

### ***In This Issue:***

NCRCC Assists Two Local Universities:	pg. 1
3/14/24 Meeting Minutes:	pp. 2-4
From the Treasurer:	pg. 5
From the Vice President:	pp. 5-6
From the Field Marshal/Safety Officer:	pp. 6-7
From the Liaison Officer:	pg. 7
FAA Update:	pp. 7-8
Master Work Plan:	pp. 9-10



**Ed Case, NCRCC Newsletter Editor**

### **NCRCC Assists Two Local Universities**



**Lloyd Burnham, NCRCC Board Member**

NCRCC has once again been asked to advise on an aviation engineering class at Western New England University with Professor Roger Blinn. Peter Tani, Kevin Cyr, and Lloyd Burnham attend classes every Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Ralph Rinaldi will be the test pilot at the NCRCC flying field.

The course consists of designing a complete airplane capable of flying at 22 mph and 45+ mph with and without a payload of 1.9 lbs. The students are required to prove their designs both with engineering data and real flight. NCRCC pilots provide modeling assistance and act as outside manufacturers. This encourages communication between engineering concepts and

manufacturing reality. Students have been divided up into three teams and are competing for the fastest completion and lightest design. All teams are aiming toward a mid-April test flight.

This has been a very rewarding experience working both with the instructor and students and encourages all of you to always extend your knowledge of aviation and modeling.

UConn engineering has also reached out to NCRCC for piloting a Horizon EL1500 Twin with their telemetry. The first light didn't go so well as their electronics fouled the ECU and tests were terminated. They have once again requested Ralph to fly several missions with their revised electronics and additional motors and wing design. This is to take place early in April. Unlike WNEU, UConn has not asked for any other assistance.

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Lloyd Burnham

## **NCRCC Flyer – April 2024**

### **NCRCC General Membership Meeting Minutes – 3/14/2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM by President Mike Maznicki. The meeting was held at the Somers Public Library in Somers, CT.

Mike asked for any corrections to the February meeting minutes as they appeared in the club newsletter sent 3/1/24. There were no corrections offered and a motion was made, seconded, and a vote approved the February 2024 meeting minutes.

#### President's Report:

Mike Maznicki announced that tonight's speaker had been slated to be Bob LaFlamme but, due to a family situation, he will be replaced by Dave Arzt. Dave will provide an overview on seaplane flying.

#### Vice President's Report:

Buddy Beaudoin noted that the flying field and access road were in good condition.

#### Secretary's Report:

Stan Kulesa reported that NCRCC currently has a total of 179 members. There were 32 members and 4 guests attending tonight's meeting. Guests included

Zach Etschman, Zach Klein, Annie Guidone, and Frank Moser.

Stan gave a report regarding the club website. In February, there were 970 views (and 252 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 announced that we would like to periodically change the photo on the club website's main page and invited members with a good high-quality photo to submit it for consideration. Stan noted that the volunteer mowing team will soon begin their work and that their schedule will appear at the top of the club website's main page. Stan stated that a notice of when the flying field will receive lawn service including fertilization, liming, and grub control will also be noted on the website when the lawn service company provides sufficient advanced notification.

Stan announced that the April meeting will be held at the Somers Public Library in Somers on 4/4/24 and that it will begin at 6:00 PM. He emphasized that the April

meeting will take place on the first Thursday of the month, not the second Thursday as is our norm. Mike Maznicki asked the members about how they were with starting the library-based meetings at 6:00 PM and there was general support.

Stan advised that NCRCC's 2024 charter application was recently approved by the AMA. It will expire 3/31/25.

Stan reported that NCRCC's application to restore its tax-exempt status with the IRS remains pending. When we submitted our application in March 2023, the estimated processing time was targeted to be 4 – 6 months.

Stan announced several aeromodeling events occurring in our area.

Stan gave a shout-out to Ed Case for volunteering to serve as Newsletter Editor and to Ray Murphy for volunteering to host tonight's coffee break.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Len Marchese reviewed club expenses, income, and balances for the month of February 2024 with the members. He noted that we have used ~4.5% of the 2024 operating budget.

## ***NCRCC Flyer*** – April 2024

Len reported on recent recommendations made by the Auditing Committee, one of which suggested that club funds be deposited into an account that would generate a higher rate of return but also be liquid so accessing the cash would be readily achievable. Members provided feedback. Len is looking at potential investment opportunities that could benefit NCRCC.

### Activities Director Report:

Peter Tani announced the schedule of upcoming 2024 events:

- 5/9/24 – Building Contest
- 5/18/24 – Try-N-Fly
- 6/8/24 – Biplane Bash
- 6/25/24 – float fly
- 7/13/24 – Dawn Patrol
- 7/22/24 – float fly
- 8/27/24 – float fly
- 9/14/24 – Warbirds over Ellington
- 9/23/24 – float fly
- 10/5/24 – Tailgate Swap Meet
- TBD – heli event

Peter spoke about the work underway by a team of NCRCC members in support of an engineering class from Western New England University that uses model aircraft to test what they've learned.

Peter gave a summary of the model aircraft static display NCRCC hosted at the library in Ellington.

Buddy Beaudoin announced and spoke about a tailgate swap meet that will be held at the NCRCC flying field on 5/4/24 (rain date 5/5/24). Flying will be allowed during the swap meet for NCRCC members.

Peter Tani announced that Kevin Cyr has taken over the Contest Director role for the Try-N-Fly event scheduled for 5/18/24 (rain date 5/19/24). Kevin spoke about the event and called for volunteers to step forward. He identified that the day will include ground school, flight simulators, buddy-box flights, lunch, demonstration flights, and a static display. Right now, Kevin is looking for volunteers to distribute posters.

Peter announced that Bob LaFlamme will deliver the next presentation of the "speakers series" for the April, 2024 meeting held at the Somers Public Library. The topic will be an overview of NCRCC's history.

### Liaison Officer Report:

Bill Cranford presented a Horizon Pulse with servos that he's offering as the raffle prize tonight and he

invited the members present to purchase raffle tickets for the drawing at the end of the meeting.

Bill announced that he will now accept Venmo payments, along with cash and checks, to purchase raffle tickets.

### Field Marshall/Safety Officer Report:

Bob Viering reported that both, the field and the access road are in good condition.

Bob announced that Eversource will soon begin maintenance work on the right-of-way area below their power lines. This work will include clearing brush and cutting trees. While we do not know the precise dates of the work, Bob asked for members to avoid flying over the work crews while they are on site.

Bob announced that he is planning a clean-up workday on 4/27/24 (rain date 4/28/24) and asked that members reserve this date on their calendars and plan to come to the flying field to help. Bob highlighted the details of his "A-priorities" and "B-priorities" with the membership. He will put his list of priorities and the tools needed in the next issue of the newsletter.

**NCRCC Flyer – April 2024**

Bob confirmed with the members of the volunteer mowing team that they will serve in that capacity for the 2024 season. Those members of the mowing team present at the meeting agreed to volunteer again. Bob asked for any other potential volunteers to speak with Mike Doran.

Bob 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. Bob repeated the slogan, "Fly with a friend".

Bob 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, doing all flying in front of the berm by the pilot stations, and loudly announcing when walking onto the runway area.

New Members:

Frank Moser presented himself as a prospective member.

Zach Etschman and Zach Klein presented themselves for Open Membership. Both applications for membership were voted on and approved.

Old Business:

No report.

New Business:

Stan Kulesa spoke about membership badges and the time-consuming administration involved in their production, distribution, and maintenance. He noted four alternative solutions. 1) Do away with membership badges. 2) Hire a vendor to produce the membership badges. 3) Produce permanent membership badges with a colored dot for each renewed year. 4) Replace the membership badges with a business card. Stan stated that each of these alternatives have various pros and cons. The membership engaged on the topic. Stan requested an informal non-binding poll and the membership seemed to endorse the solution to produce permanent membership badges with a colored dot for each renewed year.

Announcements:

No report.

Speakers Series:

Peter Tani announced that, due to technical difficulties, Dave Arzt's presentation on seaplane flying will be postponed to a future date.

Show & Tell:

No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Stan Kulesa, Secretary.



**Stan Kulesa, NCRCC  
Secretary**

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**NCRCC Flyer – April 2024**

**From the Treasurer**



**Len Marchese, NCRCC  
Treasurer**

Wow, here we are in the month of April. I understand that many NCRCC members have already started flying at the field. Green Road and the field are in excellent condition.

Oh...by the way, don't forget to file your federal income tax for 2023, LOL.

Also, I want to thank Tom Munsell for reporting a fallen tree on Green Road during the week of March 11<sup>th</sup>. Tom called me and I highly recommended to Tom to drive to the Ellington Department of Public Works (DPW). Tom did and the DPW removed the tree that afternoon from Green Road

clearing the way for our club members to fly. Thank you, Tom!

Financially, we are in excellent shape. Invoices are slowly coming to our attention and are immediately paid. Such vendors are AMA charter renewal, membership badge creations and mailing, Digital Services (Zoom, website), State of CT annual registration for Green Road Aero Society, and the USPS mailbox.

I would like to also mention since the first of 2024 we have voted 5 new NCRCC members into the club.

Well, that is it from the Treasurer.

See you at the field.

Len Marchese

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**From the Vice  
President**



**Buddy Beaudoin, NCRCC  
Vice President**

Hello Club Members!

I'm very happy to be back at the field this spring and pleased to see so many of you out flying this early in the year. I'm especially impressed with our two new members Zack Klein and Zack Etschman, who were voted in at our March club meeting and wasted no time coming out to fly the very next Saturday. They both flew amazingly, and we are lucky to have two new pilots of this caliber in our club.

As the last of the snow melts and the field de-thaws, it is important that we do some yearly maintenance to keep it in good shape for the upcoming season. As those of you who attended our March meeting, you know



**NCRCC Flyer – April 2024**

we have some upcoming maintenance and improvement projects that will benefit all of us who enjoy spending time at the field. I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions or concerns about these projects.

Finally, I'd like to remind and invite you all to Field Day on April 27th, where we'll be gathering to do some much-needed clean-up and spend some time improving our field for the exciting things to come in the warmer months!

Happy Flying,  
Bud Beaudoin

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**From the Field  
Marshal / Safety  
Officer**



**Robert Viering, NCRCC Field  
Marshal/Safety Officer**

Hello everyone. Spring is finally here. Hopefully some warmer weather will come soon so we can all get out there and do some flying. With the warmer weather on its way, the VOLUNTEER mowing crew will be out there before you know it, so please check our website for their weekly schedule. It is normally up on the website's main page a day or two before they mow. Please, if you are at the field while they are there, please help them where you can. For example, you can move the tables away from the parking area fence and then move the tables back again once they pass with the mower. It's really great when we help each other maintain our flying field.

This year, we also have Allied Tree and Lawncare doing applications (fertilizer, lime, grub control) for the grass. They also will be giving us a one- to two-day notice when they will be at the field. Please be patient with all the crews that show up to work on our field.

Eversource has sent us an email to let us know that they will be clearing brush and trees from their right-of-way under the power lines. They can't pinpoint a specific day or days but we expect their workers to begin within

the next month or two. If you see them out there, please be considerate and do not fly over them. Let them do their work safely. Thank you.

We will be having a field clean-up day. It is going to be on Saturday, April 27th (with a rain date of Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>). There will be no flying until all projects are complete. I am asking for volunteers. We need YOU! I have attached my master work plan with a list of the projects and their corresponding priority level. You'll see some longer-term projects on the list, as well. (These longer-term projects will likely be done at another time.) Please check out the master work plan which appears later in the newsletter on pgs. 9 - 10. Guys - please contact me if you can help. My email address is: [robertviering@cox.net](mailto:robertviering@cox.net). Thank you, in advance, for stepping up to volunteer to help. "Many hands make light work."

Safety topics: Always fly with a friend. We recommend always having at least two adults present when flying. All flying is to be done from the pilot stations. Please fly forward of the berm only and follow the traffic pattern. Be sure to loudly

## **NCRCC Flyer – April 2024**

call take-offs, landings, low fly-bys, and when you step onto the runway and when you are clear.

Thank you! I wish you many soft landings.

Robert Viering

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### **From the Liaison Officer**



**Bill Cranford, NCRCC Liaison Officer**

I'm excited to report on my first "pick up donations" adventure. I'm thankful Don and LuAnn reached out explaining her father had RC plane items they wished could find a good home. Like an old motorcycle barn find, the plane was covered in dust but complete. With some force on the master airscrew propeller, I was able to rotate the OS engines 91

only a few degrees. I have torn down the engine, the valve train nearly glued together with oil years old. After cleaning, reassembly, and valve adjustment, this 4 stroke is ready to make noise on my test stand. A Great Plains 60 size J-3 Piper Cub will take flight again. What is the wingspan you ask? 90 inches!

During our most recent meeting, Kevin Cyr was the winning ticket holder taking home a Horizon Hobby E-flite Pulse 15E donation through Buddy, our VP. Only a few days later I saw Kevin at the field with structural improvements made to the fuselage and having a successful maiden flight.

Our next club meeting raffle will have first, second and third place prizes, each item donated by a different member. These items are an indoor flight sized Nieuport 17, a 2-3s lipo / Nixx charger, and a tool storage pouch that could also be useful to organize all your charge leads that are possibly all tangled up at the moment.

To each meeting, I bring with me a few NCRCC hats. If your hair, like mine, doesn't protect your head from the elements like it used to, think about purchasing a new cap for the great flying weather

just around the corner. Have fun and be safe.

Bill Cranford

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**Editor's note:** In the March 2024 edition of the NCRCC newsletter, we identified Bill with an incorrect last name. Under his photo, we had Bill "Cranston". Ugh. This issue we got it right, though. Sorry, Bill Cranford.

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### **FAA Update**

by John Watkins

At the time this article has been written, I have seen no accounts of FAA enforcement of the Remote ID regulations that came into effect on 16 March in social media. If there had been anything spectacular or egregious, it likely would have made it to YouTube or RCGroups.

The AMA continues to work with the FAA to expand Remote ID exemptions and increase altitude limits. See the following links to the AMA Government Blogs since the last newsletter. The first two links will be of particular interest to Contest Directors.



## ***NCRCC Flyer*** – April 2024

FAA grants national authorization for AMA sanctioned events:

<https://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2024/02/27/faq-grant-national-authorization-for-ama-sanctioned-events/>

FAQs for Remote ID sanctioned event waiver and authorizations:

<https://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2024/02/28/faq-for-remote-id-sanctioned-event-waiver-authorizations/>

FAA finalizes process to expand Remote ID authorization exemptions for clubs near airports in uncontrolled airspace:

<https://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2024/03/14/faq-finalizes-process-to-expand-remote-id-authorizations-for-clubs-near-airports-in-uncontrolled-airspace/>

The increase in altitude limits from 400-ft to 700 or 1,200-ft Above Ground Level for day-to-day flying is in the works. Hopefully, it won't be too long before this is approved by the FAA.

I have set up and flown with my Spektrum Sky Remote ID Module and tracked it with

the iPhone Drone Scanner App. Both work as advertised. I have another Remote ID module called Dronetag BS on order. It is smaller and lighter than the Sky Remote ID Module, and appears it will offer greater flexibility in locating and mounting in smaller aircraft. I hope to have both at the next club meeting and a report in the next newsletter.



## NCRCC Flyer – April 2024

### Master Work Plan

- Proposed tasks for “work day” on 4/27/24 (rain date 4/28/24)

#### “A” Priorities:

- Brush hog the sumac on the northern end
- Brush hog around mound where the windsock is located
- Brush hog the overgrowth along the brook
- Clear debris/branches from the area between Green Rd and the parking area
- Attach a plastic tag to the gate lock to remind all to spin the combination
- Clean out the inside of the two containers
- Inventory the containers
- Clear debris from around containers
- Clean out the inside of the black trailer
- Inventory the black trailer
- Repair safety fencing around pilot stations
- Oil the locks

#### “B” Priorities:

- Stain the wooden rails along the parking area
- Repaint work tables

#### “C” Priorities (to be done at a later date):

- Roll the field
- Paint striping on the runway
- Post NCRCC signage at beginning of Green Rd
- Post NCRCC signage at entrance to field
- Post the “No Trespassing” sign
- Refresh the millings under the pavilions
- Paint the containers

- Materials needed for “work day” (*Bob Viering will purchase all items on this list*):

- PVC piping/couplers
- Plastic tag for the gate lock
- Post for street sign
- Orange nylon fencing
- Nylon ties
- Oil
- Heavy duty trash bags
- Thompson water seal (clear)
- Runway marking paint (white)
- Wood stain (red)



## NCRCC Flyer – April 2024

- Paint for containers (grey) – *for a later date*
- Millings – *for a later date*
- Tools needed for “work day”:
  - **Bob to supply these:**
    - Excavator
    - Brush hog attachment
    - Chalk line for runway striping
    - Sawzall
    - Wire cutters
    - Shop knife
    - Lopping shears
  - **Bob to supply (for a later date):**
    - Skid steer
    - Roller
    - Welder
    - Generator
    - Level
    - Ratchet set
    - Wrenches
    - Paint sprayer for containers
  - **Members are requested to bring:**
    - Work gloves
    - Brooms/blowers
    - Face masks
    - Hats
    - Wheel barrels
    - Leaf rakes
    - Shovels
  - **Please tell Bob if you have these (and are willing to donate them):**
    - Paint/stain brushes
    - Paint rollers (12” & 3”)/roller trays/extension poles
  - **Buddy:**
    - Pad/pens/clipboard
- Other:
  - Arrange for trash container pick up
  - Sign-up sheet
  - Arrange lunch/water
  - Communicate to the membership that there is no flying on the “work day” until the tasks are done