meeting minutes
- President's Report
- Vice President's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Activities Director's Report
- Liaison Officer's Report
- Field Marshall/ Safety Officer's Report
- New Members
- Old Business
- New Business
- Announcements
- Show & Tell
- Adjournment



## **Nominee Statements**



### **Mike Maznicki (incumbent)** *Nominee for Vice President*

From the desk of your Vice President, Mike Maznicki...Greeting fellow members.

My time of 16 years as a member of NCRCC and Vice President for 12 years has allowed me to help guide and grow our club to the great levels we enjoy together today. Since becoming a member of the Executive Committee, I have been very motivated thru the years to always improve the club and help maintain its reputation of one of the best clubs around, if not the best. Being present and volunteering at most flying events and helping to run our Tailgate Swap Meets are all part of ACTIVE involvement with our club.

As I write this, two of our executive committee members are still in the work force and it shows the commitment and drive to be twice a month present at our Executive Committee meetings and at our club meetings. Shortly, I will be the only one still working and still have the drive to continue with the club and Executive Committee commitments.

My experience of leadership is not only with the club but also with running my family business for the past 40 years. I believe that contributes to a lot of quality decision making with any position of authority, and being on the Executive Committee for a RC flying club is no different. After all, believe it or not, it is a business. Vice President of NCRCC has its own responsibilities. They may not be as demanding as the other positions, but being ready with the understanding of the club operations to step in at a moment's notice is extremely important.

I have contributed in many other places like giving time to field projects:

- Running a machine to help on field day,
- Removing and straightening our entry gate,
- Periodically cutting the grass,
- Just being there as a modeler,

And my favorite was being the project manager of building our steel pavilion. That was a yearlong field improvement project which included discussions and planning with the engineers of the company that sold us the pavilion, presenting it to the Town of Ellington, selling it to our club and assembling volunteers to get it done. The number of volunteers and skill level of everyone that stepped up and got involved was phenomenal! I believe that being a people person helped bring this project together and made it a success.

As Vice President, one of my responsibilities is to meet and greet all new applicants and give a great first impression of our club. Most of you have met me this way and I hope with the conversations with you, that your first impressions were good. If I have done my job well, then I

- hope I can count on your vote to stay as your Vice President this December 5<sup>th</sup> 2022.

## **Nominee Statements**



### **George Hawes** *Nominee for Vice President*

Hello NCRCC membership. I am George Hawes and am running for Vice President. For those of you who may not know me, I have been a member off and on since 1967 when Dick Heim and George Swan, Sr. introduced me to R/C.

I've held office with NCRCC as the Liaison Officer and the Field Marshal in the 1980s. I also started the South Windsor Tobacco Valley Flyers and was Club President for several years before I moved to Florida. In Florida, I was on the Executive Board of the Radio Control Association of Central Florida out of Orlando (which is a large club that used to put on The Tangerine R/C Event for one week each year). I have also been a member of the North East Pylon Racing Organization and the Southeast Pylon Racing Association. In St. Lucie County (Florida), I started the Sundancers Remote Control Flying Club and served as Club President, the Field Marshall, and the Liaison Officer. I was also the President of the Treasure Coast Remote Control Modelers. I was involved with the very first remote control Top Gun Tournament in Palm Beach County (Florida) and also did a movie stint flying a remote-controlled airplane for Burt Reynolds in the BL Striker TV series.

I would appreciate your vote and I promise that I will do everything to help in bringing the club to the next level that it could be. If you have any concerns, please call me. Thank you.



## **Nominee Statements**



### **Bud Beaudoin**

*Nominee for Board of Directors*

Hi, my name is Guy “Bud” Beaudoin.

I’ve been a member of the club (alongside my father) on-and-off since 1968, and in the past 10 years have become an active and passionate member. I have served on the field’s 3-year-improvement-plan committee as well as the by-law committee, and have put in many hours maintaining our field as part of the mowing crew.

Today I am running for a position on the club’s Board of Directors because I feel that the day-to-day doings and discussions of the Executive Committee should be more accessible to the average club member, to promote the greater good of the club.

As a sitting member on the Board of Directors, I would serve as a sounding board for your personal concerns and bring them to the attention of leadership from the inside out. I want to go above and beyond to make everyone feel comfortable coming to me with their concerns rather than needing to stand alone in front of the executive board in order to be heard.

Thank you, Bud Beaudoin.





## **Nominee Statements**



### **Lloyd Burnham (incumbent)** *Nominee for Board of Directors*

The Board of Directors act as an advisory group for the club members and Executive officers. I am proud to have been on the Board for many years and help oversee the direction of NCRCC and with your vote will continue counseling and advising behind the scene.

I believe the first thing the club should be is fun and inviting to all members, new and old. Maintaining our flying field is very important. That comes with being responsible and respectable to the facilities, members and community.

As for myself, I joined NCRCC in 1978 when we were flying in Suffield until we were forced to find another site. I was part of the committee that found our present flying site in Ellington in 1980 and help form it into an R/C flying field. I am currently an AMA Contest Board member and on the National Safety Committee. I have served as President of the NMPRA and multiple years with NEPRO. I am still competing nationally in pylon racing and observe many club operations and officers from Florida to Arizona. I believe this gives me a very broad overview to help understanding past, present and future issues facing our club of 200+ members.

Personally, I am married to my wife, Carol, for 38 years, have two step daughters and two granddaughters in California and Maryland. I am a lifetime resident of South Windsor and been self-employed as a commercial and industrial photographer since 1973.

NCRCC has come a long way and is one of the largest and most respected clubs in America. I want to keep it moving forward. Lloyd Burnham



## **Nominee Statements**

### **Mike Fiorito**

*Nominee for Board of Directors*

*This candidate was invited to submit a photo and a brief narrative to describe why they want the position for which they've been nominated and what their plan is, if elected, but this information was not provided by the deadline.*

## **Nominee Statements**



### **Dennis Thibodeau** *Nominee for Board of Directors*

Hi all

I'm Dennis Thibodeau from Enfield, CT. I am running for a position on the Board of Directors to help guide this club that I love for the next few years. I served in the USAF during the Vietnam War as a Sargent and a B-52D Crew Chief. I have always loved model aviation and airplanes since I was 5 years old!

I joined NCRCC 47 years ago in 1975. I was the Field Supervisor when we moved to Ellington from Suffield and I became an NCRCC and AMA Contest Director and, over the years, have been the Contest Director for the club running every type of event NCRCC held for both club-only and AMA-wide.

Most recently for the past 12 years, I ran the Warbirds over Ellington event from its inception to the largest and most popular event in New England. That event gave NCRCC national acclaim! I enjoy building and flying R/C models and hope I can help NCRCC become an even better club into the long history of the club.

Thank You  
Dennis Thibodeau  
AMA 9501



## **Nominee Statements**



**Irv Thurrott (incumbent)**  
*Nominee for Board of Directors*

The Board of Directors job is to advise the Executive Committee, and Club, of any needed changes to policy matters. A high level overview is important for Board Members to be helpful.

### **History**

- Joined NCRCC ~50 years ago when the field was in West Suffield.
- Served in various Officer positions. Last one was Activities Director.
- Chairman of Board of Directors in 2021/2022.
- Participated in almost all Work Days at the Ellington Field.
- Mowed the Ellington Field for a number of years.
- Worked in most of our past events.
- Flying Instructor for many years.
- Photographed Club Activities for Website, Newsletter, and Event Awards.

### **Primary thoughts regarding NCRCC**

- The main purpose of the Club is to provide a safe, and legal, place to fly R/C planes and promote the enjoyment of our hobby for all club members.
  - Meetings and Events should be organized, safe, and meaningful for all involved.
  - Always help new members learn to fly, and old members to continue flying as long as possible.
  - Maintenance of the Field and Storage Containers is critical.
  - Recognize, and address, all the possible situations for keeping/losing the field:
    1. FAA directives
    2. Neighbor reactions
    3. Town rules
    4. AMA rules and safety guidelines
    5. Eversource Power Lines
    6. Local and State Police observations
    7. Vandalism
    8. Follow NCRCC Club Rules
-

**NCRCC Flyer**

This special edition of the newsletter was edited by Stan Kulesa, Chairman of the Nominating Committee and NCRCC Secretary

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Copying and distribution  
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Thank you, Joel!

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We're on the Web!  
See us at:

[www.ncrcc.org](http://www.ncrcc.org)

***Don't delay...vote right away!***



..PLACE  
..LABEL  
..HERE

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