

September 2026

The Eagles' Nest



President's Report

By: John Yassemedis

Dear Southern New Hampshire Flying Eagles members,

We're excited to share that our Float Fly event is just around the corner! Please remember that our Sunday monthly meeting on Sept 6th will start promptly at 11 a.m. This will be our final meeting at the field before we move to St. James Hall for the colder months. Also, mark your calendars for the Float Fly event itself, now scheduled for September 18th, 19th, and 20th. We hope you'll join us at the meeting and remember to bring along anyone who might be interested in RC flying. Looking forward to seeing everyone on Sunday!

Best,

John Yassemedis

President, Southern New Hampshire Flying Eagles



Operating our FAA
Approved FRIA Site
In Merrimack, NH

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

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SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE FLYING EAGLES MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

August 2, 2026

Meeting held at Drobysh-Patterson Field

Meeting Called to order: 1102

Members present: 22

Attending Officers:

Johnny Yaz, President

Scott Hurley, Vice President (not present)

Trevor Cook, Club Secretary (not present)

Ted Ede, Safety Officer

Bob Fregault, Treasurer

John Spitz – Field Marshall

Tim Campbell, Newsletter



From the President:

- New potential member Isaiah welcomed
- Thank you to John Spitz did amazing job with his brush mower on the field edges
- Float Fly coming up, encourage everyone to attend especially if you've never attended one
- Thank you to Ted Ede fixed the steps and decking to the porta potty that had been damaged by a fallen tree
- Tim Sowder has ordered a sewing machine and thread for the runway. He is trying to organize getting the stitching complete before he's away. Dates will be communicated.
- Auction after the meeting today of items donated to the club
- Addition of the sign to the container listing the club founders and established date by Bob Lacroix
- Keys to the container are available to any member for \$5, see Steve Lewis. If you open the container or are the last person at the field, be sure to check that it is closed and locked. Be sure the gate is locked and combination set to all 0's
- Big thanks to Bob Fregault and Dave Brimblecom for the years of taking care of the field mowing and maintenance.

Field Marshall

- Painting of flight stands and gazebo needs to be planned
- Steve Lewis will lead an effort to put in new plastic panes for the gazebo. Likely to happen after the float fly
- Date for the Fall clean up will be communicated soon

Newsletter

- Send pictures or articles or ideas for content to Tim Campbell

(Aug 2 meeting minutes cont'd from page 2)

Safety Officer

- Ted Ede conducted the annual review of AMA and club rules. Encouraged everyone to give the rules a read on their own time as well.
- Made clear that the edge of the runway closest to the pilots box is about 25 feet away so planes should not be flown inside that.

Finances

- Monthly transactions and balances were read
- Membership is at 66
- Bob will start organizing a new club swag order. He'll be sending out initial order forms to gauge interest in items and quantities as there are minimums.

New Business

- Ted Ede motioned payment to John Spitz to cover gas for the new machine he used to do the mowing around the field fringe. Vote approved the payment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 followed by auction



The Tail of Two Young Pilots

By Tim Sowder

Most people know me as one of the flight instructors at our club. The instructor crew pride ourselves on making ourselves available to teach new pilots, young and old, to fly radio controlled (RC) airplanes comfortably.

Why do we do it? Mainly our motivation is to promote this challenging hobby. We can take people from their first RC flight to solo. Along that road of training, we experience that same pride and feeling of accomplishment our students feel as they progress through the different stages of success towards that coveted designation of "Solo Pilot".

I personally love it when I finish each stage of their training. The large smile on their face after their very first time on the sticks, their very first unassisted landing and, of course, the solo endorsement. I enjoy standing in front of our club logo for the solo photo.

With that said, I would like to describe a couple of students that stand out in my time as an RC instructor.



The first is a very young man that soloed this August. His name is Han VanRatan. Han was introduced to the club by Bob Lacroix and Russell Richards at the Merrimack Winter Festival two years ago. Han was given time to play with the RC simulator Bob and Russell had set up. I am told he played on the simulator for over an hour in sub-freezing temperatures. The next day Han's mother, Kristen, brought him to the field for an intro flight. That was my first encounter with Han. I would describe him at the time as eager and young. We had a great flight but, at seven years old, he lacked the attention span needed to continue his training.

I gave this guidance to his mother and suggested she bring Han down from time to time so one of the instructors could fly with him until he got a little older, The intent was to maintain Han's eagerness. My standard age for training is 11 years old. Younger than that and the pilot's attention wanes.

The Tail of Two Young Pilots, cont'd

For the next year and a half Han's mother and his father, Andrew, brought him to the field almost every Sunday. Kenny and I provided the majority of the Sunday flights with John Y., Dave M. and Steve L. also assisting.

This year Han was given an AeroScout for Christmas. He proudly exhibited it for me in the early spring. We started training in earnest. Han's parents were very supportive by having Han repeat instructor guidance so he could improve. In August I performed the check ride for his well-earned Solo flight. Han is only 9 years old. He is the youngest person I have ever passed as solo qualified. I'd like to mention that in this process every member has supported Han by providing encouragement and giving Han space when the pattern was full.



My next tale is another remarkable success story for a young aviator. Braden Van Hirtum was brought down to the field a few years ago by his very supportive parents Holly and Chris. Braden was soloed quickly and was able to convince his dad to fly RC as well.



The Tail of Two Young Pilots, cont'd

This was just a beginning for Braden. Braden tried his hand a full-scale glider flying. Unfortunately, he was told he was too light to solo glider. This didn't stop him or his parents. Once he was old enough, he began training to be a full-scale General Aviation pilot. For those of you that haven't flown aircraft, there is a lot of studying and testing required to earn the coveted Private Pilot License (PPL). Braden reached the first hurdle on August 20th. the solo flight. This was a proud moment for Braden and his parents.



I'd like to mention that Braden is also a member of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

Please give a round of applause for these two accomplished aviators!!

Yours Truly,

Tim Sowder

2026 JOEL CHAPPELL MEMORIAL RC FLOAT FLY

28TH ANNUAL

LEARN TO
FLOAT FLY!

SUMMARY:

Join us for three days of RC float flying, camping, and relaxation on Otter Pond at the beautiful Greenfield State Park in NH.

MORE INFO:

- Free introductory flights!
- Flight times
 - Fri/Sat 9am–Dusk (electric starts 7am)
 - Sunday 9am–2pm (electric starts 7am)
- Campsites available
- AC Power available for charging
- Secure overnight storage
- Food available for purchase
- *Note: no dogs allowed on beaches*

PILOT FEE: \$30/WEEKEND



PUBLIC WELCOME!

SEP 18–20, 2026

PICNICKERS BEACH IN GREENFIELD STATE PARK, NH



MORE INFO: Scott Hurley | scott1767@gmail.com

www.snhflyingeagles.org
AMA Sanction 20323

Club Calendar

September 6th (Sun) - Club Members meeting @ 11:00AM @ Club Field

September 18-20th – 2026 Joel Chappell Annual Float Fly @ Greenfield State Park

September 21st (Mon) - Club Officers meeting @ 7PM

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

- a) to maintain the highest level of personal safety for all members, guests, and spectators, and
- b) 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

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



Flight Instructors

Kenny Donahue

Tim Sowder (Head Instructor)

John “Yaz” Yassemedis

Steve Lewis

Todd Neumann

Zach Sweetser

Scott Hurley

Kenny.Donahue@gmail.com

timnh2002@yahoo.com

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603-801-1971

603-440-3567

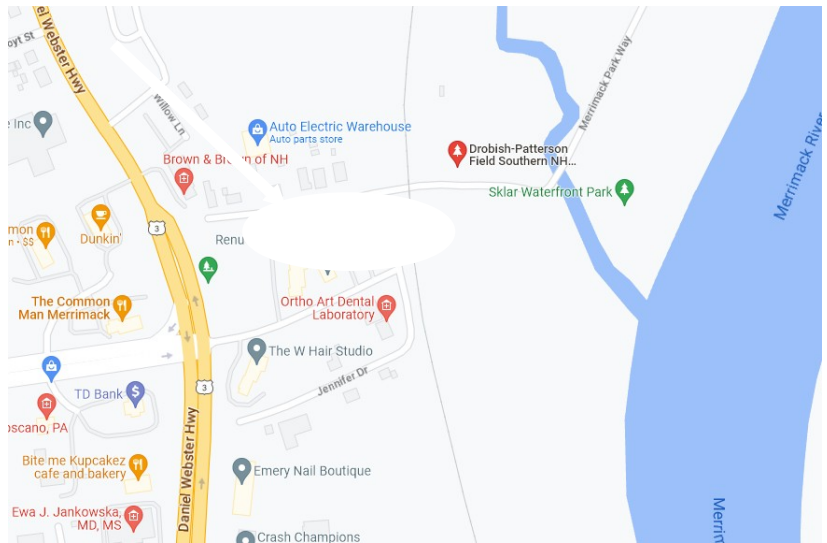
978-799-7484

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/>