

# Middlesex County R-C Fliers Club Newsletter – January 2020



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 YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MiddlesexRCFliers>

## Club Events

Mon, 1/13 Indoor Flying at Mt Hope Center, Burlington  
 Mon, 1/20, Indoor Flying at Mt Hope Center, Burlington  
 Sat, 1/11 HOLIDAY PARTY!

Member and guest welcome.

Gather between 6:30 and 7:00 PM, Buffet at 7:00 PM  
 Great Wall Restaurant

309 Great Road, Bedford MA

\$20 each, not including drinks

Sat, 1/24 SNH Frozen Fingers Fun Fly (see below)



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## 2 FROM THE PREZ — NEIL CUMBIE

Reminder that this Wednesday, Jan 8, is our monthly meeting and officer elections. They're at the Rec Dept at 7:30 PM. We'll probably order pizza as well.

You should have received an email from Jerry Crowley on Dec 13 with the ballot for those who won't be able to attend the elections meeting. If you can't make the meeting, please fill out an absentee ballot from Jerry's email.

Saket will also be processing membership renewals at the meeting. He will have some blank applications or you can fill one out and bring it along with your check. No need for a copy of your AMA card. He can check electronically with your last name and AMA number.

We have a raffle prize, two Spektrum 3S-2200 mah 50C Smart Lipo batteries and one Spektrum Smart Battery Checker and Servo Driver. If we have time, we'll talk a little about Spektrum's Smart technology.



I'll be sending out another email, but just wanted to remind everyone about the Christmas Party on Sat Jan 11. Hope everyone had a great New Year and can come to the meeting to ring in the new year.

Neil Cumbie, President

Middlesex County R-C Fliers | [mcr cf.org](http://mcr cf.org) | [info@mcr cf.org](mailto:info@mcr cf.org) | Facebook.com/groups/mcr cf

Candidacy for this year's election. Ballots were due January 1:

#####

### MCRCF SLATE OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR YEAR 2020

#### ABSENTEE BALLOT

VOTE

		PRESIDENT	Neil S CUMBIE	INCUMBENT
		PRESIDENT	_____	WRITE-IN

| | VICE PRESIDENT PAUL SULLIVAN INCUMBENT  
| | VICE PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_ WRITE-IN

| | SECRETARY RAY CAPOBIANCO CANDIDATE  
| | SECRETARY Saket Sankhla INCUMBENT  
| | SECRETARY \_\_\_\_\_ WRITE-IN

| | TREASURER JEFF WARD INCUMBENT  
| | TREASURER \_\_\_\_\_ WRITE-IN

DIRECTORS PICK 3:

| | DAN COSTA INCUMBENT  
| | \_\_\_\_\_ WRITE-IN

| | RANDY L GROSSMAN INCUMBENT  
| | \_\_\_\_\_ WRITE-IN

| | DAN J MICALIZZI INCUMBENT

| | \_\_\_\_\_ WRITE-IN

End of Ballot

#####

On a side note, also from Neil:

Paul and I just got the raffle prizes for the meeting and the Christmas party. By the way, if you ever go to ABC Hobby and are looking for some excellent BBQ, we went to Border Brewery and BBQ. It's about a mile or two south of the hobby shop. Best brisket I've had since moving to Mass.

4:20 PM

Neil Cumbie



Absolutely. Paul liked it but I warn you that their BBQ sauce called Satan's Taint is pretty damn hot.



4:53 PM

## 2.1 FROZEN FINGERS FUN FLY

The Southern New Hampshire Flying

Eagles present the 2020:



# Frozen Fingers Fun Fly

## January 26<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM

- Open Fly and Multiple Competitions for the showoffs.
- ABC Hobby gift cards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers
- "Open Fly" times between competitions
- Landing Fee is \$10
- All fliers with current AMA card are welcome!
- Burgers, dogs, drinks will be available at lunchtime
- Watch the incredible precision Airplane and Helicopter Demos by sponsored Extreme Flight and Amain hobby pilots.

### Raffle Prize: Extreme Flight Turbo Raven

- Includes: EF 500KV motor, Castle 90A ESC, MKS servos, Servo Arms, extensions, 16x7 prop, spinner and shipping! Just add your time, RX, glue and a 6S battery. Valued at over \$1200
- ONLY 200 Tickets available for \$20 ea. Drawing when all tickets are sold.
- More than ½ of the raffle profits will go to Honor flight New England

Sponsored By ABC Hobby and Extreme Flight RC

CD: John Yassemedis

**Drobysh-Patterson Airfield, Merrimack, NH**

<http://www.snhflyingeagles.org>

### 3 FROM THE SECRETARY - TIME TO RENEW! – SAKET SANKHLA

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Saket writes: Checks or cash, anything people are comfortable with. Also, don't need to bring your AMA card.

I will accept the membership form during Christmas party if they buy me at least one alcoholic drink 🤪

### 4 CLUB MEETING NOTES – DEC 4 – SAKET

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Attendance: 14

1. Saket shared: Accepted membership forms for 2020 in the meeting. 7 members renewed their membership during the meeting.
2. Voted: Motion... to have cash prices like last year for New Year/X-Mas party
  - a. Dinner \$20/person and club makes up the rest
3. Voted: Motion... Next meeting of January to be on second Wednesday
4. Indoor flying was a success. \$50 was raised and was given to the church
5. Mel shared: RealFlight is great fun and encouraged members to join the virtual flying event. He volunteered to help if someone wants to connect to a hosted session. [Look for hostname mcrcf and password will be the same]. He even has a Whatsapp group for this. [Contact him to get added to the group.]
6. Show and tell: Sharad brought his BAT box. It's very impressive box to store LIPO/LIFE batteries [during charging]



During the meeting, Sharad Mathur shared his thoughts on the BatSafe





Below are some notes from the web:

BAT-SAFE - Bat-safe XL Lipo Battery Charging Safe Box - BATSAFEXL



RRP:  
\$119.99  
Your Price:  
**\$96.79**(You save \$23.20)  
SKU:  
PRH-BAFBATSAFEXL  
Brand:

## Product Description

Charge and store up to a 6 piece 6S 5000mAh equivalent (1100Wh) safely inside the BAT-SAFE X large.

Prolonged balance cables may be necessary to use the BAT-SAFE X large with your existing charging equipment. X large requires 2 prolonging sets.

Vault size: L24xW16.5xH38cm

Outer size: L30xW22xH44.5cm

Packaging size: L36xW27xH40.5cm

Material: Steel sheet, non-flammable insulation materials, CE certified.

## 5 FROM THE HANGAR

John Parisi with his Ultra Stick carrying a 10cc Evolution engine. John points out that using a gas engine, you pay \$2.50 per gallon instead of \$30 for nitro and \$30 per battery and you'll need 3-4 batteries. That's one of the reasons he likes gas.

And he thinks a trainer with a 10cc makes a lot of sense.





Mel Suarez: Looking to unload this little field box... it's not nearly as big as it looks in this picture. Reach out to me via email or phone (listed on first page)



## 6 ARE YOU GOING? AMA EVENTS IN OUR DISTRICT

Below are the results for a search on the Event Finder at <https://www.modelaircraft.org/>

Event Results: District 1, 1/8/20 – 3/30/20

JANUARY12
<b>MID WINTER MADNESS INDOOR FF CONTEST</b> <b>CLASS AA</b> <b>Contact:</b> JOHN KOPTONAK <b>Location:</b> 330 Hubbard St Glastonbury CT 06033 <a href="#">Visit Website</a>
JANUARY18
<b>CENTRAL NH R/C SWAP MEET</b> <b>CLASS E - NON-FLYING</b> <b>Contact:</b> DANIEL WEED <b>Location:</b> 3 Bow Center Rd Bow NH 03304
JANUARY26
<b>2020 FROZEN FINGERS FUN FLY</b> <b>CLASS C</b> <b>Contact:</b> JOHN YASSEMEDIS <b>Location:</b> 14 Griffin St Merrimack NH 03054 <a href="#">Visit Website</a>
FEBRUARY9
<b>AUCTION</b> <b>CLASS E - NON-FLYING</b> <b>Contact:</b> THOMAS DENTREMONT <b>Location:</b> 162 Winn St Burlington MA 01803-3116 <a href="#">Visit Website</a>
FEBRUARY9
<b>STEALTH SQUADRON FAC 49, 2ND WINTER INDOOR CONTEST</b> <b>CLASS A</b> <b>Contact:</b> STEPHEN EVANS <b>Location:</b> 68 Elm Street Georgetown MA 01833 <a href="#">Visit Website</a>
MARCH22
<b>6TH ANNUAL R/C SWAP MEET</b> <b>CLASS E - NON-FLYING</b> <b>Contact:</b> DENNIS KEEGAN <b>Location:</b> 1074 S Colony RD Wallingford CT 06492-5261 <a href="#">Visit Website</a>

## 7 FLYING TIPS

### 7.1 RC BATTERY CHARGERS — BY JIM ORSBORN AND DANY PELLETIER

So, this is another article based on an initial question posed to our MCRCF WhatsApp group. The topic deserves a bit more discussion than was initially offered, so this is an attempt to summarize the material that was discussed and put it into a format where it can be peer reviewed by fellow club members.

#### **The Question:**

[3:15 PM, 11/30/2019] **Mel Suarez:** *could I get*

Mel got the ball rolling with his summary question. There were some immediate

*some recommendations on a charger. I need to be able to charge/cycle and discharge the Lipos to storage level. I don't fly super-expensive complex stuff, but I've been finding my Lipos going south on me. I don't mind spending some good money, but ease of use would be key, and I'd like multiple charge ports.*

responses with a preferred solution and no background information. So, I thought the best way to get started would be to cover some background information first, ask a few questions about why a “proper” charger is important and then finally try to offer several optional solutions designed to meet a set of expectations.

## Background Material

Why I might Need a Good Charger. So, one of my friends got into electric planes a few years ago. He had been a regular glow pilot and had been used to flying a plane until it ran out of fuel and needed to land. In fact, my original experience (over 30 years ago) was to fly until the engine quit and then hope the plane would come down close by and with little damage. It wasn't until I took some Club-sponsored Training Lessons that I learned how to take-off and land a plane under power. So back to Carl (not his real name), would fly a plane until the motor quit. He was interested in maximum flight time and it always worked with his glow planes. But he quickly found out that his electric planes were having a problem. It seems like these expensive LiPo batteries were all junk. They would last for a couple flights and then he could no longer get them to hold enough charge for even a short flight. And at almost the price of a new glow engine, there just had to be something wrong with the idea of electric planes ever becoming popular!

My friend Carl was an early adopter of electric powered planes but he was not into reading the detailed battery usage instructions; like: don't discharge a battery below the cutoff voltage, don't let a battery sit in storage at full charge, Don't over charge a battery, and use ONLY an approved LiPo charger!

What type of Flyer are you? We have a wide variety of flyers in our club. Some seem to never fly, but then there are the Sunday/Weekend flyers <sup>(+)</sup> that seem to make it out to the field about once a week or at least twice a month <sup>(+)</sup>. Most of these members are novice pilots <sup>(+)</sup> and fly either a trainer or a mild aerobatic plane <sup>(+)</sup>. Then we have a few members who are more serious and fly several times a week <sup>(#)</sup>. They probably have multiple planes <sup>(#)</sup> with a few more features. They will probably use a different battery type in each plane <sup>(#)</sup>, thereby involving multiple battery chemistries and voltages. There are also a few members who are very serious, some flying daily <sup>(\*)</sup> and needing to field charge their batteries <sup>(\*)</sup>. Finally, we also have a few “Techno Geek” members <sup>(\*)</sup> who need the latest technology, highest discharge rate and high voltage/power systems <sup>(\*)</sup>.

What types of Batteries do you have? If you are a glow flyer, then you may only have a Transmitter battery and a couple flight (aka Receiver) batteries. In fact, you probably don't need a battery charger and the “wall wart” power supply that came with your radio is all that you need. But if you have a couple LiPo batteries and maybe a NiMH flight battery, then yes, you need something more than a wall charger. There are dozens of different battery chemistry, and some have very specific charge, discharge and storage requirements that need to be followed. Check the table below for a list of features that you may need to want when selecting a new charger. Note that there are some features that you may not need and anything that you can eliminate will tend to lower the cost of your system.

[3:23 PM, 11/30/2019] **Dany P:** *Stephen has a 4-port charger, I think it's a Hitec. I use the iCharger 4010 duo (40 amps) and looking at the 308duo (30 amps) for backup. Stephen just got the 308. Both are 2 ports.*

*With the 4010 I charge 4 x 6s 4400mah batteries and 6 x 3s 2200mah batteries in 20 minutes.*

[4:28 PM, 11/30/2019] **Dany P:** *Yep, the reason I bought my charger is that I mostly charge at the field and don't want to wait around too long while charging. So, I charge whatever I need, 25 amps on each port and ready to fly in 20 minutes.*

### List of Charger Features

Supports a single or limited battery types <sup>(+)</sup>  
Supports multiple battery chemistries <sup>(#)</sup>  
AC only power <sup>(+)</sup>  
DC w/ optional AC Power <sup>(#)</sup>  
12 v DC power <sup>(+)</sup>  
24 v DC power <sup>(\*)</sup>  
Single Charge port <sup>(+)</sup>  
Multiple Charge ports <sup>(#)</sup>  
Battery Balance Port <sup>(#)</sup>  
2/3 S Battery support <sup>(+)</sup>  
6 S, 12 S Battery support <sup>(\*)</sup>

[4:32 PM, 11/30/2019] **John Parisi:** *I'm using the Hitec 4 charger in my trailer. I charge up to 2 6S when at the field. If my deep cycle battery gets low, I fire up the generator.*

< 100 W Total Power <sup>(+)</sup>  
 > 100 W Total Power <sup>(\*)</sup>  
 Ability to discharge <sup>(#)</sup>  
 Ability to discharge to storage <sup>(#)</sup>

## Some WhatsApp Recommendations

### Basic Choice <sup>(+)</sup>

[4:17 PM, 11/30/2019] **Randy:** <https://www.getfpv.com/ev-peak-cq3-multi-charger-4x-100w-nimh-lipo-with-built-in-balance.html> This is what I use Mel. 4-port Charger with 100W per port. Nice to be able to charge/discharge 4 batteries simultaneously.



[4:28 PM, 11/30/2019] **Dany P:** Yep, the reason I bought my charger is that I mostly charge at the field and don't want to wait around too long while charging.

### Moderate Choice <sup>(#)</sup>

[3:43 PM, 11/30/2019] **John Parisi:** *I got this, came with all charge leads you could need, just plug into wall or car battery...*  
[https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1268949-REG/venom\\_group\\_686\\_quad\\_lipo\\_nimh.html/?ap=y&ap=y&smp=y&smp=y&lsft=BI%3A514&gclid=CjwKCAiA58fvBRAzEiwAQW-hzckq--ncPkZtlUojW978eifWicvGOaNCngEtlELxkfJB6znj1X6TOhoC6d8QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1268949-REG/venom_group_686_quad_lipo_nimh.html/?ap=y&ap=y&smp=y&smp=y&lsft=BI%3A514&gclid=CjwKCAiA58fvBRAzEiwAQW-hzckq--ncPkZtlUojW978eifWicvGOaNCngEtlELxkfJB6znj1X6TOhoC6d8QAvD_BwE) \$240

[3:47 PM, 11/30/2019] **Dany P:** *It's a really nice charger, especially with the integrated power supply, but not a lot of power.*

[3:48 PM, 11/30/2019] **Dany P:** *Great for smaller packs*

### Advanced Choice <sup>(\*)</sup>

[4:44 PM, 11/30/2019] **Neil:** *I have two **Revolectrix PL-8 chargers**. Each one will do 40A and 1344W. But it's a single port charger. I can still charge multiple packs at a time on each charger with parallel charge cables. I can charge four of my 6S-3300 packs in each charger at the same time in 40 min. I could do it in 30 minutes, but my power supply would be maxed out. I prefer to operate my stuff on 80% max capacity. (Ed Note: I believe that Neil said this system requires a 24v DC supply.)*

## Conclusions

Throughout the article you may have noticed several marks that look a bit like footnote markers. Well they are actually "category markers" and I've been using to describe three different levels. The first <sup>(+)</sup> is for the basic system that is appropriate for a novice or new pilot who only flies a couple flights a week. The second <sup>(#)</sup> is for a more advanced pilot who doesn't want to spend a lot of money on unnecessary features. This type of system is for a pilot who wants the best. The third <sup>(\*)</sup> mark is for a bit more advanced system that supports more complex systems.

[5:22 PM, 11/30/2019] **Dany P:** *Mel the only thing I would add is that something good that you will use for a long time.*

Before closing, the Spektrum brand has recently released a line of "Smart" batteries. They use a computer chip in the battery that stores information that is useful for a charger to select the most appropriate charge voltage and current. It also lets the pilot know about the current battery status. The chip can even handle automatically putting the battery into a storage condition by using a balance circuit to lower the battery voltage after several days of not being used. So, if you have



ents. The first thing I'm going to make is a battery that does not want to be serviced. Finally, I want to quick charge

spend \$\$ on

se batteries use a Smart system to let the

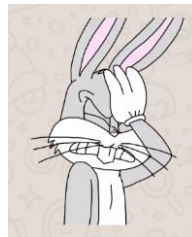
purchased, or considered purchasing any of these “Smart” batteries, then by all means look at a “Smart” Charger. They come in smaller, single port, DC powered units as well as larger, multi-port units.

No matter what you decide to use, it is important to understand the basics with regards to battery ratings; The number of cells, milli-amp-hours(mah), discharge C rating and charging C rating. Also, know the basic math to translate various elements involved, such as Volts x Amps = Watts... this will help you to make sure you are not over-taxing your charger or its power supply.

A couple cautions about charger specifications are in order. Be aware that the output wattage rating for a charger is directly related to the DC input voltage. This means if the charger is specified for a 40-volt input, but you only have a 12-volt or even a 24-volt power supply, then the charger will not be able to deliver the full output wattage. Also note that your charger may deliver more output wattage when connected to a 12-volt or 24-volt DC power source than it will from an AC power source. Finally, check carefully when considering a multi-port charger. Sometimes the output power spec is total output power, other times it is output per port (e.g. “4-ports, 100 Watts max” is not the same as “4-ports, 100 Watts per port”).

## 7.2 AIRPLANE RESCUE – WITH SNOW RAKE – THANKS RANDY GROSSMAN

You know, I was thinking about my handy-dandy aircraft retriever as I used my snow rake on my roof recently and



thought “Why didn’t I just buy a snow rake and re-engineer it a bit?”

Sure enough, doesn’t Randy save his struggling airplane with a snow rake the likes of which is pictured below. It’s 16 feet long. Two of those babies spliced and you’re good for 30 feet! Not sure if it would take the weight.





*Please submit your tips to me at [melsuarez@Verizon.net](mailto:melsuarez@Verizon.net) , on WhatsApp or text (617.335.9770) and put "TIP" in the text, in the subject or text so I can find it later. Don't everyone write at once! (just kiddin' 😊)*

## 8 FROM THE EDITOR – MEL SUAREZ

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### 8.1 SLOT CARS ARE BACK IN MY LIFE!

Well, wouldn't you know that the missus and the granddaughter both took to the often-male-dominated slot cars?

It was great to see grandma on the throttle going at it with me and later with her granddaughter, Evy. Haha!

The dogs were not as pleased and often smacked one of the cars around as it made a turn. Milo mostly...what a surprise (not).



### Support Your Local Hobby Store & Get Discount

This is one great hobby store and the owner, Bill Horton, has agreed to provide our Club with a discount. Show a current MCRCF membership card and receive a 5% discount for any purchase over \$25.



<http://abcrchobbies.com/>

Address: 11 Rockingham Rd, Windham, NH 03087

Phone: (603) 458-6481

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