



NCRCC Flyer

June 2023

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Editor's Note:

Please bear in mind that I am in the process of assimilating the workings of Microsoft Word. My proficiency will improve with time. I will endeavor to return to the theme of the previous newsletters once I master the program.



Ed Case - Newsletter Editor

NCRCC General Membership Meeting Minutes – 5/11/2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM by Vice President Mike Maznicki. The meeting was held at the NCRCC flying field in Ellington, CT.

Mike welcomed the membership.

Mike asked for any corrections to the March meeting minutes as they appeared in the 5/8/23 blast email message. There were no corrections offered and a motion was made, seconded, and a vote approved the March 2023 meeting minutes.

President's Report:
No report.

Vice President's Report:
Mike announced that Bob LaFlamme was not able to attend the meeting.

Secretary's Report:
Stan Kulesa reported that NCRCC currently has a total of 181 members. There

were 41 members and 6 guests attending tonight's meeting. Guests included Joe Weeks, Nicole Weeks, Joey Weeks, Cliff Williams, Stacy Niezabitowski, and Patti Thibodeau.

Stan gave a report regarding the club website. In April, there were 718 views (and 211 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 that we continue to await a response from the IRS regarding the restoration of NCRCC's tax-exempt status. At the time we submitted the paperwork in early March, the IRS projected a 4 – 6 month period needed to process it.

Stan announced that the Westfield International Air Show would take place at Barnes Air National Guard Base in MA on 5/13/23 and 5/14/23 between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Stan recognized and thanked Dan Villanueva for



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volunteering and serving as club photographer.

Stan highlighted two recent pieces of correspondence directed to the club. Bob LaFlamme had written a thank you note to NCRCC for the memorial gift honoring the passing of his mother. A joint-club R/C swap meet will be hosted by FLYRC and NMMAC in New Milford, CT on 6/10/23.

Stan announced the sad news that Jenny Hickton passed away on 5/2/23. Jenny was Randy's mother. It was Jenny who supplied the original Randy Hickton Fun Fly trophy along with seed money to have the event.

Stan announced that the June meeting will be held at the NCRCC flying field in Ellington on 6/8/23 and that it will begin at 5:30 PM. He asked for any volunteers willing to purchase, cook, and serve a barbeque for next month's meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Len reviewed club expenses, income, and balances for the month of April 2023 with the members. He noted that we

had used ~15.5% of the 2023 operating budget to date.

Len described the damage caused by grubs to the flying field which has been discussed over the past few meetings. He noted that we received an estimate for a grub control application on the field in the area between the parking lot and the windsock. Len asked for a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$1,300.00 - \$1,500.00 for the grub control application. A motion was made, seconded, and a vote approved the expenditure.

Len announced that NCRCC's annual expenses have increased and our current dues structure will no longer adequately cover the budgetary needs of the club. He announced that NCRCC membership dues will be changing to \$85.00/year for an Open Membership or a Social Membership. Dues for a Family Membership will be changing to \$125.00/year. There will be no change to dues for a Junior Membership. This increase in dues will become effective during the membership renewal campaign for the 2024 fiscal year which begins

on or about November 2023. In accordance with our by-laws, a written notice will be sent to the membership shortly.

Activities Director Report:

Peter Tani reported on events. He highlighted the recent activity with Western New England University and thanked NCRCC for enabling it.

Peter also thanked Ed Post for serving as Event Coordinator of the building contest which was underway earlier. We had 17 entries into the building contest. The building contest results are:

ARF/Foamie

- 1st – Mike Doran
- 2nd – Mike Doran
- 3rd – John Blossick
- 4th – Buddy Beaudoin

Scratch/Kit:

NOVICE

- 1st – David Arzt
- 2nd – Neal Caplin
- 3rd – Gersh Tucker

ADVANCED

- 1st – Ola Nordell
- 2nd – Peter Tani
- 3rd – Peter Tani



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- 4th – Wayne Galbraith

MASTER

- 1st – John Blossick
- 2nd – Rick Bell
- 3rd – John Watkins
- 4th – Dennis Thibodeau
- 5th – John Palica
- 6th – John Palica

The schedule of events for 2023:

- Building Contest (NCRCC members only) – 5/11/23
- Spring Swap Meet (AMA event) – 5/13/23
- Dawn Patrol (AMA sanctioned event) – 7/9/23
- Try-N-Fly event (in coordination with National Model Aviation Day) – 8/12/23 with a 8/13/23 rain date
- Warbirds over Ellington (AMA sanctioned) – 9/16/23 with a 9/17/23 rain date
- Tailgate Swap Meet (AMA event) – 10/7/23

Buddy Beaudoin provided an overview of what's planned for the Spring Swap Meet. It is intended to replicate the swap meet hosted by NCRCC in the fall. Coffee and donuts will be made available. NCRCC members will be permitted to fly after 12:00 PM.

Liaison Officer Report:

John Blossick announced the items he's offering as tonight's raffle prizes.

Field Marshall/Safety Officer Report:

In Art Usher's absence, Mike Maznicki gave the report. He started by giving a shout-out to John Palica for rolling the flying field twice over the past few weeks.

Mike 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. At prior meetings, Art Usher called out the slogan, "Fly with a friend".

Mike 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.

New Members:

Cliff Williams presented himself as a prospective member.

Joe Weeks, Nicole Weeks, and Joey Weeks were presented for a Family Membership. Their applications for membership were voted on and approved.

Old Business:

Lloyd Burnham reported on NCRCC's recent endeavor with engineering students from Western New England University in Springfield, MA. Four NCRCC members (Lloyd Burnham, Ralph Rinaldi, Irv Thurrott, and Peter Tani) worked with 22 students (four of which were graduate



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students) through an aerodynamics-based engineering class. A substantial portion of the students' grade was determined by their ability to design, build, and successfully fly an R/C model with a unique wing. The three teams of students succeeded in having their models fly and carry payloads of 3 lbs. Ralph Rinaldi served as the test pilot. Leading up to the test flights, the NCRCC team visited the university campus on several occasions to work with and answer student questions. Lloyd reported that the university is hoping to leverage the relationship for additional future similar endeavors.

Bob Martin gave a presentation regarding the Try-N-Fly event scheduled for 8/12/23 which coincides with National Model Aviation Day. The event is designed to induce an interest in model aviation with our local community ages 10 and above. It will feature ground school, simulator training, buddy-box training, static display, lecture/Q&A on aviation, and flight demonstrations. Participants will be treated to a hot dog

luncheon. Bob spoke about the need for assorted volunteers to host the event and asked members to step forward with filling various needs. Bob also asked for loans of equipment needed for the event (e.g., laptops that can be loaded with simulator programs, trainer models, sunglasses, etc.) and asked members willing to loan this equipment to make it known.

Mike Maznicki raised the topic of the club's 3-year plan. The first proposed project we will be addressing is the removal of trees along the south/southwestern end of the flight line. Buddy explained the project would be to cut the underbrush, cut trees down, chip up the branches and trees, and leave stumps that would be approximately two feet tall. He shared the dollar amounts for five estimates received thus far. He spoke at a high level about how to fund the project. The consensus among members present was that more information will be forthcoming before finalizing any plans.

Mike spoke about the need for the club to raise funds to

cover costs associated with the club's 3-year plan. He asked the membership for their ideas. Some ideas included posting a 'Go Fund Me' page, charging the membership an assessment, and selling shares. Members are urged to send additional ideas to the Secretary's attention. More discussion on the topic is needed.

John Watkins gave a report on a recent meeting given by the AMA concerning the FRIA (FAA-Recognized Identification Area) process. He noted that the Environmental Protection Agency is assessing biological impact and noise. John also spoke about remote identification devices (RIDs) and altitude issues. John also mentioned that he's composing a letter to the US government on the FRIA-related topic and suggested that other members do the same. He suggested members take the time to review his notes from the meeting which will be posted on the 'FAA Web Link' tab of our club website.

New Business:

No new business topics were raised.

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Announcements:

John Palica noted that members are using the tables under the pavilion for setting up and working on their models. NCRCC field rules stipulate that the work tables throughout the flying field can be used for this purpose, but not the tables under the pavilion.

Show & Tell:

There were no show & tells.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Stan Kulesa, Secretary.



Stan Kulesa - Secretary

NCRCC June 2023 Newsletter, FAA, FRIA, and RID Status Update:



By John Watkins

The NCRCC Executive Committee developed and submitted our FAA Recognized Identification Area (FRIA) application for the NCRCC field to the AMA early on. After some discussion with the AMA to revise our FRIA boundaries, the AMA forwarded our application to the FAA on 13 January. So far, somewhere between one-quarter and one-third of AMA clubs have submitted FRIA applications to the AMA. So, we should be near the head of the line for FAA FRIA approval.

Unfortunately, the FAA has not yet begun the process to approve FRIAs. Approval now includes review by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The FAA approval process is still being developed and should be completed in May. The first FRIA approvals are not expected until summer this year.

Approximately ten Remote ID (RID) broadcast modules have been approved by the FAA and the number is growing. Prices range from approximately \$100 to \$300. The least expensive FAA approved RID broadcast module, announced several weeks ago, is the Dronetag BS. It is described and can be ordered from the link below for delivery in July. Separate antenna(s) are required and must be ordered as well. The external antennas will make moving the RID from plane to plane a little more complicated. Cost of the Dronetag BS and combined antenna is \$95.90 plus shipping. Less expensive RID modules better suited to recreational model aircraft are expected to become



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available in the next several months.

[Dronetag Mini - Affordable Drone Remote Identification Add-On](#)

On 16 September 2023, drones and model aircraft must be equipped with RID or flown in a FRIA to comply with FAA regulations. With this deadline fast approaching and uncertainty regarding FRIA approval and RID availability, there has been quite a bit of speculation about what will happen if RID are not available or FRIAs not approved. Fortunately, the AMA put out quite a bit of useful information in their 24 April [AMA Leadership Roundtable - Remote ID Updates](#) YouTube video in the following link. The video covers FRIA and RID status, requesting higher altitudes at AMA sanctioned events, and night flying.

[AMA Leadership Roundtable - Remote ID Updates - YouTube](#)

For those who don't want to watch the video, notes can be found on here on the NCRCC website:

[FAA Web Link – \(ncrcc.org\)](#)

New FAA regulations or revisions to existing regulations – to include model aircraft regulations – are implemented by FAA Reauthorizations, which occur every five years. The next FAA reauthorization is 2023. Two other Community Based Organizations (CBO) – the Flite Test Community Association (FTCA) and the FPV Freedom Coalition (FPVFC) – are recommending the FAA 2023

Reauthorization increase the drone and model aircraft weight limit for RID and FAA registration from 250g to 1kg (0.55-lb to 2.2-lb). This weight increase would be of great benefit to the recreational modeling community, especially to those with models just over the current 250g limit that would be challenged by the additional weight of a RID broadcast module. For those who may wish to write their representative and senators to support raising the weight limit, here is a link to further information on the FPVFC website:

[Congressional Outreach - Raising the 250g Registration Limit — FPV Freedom Coalition \(fpvfc.org\)](#)

Links for Direct Entry on the web:

Dronetag Mini Affordable Remote Identification Add-On:

<https://shop.dronetag.cz/products/41-dronetag-bs.html>

AMA Leadership Roundtable Remote ID Updates YouTube Link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvLv_sbsfgm

FAA Weblink – NCRCC.org

<https://ncrcc.org/faa-web-link>

Congressional Outreach - Raising the 250gr Registration Limit – FPV Freedom Coalition fpvfc.org

<https://fpvfc.org/congressional-outreach>

From the Treasurer:

I want to start my contribution to the NCRCC newsletter and thank Ed Case on taking the task of the newsletter editor. It has been a while since the last



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edition, and I know Ed will make a tremendous contribution to the club and keeping all members informed.

I also want to thank everyone that helped (Bob B., Billy G., and Mike M.) clean the field that was subject to an ugly display of vandalism this past Memorial Day weekend. In my 25 plus years being a member of NCRCC, I have never witnessed such a display of terror to the field. The impound board was completely destroyed and set on fire with some sort of firework device. Also, within the impound board was a set of lithium batteries which ignited and caused most of the damage. The portable potty was destroyed inside as another firework explosive device thrown into the unit. The spare portable – potty was tipped over and destroyed the bottom. Two glass tables were destroyed, with shards of glass debris everywhere. Lastly burnt areas in the parking area due to fireworks can be seen.

I want to give a huge thank you to our vendor Pippin and Son who delivered another portable potty unit Sunday

morning and took away the damaged unit.

Financially NCRCC is in good shape, but I think this rash of vandalism will have some effect on our 2023 budget, especially the portable potty and the pavilion.

Thank you and see you at the field.

Len Marchese NCRCC
Treasurer



Len Marchese - Treasurer

The NCRCC Event Schedule:

Dawn Patrol – 7/9 CD - Bob Boulais
Try-N-Fly – 8/12-8/13 CD - Bob Martin

Warbirds – 9/16-9/17 CD - John Blossick

Tailgate Swap – 10/7 CD's - Mike Maznicki / Len Marchese

Please all, let us all fully support Bob Martin's proposal and Try-N-Fly event for second weekend in August 2023

In addition, please let us also support all float fly events.

David Arzt speaks:

To All,

Greetings. Hope all is well. Here are the 2023 float fly dates. Sorry if I missed anyone, please spread the word.

Thompson Lake:

Sunday, June 11
Sunday, August 13
Sunday, September 10

Crystal Lake:

10:00 am to 3:00 pm - Hot dog lunch provided.
Monday, June 26
Tuesday, July 18
Monday, July 31
Tuesday, August 29

Hope to see you there.