

# The Eagles' Nest



## President's Report

By: John Yassemedis

## Welcome Back to the Skies!

Fellow Flying Eagles,

Spring is officially here — and I couldn't be more excited. The days are getting longer, the cold is finally retreating from the field, and that unmistakable warmth in the April breeze is practically begging us to get back out there. If you're anything like me, you've spent a few winter evenings tinkering in the workshop, fine-tuning a few aircraft, swapping a servo here and there, and dreaming about that first smooth takeoff of the summer season.  
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Operating our FAA  
Approved FRIA Site  
In Merrimack, NH

Effective 9/16/2023  
Through 8/24/2027

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Well, the waiting is over. It's time to dust off the nice aircraft, charge the batteries, top off the fuel, and head out to the field. Whether you've been out in the cold or flying indoors all winter or are just shaking off the cobwebs, there's a spot on the flightline with your name on it.

We've got a wonderful — and meaningful — season ahead of us. There's a lot happening this spring and summer, and I want to make sure every one of you knows what's coming, how you can get involved, and why this year is going to be one for the books.

**Memorial Flight — Saturday, May 23rd**

I want to take a moment to share something close to my heart.

As many of you know, we recently lost a fellow pilot, a good friend, and a true Flying Eagle although not a club member — Andy Finley. Was my caller for the Nationals and with the North East Pylon Racing Organization in the early 90s. Anyone who spent even a few minutes with him at the field knew his passion for this hobby and his genuine love for all the people around him. He was the kind of person who'd help anyone, especially a new member, like help building a balsa airplane, lending you a servo when yours quit and give to prop and asking nothing in return, and always had a funny story that'd make you think.

On Saturday, May 23rd, I will hold a Memorial Flight at the field in his honor with his family. This will be a brief, meaningful gathering — a chance for us to come together as a club family and celebrate a life lived with a deep and abiding love of flight.

Here's what I'm envisioning:

- We'll gather at the field at 11 for a few words of remembrance.
- Display the new flight stands donated by his family one with a memorial plaque
- We will fly a aircraft fly in his honor and spread some ashes — with a gentle pass overhead, a simply standing at the flight line with your hand over your heart in respect.

## President's Report Continued... (From Page 2)

- Family and friends from the Lazy loopers club may share stories, memories, and maybe a few of those laughs he always brought to the flying field.
- All members are welcome and encouraged to attend — even if you're not flying that day. Your presence matters.

### **Merrimack 4th of July Parade — Rally the Troops! us**

Alright, Eagles — it's time to rally! I'm happy to share that **Ted Ede**, our Safety Officer, is stepping up to coordinate our participation in this year's parade. I'll be off on a family vacation with a plane shipped there in advance! Ted's the point of contact for all things float prep, volunteer sign-ups, and parade logistics — so if you want to get involved, reach out to Ted.<

Every year, the Southern NH Flying Eagles make a proud showing in the **annual Merrimack 4th of July Parade**, one of the largest Independence Day parades in all of New Hampshire. The parade draws over **1,400 participants** and **thousands upon thousands of spectators** who line Daniel Webster Highway to celebrate our nation's birthday.

And this year? This year is **extra special**. In case you haven't heard — **2026 marks America's 250th birthday, the Semiquincentennial!** That's a quarter millennium of freedom, and the Flying Eagles are going to celebrate in style.

Here's what we need from you:

- **Volunteers for float building and decorating** — we want this to be our most eye-catching float yet. Red, white, blue, and plenty of wings!
- **Marchers and participants** — the more Eagles on the route, the bigger our presence. Bring your family!
- **Money for Candy** — Or just donations of bags of wrapped candy to hand out, as we always run out towards the end.
- **Ideas and enthusiasm** — if you've got a creative vision for the float or want to help coordinate, reach out to Ted.

## President's Report Continued... (From Page 3)

This is also a fantastic opportunity to recruit new members. There's no better advertisement for our club than a great-looking float covered with airplanes rolling down the DW highway with thousands of eyes watching. Let's show Southern New Hampshire what the Flying Eagles are all about.

### **Runway Replacement — We Need Your Help!**

Now for some important club business. Our runway has served us faithfully for years. Countless takeoffs, landings, touch-and-gos, and the occasional "creative arrival" have all left their mark — literally. The surface has been well-used, well-loved, and it's given us everything it's got. But the time has come: it's time for a runway replacement.

This is a significant project, and I won't sugarcoat it — it's going to take planning, coordination, and good old-fashioned elbow grease. The great news is that we've got a strong team leading the charge: Scott Hurley, Tim Sowder, and John Spitz are heading up the runway replacement effort. These guys have been putting in the homework on materials, layout, and logistics, and I'm grateful they've stepped up to lead.

But when it's done, we'll have a new runway we can all be proud of — one that will serve this club for many years to come and make our field a true point of pride in the RC community.

Here's where things stand and how you can help:

- Logistics are being worked out — Scott, Tim, and John Spitz are finalizing the geotex material order, delivery location and unloading, timeline, and scheduled work days. Details will be communicated as soon as they're locked in.
- We need volunteers — for site prep, rolling out and positioning the new geotex material, securing it in place, hauling, and general hands-on help. No job is too small.
- Nothing goes to waste! The old geotex runway material will be repurposed and used as an underlayment in the parking area — so we'll get double duty out of it.

## President's Report Continued... (From Page 4)

- Every bit of help counts — whether you can commit to a full work day or just a couple of hours, we want you there.

You know the old saying: many hands make light work. This is our field, our club, and our runway. Let's get that new geotex rolled out together.

### Looking Ahead

What a season we have in front of us. A memorial to honor a dear friend. America's 250th birthday celebration. A brand-new runway on the horizon. And most importantly — long, warm days at the field doing what we love, surrounded by people who share our passion.

I want to encourage every one of you to get involved this season. Volunteer for a project. Show up to an event. Bring a friend out to the field and introduce them to the hobby. Fly a new plane. Try something you've never tried before. This club is only as strong as the members who show up — and we've got the best members around.

Thank you for being part of the Southern NH Flying Eagles. I'm proud to be your president, and I'm grateful every day for this incredible AMA community we've built together.

Let's make 2026 a season to remember.

Clear skies and safe landings,

Yaz

President, Southern NH Flying Eagles

## SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE FLYING EAGLES MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

April 1, 2026

Meeting held at St. James Church.

Meeting Called to order: 1935

Members present: 20

### Attending Officers:

Johnny Yaz, President

Trevor Cook, Club Secretary

Ted Ede, Safety Officer

Bob Fregault, Treasurer

John Spitz – Field Marshall

Tim Campbell, Newsletter

### From the President:

- Tonight's plan
  - Budget Talk
  - Show and Tell Meeting
  - Thank you to George who donated the Gift Cards along with ABC Hobby for tonight
- Hoping for good weather
  - Mud lock is on to prevent the parking lot from falling apart

### Treasurer's Report:

- Bob F gave an overview of the March monthly revenue and expense.
  - Discussion needed around the Certificate of deposit which matures on 14 April 2026 with \$5000+ in.
  - Need to know if we need to rollover, or keep CD
- Discussion / Budgeting Votes
  - New plastic for the pavilion (Gazebo Weather Shield). **APPROVED during the meeting by present members**
    - Plexiglass top / plywood at the bottom. ~\$1500
    - Existing plastic, put on the backside, and put new plastic on the Field Side



- Replace Runway ~\$5000 <- Would need CD to make it happen. **APPROVED during the meeting by present members**
  - Take existing material and use it in the roadway as a subbase to make the driveway more solid. (future plans)
  - Will look into AMA grant.
- Would like to keep the remaining \$1200 for capital spending. – **APPROVED during the meeting by present members**
- Motions to accept the operating budget for 2026 as is and discussed during the February Meeting (and handed out). **APPROVED during the meeting by present members**

### Field Maintenance:

- Flight stands are done and will be brought to the field

### Safety Officer:

- Nothing new to report.

### Secretary's Report:

- Minutes of the last meeting accepted.

### From the Newsletter

- First newsletter sent out, check your emails
- If you have any pictures, send them in.

**Meeting Concluded at 1956 followed by Show & Tell**

**Submitted by: Trevor Cook**

**SNHFE Club Secretary**

# Annual Show & Tell

The Annual Show & Tell brought out quite a few new planes and even includes helicopters and giant rockets! Special thanks to George McQuillan for donating three of the ABC Hobby gift cards and ABC Hobbies for donating one to hand out as awards.

**Winners:**

Best ARF – George McQuillan

Best Kit/Scratch build – Tim Campbell

Best in Show – Mike Fiorito

President's Choice – Dave Brimblecom



Mark your calendar for the Concord Skyhawk's annual float fly



Have a new plane in the hangar? Send in a pic and show it off.

Here's Yaz with his new E-Flite Beechcraft D18 & E-Flite Conscendo 2M



## Club Calendar

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Sun) - Club Members meeting @ 11:00AM @ Club Field**

May 18<sup>th</sup> (Mon) - Club Officers meeting @ 7PM

May 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sat) – Andy Finley Memorial Flight at the field @ 11:00 AM

*Designated Club Instruction Times: Sunday AM, Tuesday evening (during Daylight Savings Time)*

## *Our Field on 1/4/2026*





## Club Safety Rules

The Southern New Hampshire Flying Eagles RC Club is an AMA-sponsored club and operates according to AMA Safety Rules. In addition, the following safety rules and practices are to be followed when flying at our flying site. The intention of these club safety rules is

- to maintain the highest level of personal safety for all members, guests, and spectators, and
- to keep our aircraft in good flying condition and to prevent unnecessary damage to them.

Please read and familiarize yourself with the AMA Safety Program that is online on the AMA web site.

### General

1. All aircraft must be marked with your AMA member ID and FAA ID on an exterior surface and must be easily readable. Aircraft weighing less than .55 lbs. do not need the FAA ID.
2. No take-offs or landings from the pit area.
3. No more than 4 (four) aircraft in the air at any one time. (Helicopter hover area doesn't apply)
4. Only SNH Flying Eagles designated instructors shall give or supervise flight instruction at the SNH Flying Eagle's field.
5. All pilots are required to fly from designated areas on the flight line or hover area.
6. These Safety Rules may be amended by majority vote of the Officers.

### Personal Safety

1. All flying must take place in front of the safety fence and the indefinite extensions of this fence in both directions. This means no flying over or behind the pit area, spectator area, or parking area.
2. Never taxi your aircraft in the pit area.
3. Never walk from the pit area to the flight line carrying an aircraft running at full throttle. (Exception: engines with no throttle)
4. If possible, program an easily accessible switch to kill your throttle until you are read to taxi or take off.
5. Announce your intention to take off and the direction you intend to take off in.
6. When going onto the field to retrieve an aircraft, announce your intentions loudly to all pilots on the flight line.
7. All club members will adhere to the safety guidelines as outlined in the AMA safety manual.



## **AMA Safety Rules**

### **Academy of Model Aeronautics National Model Aircraft Safety Code**

Effective January 1, 2018

A model aircraft is a non-human-carrying device capable of sustained flight within visual line of sight of the pilot or spotter(s). It may not exceed limitations of this code and is intended exclusively for sport, recreation, education and/or competition. All model flights must be conducted in accordance with this safety code and related AMA guidelines, any additional rules specific to the flying site, as well as all applicable laws and regulations.

As an AMA member I agree:

- I will not fly a model aircraft in a careless or reckless manner.
- I will not interfere with and will yield the right of way to all human-carrying aircraft using AMA's See and Avoid Guidance and a spotter when appropriate.
- I will not operate any model aircraft while I am under the influence of alcohol or any drug that could adversely affect my ability to safely control the model.
- I will avoid flying directly over unprotected people, moving vehicles, and occupied structures.
- I will fly Free Flight (FF) and Control Line (CL) models in compliance with AMA's safety programming.
- I will maintain visual contact of an RC model aircraft without enhancement other than corrective lenses prescribed to me. When using an advanced flight system, such as an autopilot, or flying First-Person View (FPV), I will comply with AMA's Advanced Flight System programming.
- I will only fly models weighing more than 55 pounds, including fuel, if certified through AMA's Large Model Airplane Program.
- I will only fly a turbine-powered model aircraft in compliance with AMA's Gas Turbine Program.
- I will not fly a powered model outdoors closer than 25 feet to any individual, except for myself or my helper(s) located at the flight line, unless I am taking off and landing, or as otherwise provided in AMA's Competition Regulation.
- I will use an established safety line to separate all model aircraft operations from spectators and bystanders.

For a complete copy of AMA's Safety Handbook please visit: [modelaircraft.org](http://modelaircraft.org)

## Your 2026-27 So. NH Flying Eagles Officers

President: John Yassemedis  
 Vice President: Scott Hurley  
 Secretary: Trevor Cook  
 Treasurer: Bob Fregault  
 Field Marshall: John Spitz  
 Safety Officer: Ted Ede  
 Webmaster (appointed): Chris Whalley  
 Head Instructor (appointed): Tim Sowder  
 Newsletter Editor: Tim Campbell



\* Submit your photos / articles to Tim at [campbelltf74@gmail.com](mailto:campbelltf74@gmail.com)

## Flight Instructors

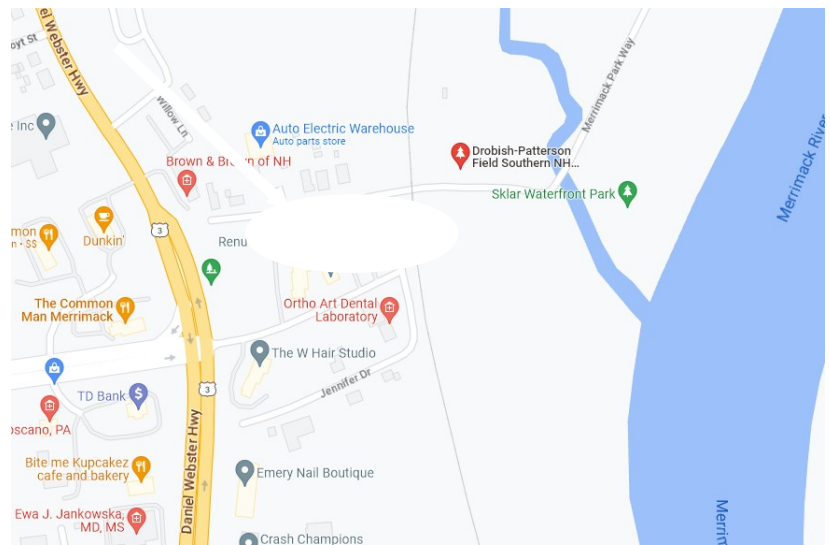
Kenny Donahue	<a href="mailto:Kenny.Donahue@gmail.com">Kenny.Donahue@gmail.com</a>	603-557-7096
Tim Sowder (Head Instructor)	<a href="mailto:timnh2002@yahoo.com">timnh2002@yahoo.com</a>	603-320-3698
John "Yaz" Yassemedis	<a href="mailto:johnnieyaz@gmail.com">johnnieyaz@gmail.com</a>	603-321-8442
Steve Lewis	<a href="mailto:slewis_245@comcast.net">slewis_245@comcast.net</a>	603-801-1971
Todd Neumann	<a href="mailto:trneumann@icloud.com">trneumann@icloud.com</a>	603-440-3567
Dave Majchrzak	<a href="mailto:dm70nh@gmail.com">dm70nh@gmail.com</a>	603-892-1295
Zach Sweetser	<a href="mailto:zach@tailheavyrc.com">zach@tailheavyrc.com</a>	

### Disclaimer:

Your dues do not entitle you to flight instruction. Flight instruction is offered free to members from certified club pilots who donate their time to help others. Flight instruction is dependent upon instructor availability and no guarantee is implied.



Drobysch-Patterson RC Field  
14A Griffin St.  
Merrimack, NH  
03054



The Merrimack field is less than one mile from exit 11 off the Everett Turnpike. After leaving the highway, head east and go straight through all the lights and down the little hill. Spectators are encouraged to park in one of the parking lots and walk to the field. Pilots should turn left at the foot of the hill, and then make a hairpin right turn on the dirt road that goes under the railroad bridge. The field entrance is on the left as soon as you pass under the railroad tracks.



## About the Southern New Hampshire Flying Eagles

- Founded 1984
- Chartered in 1985
- Approximately 100 Members
- Merrimack Flying Site Established in 1988
- Incorporated in NH as a Non-Profit Organization



- Annual Dues: \$65 Full Membership; \$35 Elders, \$35 Juniors, \$75 Family Membership
- Fabric Runway Laid in 2014
- Free Flight Instruction for Members
- AMA Chartered Club #2417
- Frozen Fingers Fun Fly (January)
- Banquet (March)
- Show & Tell (April)
- Family Picnic (August)
- Float Fly (September)

### Mailing Address

Southern NH Flying Eagles  
14A Griffin St.  
Merrimack, NH 03054

### Websites

So. NH Flying Eagles

<https://www.snhflyingeagles.org>

AMA District I

<https://www.amadistrict-i.org/>