

# HCRC Flyer

December 2023



AMA Charter #341

Cold weather... snowy ground... what better way to celebrate the season than building your own flying Christmas Tree?

I just couldn't resist this! Built with foam board, a small electric motor, and two servos. The smaller one is a single piece of foam board! There's a link below the picture for the article and downloadable plans for the small tree and a larger one.

I could see a squadron of these flying at the field!



Plans for these are available at:  
<https://forum.flitetest.com/index.php?resources/ft-flying-christmas-trees.366/>

UPDATE! Club field has received FRIA status! This means while at the field (beginning in March 2024) you do not need a Remote ID device onboard your planes. Thanks to all those involved in getting this approval!

## **From the President's desk.....**

Hello All, Just a quick few words *again*.....

You know it's a busy time if I'm doing back-to-back letters but as you are aware our beloved club is facing a difficult stretch ahead.

Last month I updated you all on the status of the club's field situation and some things have developed since then. As you may be aware your Officers & Board of Directors members continue to meet virtually each week to keep the relocation process moving forward. As of last month we were holding out hope that we would be able to continue flying on a reduced area of the field for next year. We have received an answer from Michael Hannigan (son of our land owner) that we will NOT be able to utilize any part of the field to fly off of. This obviously throws a big monkey wrench into our plans of providing a place to fly for our members next season.

Our Plan B, although not as attractive of an option, was to maybe fly on property at the abandoned Pilgrim Airport in Whately, MA. now owned by Nourse Farms. It's 20 minutes north of our field. The location would have been acceptable considering but a couple of your Officers went there and evaluated the property and came to the conclusion that using that property would work solely from a flying standpoint, there is sufficient open room to fly unobstructed but the problem is of getting the land in condition to fly off. It would be a huge undertaking especially for only a one year use. Clearing the weeds and rolling it flat for a dirt runway would be very labor intensive and we decided our efforts would be better used for the land next door that we intend to purchase. Also there were no secure structures in the area to store any equipment in. We would have to bring in a structure plus many other unforeseen hurdles to deal with. So we ruled this out as an option. We currently don't have any other locations that we know of that we could temporarily use that would require little-to-no preparation.

That leaves us with the only other choice for next season and that is to try and utilize our 70' strip of property to fly off of. I'm uncertain of the how the specifics of this will work at this point in time myself. But we're discussing how to make this work for the transition year in 2024 until the new property is ready to fly off probably later in the year, next year at the soonest. We will have an open discussion with the members at the next business meeting on 12/7. Come out if you have thoughts to share, please. Obviously we will need to fly smaller sized planes for the time being than we are maybe used to. Some preparations that would be needed by the spring is that we will need to cut down the large tree near the fire pit. This would need to happen anyways for the bigger picture. We will need a work party in the spring to clear back the brush and smaller trees to the north for a better approach. There will most likely be other modifications that will need to happen including a change for parking, etc.

So this is the position we find ourselves in and this leads me to the next topic. Finance. This is the usual time of year the club starts requesting members to pay their dues for the following season. We realize this not an ordinary year coming up for the club and its members as I just finished outlining to you. The club will only be able to provide limited flying, at best, and to some of you that may mean no flying at all with our limited space that will be available. We realize that some of you may even join other local clubs nearby, at least temporarily, to continue flying and we understand this. But we are also asking all our members to renew their membership with us for 2024 anyways. We need your continued support more than ever now, both physically but more so financially. In addition to your dues revenue the club is just about ready to start to offer a Shares buying program to raise money for the land purchase and we will definitely be needing your support to make this land deal a success. So we ask that you hang in here with us during these trying times. Thank you!

And as always I hope to continue to *see you out there!*

Mike

# HCRC Meeting Notes for the Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 Business Meeting



Quorum Present – 16 Members including 4 Executive Members present: Mike Shaw, Dan Kapinos, Gus Coelho, Bill Ewers, Pat Malone, Bob Prosciak, Dave Wartel, Mark Wasielewski, Lou Enselek, Shaun Kelsey, Ron Paul, Rick Thibault, Robert Tiffany, Mike Booth, Jack Dawson, and Wayne Dawson

Reading of the minutes from the previous month was waived. Club finances for the month of October were reported and approved.

The Executive Committee and Search Committee are meeting on a weekly basis. They are attempting to push the rental/purchase of the land next to our current property forward. We are currently discussing about seven acres extending from the road to the river.

The current landlord may allow us to have some small portion of the land to fly off of next year. This would ease the transition to the new property.

We are working on fundraising to support this land purchase.

1. Go Fund Me
2. 407C Charitable organization registration
3. Selling Land Shares similar to what was done ~20 years ago to purchase the land across the street from the field

All of the structures have been taken down and are stored in the sheds. We still need to clean the lawnmowers. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped dis-assembly the field.

A proposal to rent the small parcel on the other side of Honey Pot Road to Dennis Pipczynski for farming purposes was discussed.

Thanks to the mowing crew for their work keeping the field in excellent condition this year.

The Sanican is winterized and locked for the year.

Our FRIA approval was denied due to proximity to the Northampton Airport. AMA suggested we get a letter from the airport saying that we were good neighbors. That has been done and forwarded to AMA. We are back to waiting.

FRIA requirements have been pushed back six months to March 16, 2024.

Nominations for officers are as follows: Dave Lampron and Mike Shaw for President, Peter Cincotta for Vice president, Ron Paul for Treasurer, Bill Ewers for Secretary, Gus Coelho and Dan Kapinos for Board of Directors - Thanks to Ron Paul for preparing the meal for tonight's meeting.

# Flying News & Events

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **12/7** Business meeting at the VFW in Florence 7pm, We'll be electing officers and board of directors at this meeting. Come early for food, lazy pierogis by Chef Ron!
- **12/8** Annual Christmas Party at East Mountain Country Club, 6 – 11pm, see flyer for details and reservations
- **01/01** Annual frozen fingers fun fly at the field, 10am till your fingers freeze (see flyer)
- **01/04** Business meeting at the VFW in Florence 7pm, come early for food.





EAST MOUNTAIN COUNTRY CLUB  
1458 East Mountain Road  
Westfield, MA 01085

## Christmas at East Mountain

**Want to have a Christmas Party, but don't  
have enough people to book a facility?**

**Whether you have 5 people or 75, we have the  
solution to your problem.**

**We have reserved the following night exclusively for small groups of up to 75  
people. We provide the food and entertainment, you  
provide the fun!**

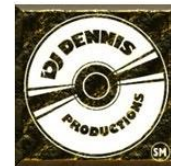
**Friday Night December 8, 2023**

**Social Hour 6-7 pm  
Deluxe Grand Buffet 7 to 8 pm  
Dancing 8 pm to 11 pm**

**Food: Deluxe Buffet. Includes incredible Beef,  
Chicken, Pasta and Seafood. Also includes  
Potato, Vegetable, Salad, Warm Rolls, Dessert,  
Coffee and Tea. Hot and Cold Hors D'oeuvres served during the social hour.**



**Musical entertainment provided by  
DJ Dennis Productions!  
Dancing & Fun!!!**



**For your comfort, seating will be limited to 200 people. Seating will be at  
round tables with up to 10 people per table. Please call Brenda at  
413-374-3434 as soon as possible to make your reservation**

**Price: \$50.00 per person  
(for your convenience, tax and gratuity are included.)  
[www.eastmountaincc.com](http://www.eastmountaincc.com)**



Back by request is the annual HCRC Christmas Party at East Mountain Country Club on 12/8/23 6pm-11pm. See the attached flyer for more details. If you're interested in attending send a check by snail mail made out to Michael Shaw 15 Overlea Drive, Springfield, MA. 01119 ASAP. Otherwise the deadline to pay by cash or check will be at the December business meeting on 12/7. Hope to see you there!

# Annual Frozen Fingers

## F.U.n fly

### January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

### At the field.

Weather permitting. There will be a fire for warming up, and burning junk airplanes. Chef Ron is making a pot of chili. Show up around 10 am. Leave when you are too cold to fly. See you there.



# DIY SKIS - FOR ANY PLANE

by [boren2fly](#) | February 14, 2018 – from Flitetest.com

It's winter here in Northern Utah and the flight fields are covered with snow. But we are not going to let the snow stop us from having some fun. If you have never had the opportunity to fly on the snow then you're missing out. Let's build some skis for that plane of yours and get outside.

## My Project and Method

I built two Bushwhacker swapables and I'm anxious to get skis on them. Since there is snow on the ground the maiden with these two will be on skis.



I'm going to use an old method I've been using for years. I built this pair of skis about 20 years ago and they are still working great. They can fit under your fuselage and tie on with the rubber bands you use to hold on your wing. Since I don't need landing gear for the Bushwhacker, I'll just need to build the skis. But if your plane doesn't have gear, then this is a great option.

**Size Matters!**



I'll need to determine how long and how wide to make my skis. You'll want your skis long enough to plow through the powder and wide enough to stay on top of the snow. But you don't want them so big that they are too heavy or cause too much drag. Here are some skis I bought and one that I built. With the method I'm going to show you, you can build for any size plane. For the Bushwhacker I'm going to start with a pair that's 1" wide and 9" long.



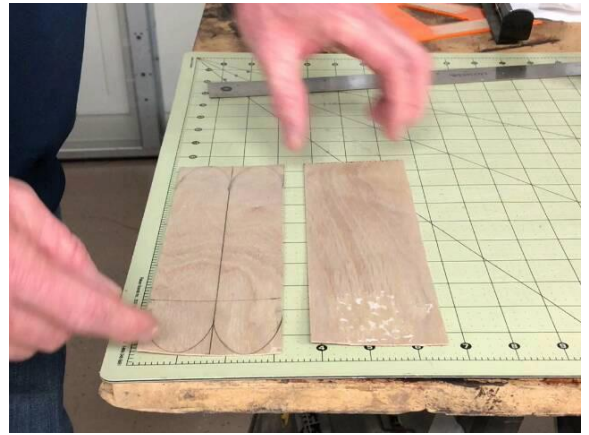
### Materials

We'll need some thin plywood for the skis. I'm using 1/32" plywood and I'll need two pieces to laminate together to make the bend in the skis. I'll also need a piece of Basswood for the strut. I'm using a piece 1/4" by 1/2" and 24" long. I will also need some CA glue, wheel collars, some fishing line, two small screws, and a couple of rubber bands.

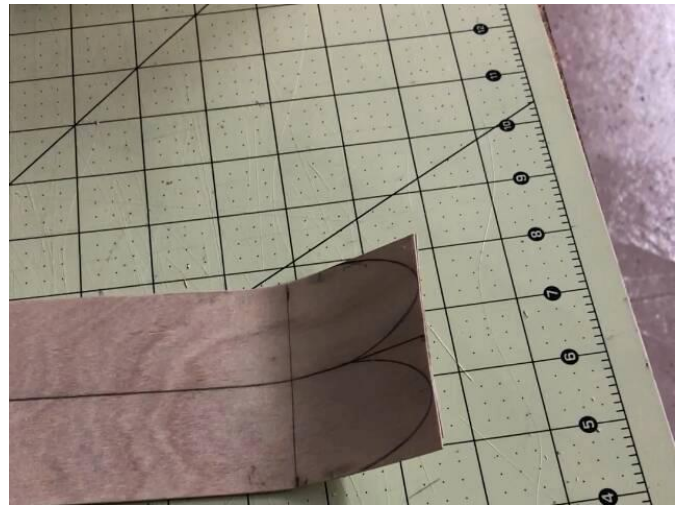


## Let's do this!

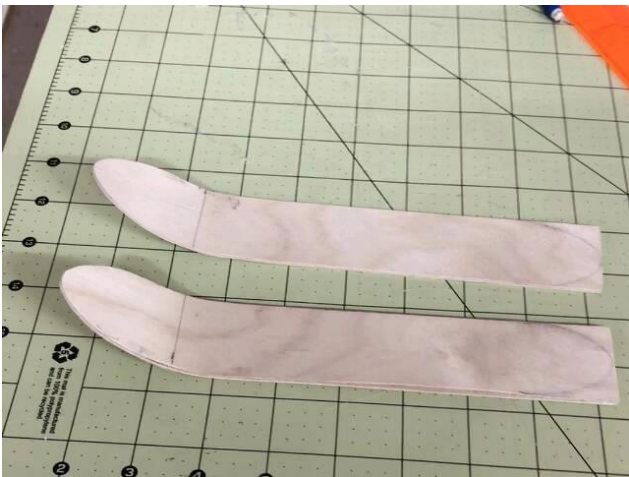
I'll laminate the two pieces together by getting them wet so they are pliable, then covering one sheet of plywood with CA glue and pressing the two sheets together. You can create the bend for the skis by placing them on a 2x4 at a 45 degree angle. Just hold them until the glue is dry. A minute or two should be long enough.



You can see that after they are dry they will hold their shape perfectly.



Next I'll cut them out and sand them to remove any rough edges.

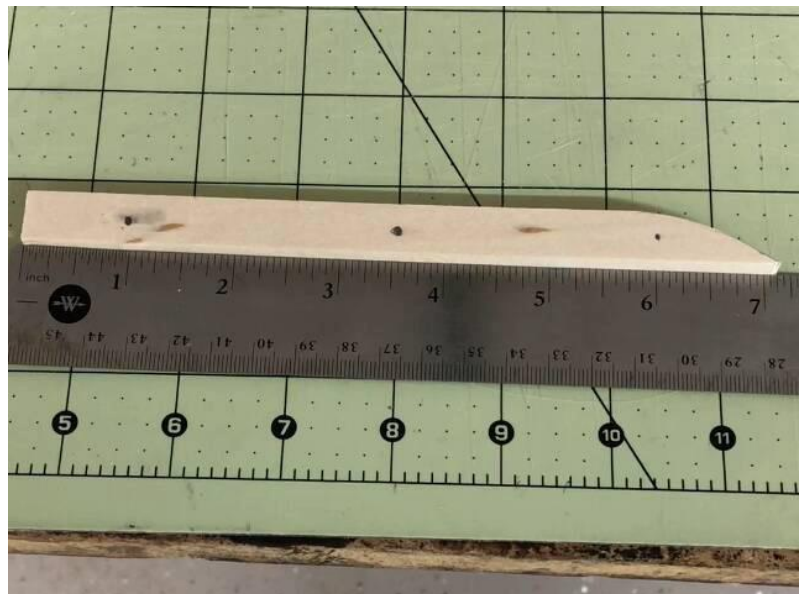


I'll then get the shape of the strut by placing it next to the ski and tracing out the curve.

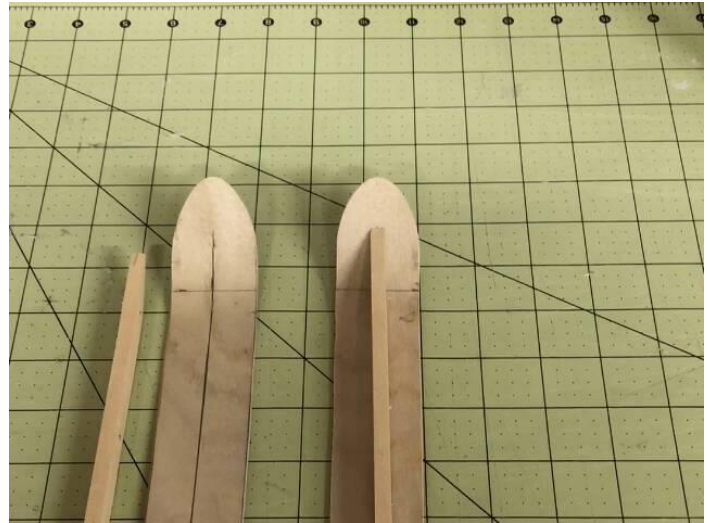


Once the struts are cut out they should match the curve of the ski exactly. Then cut the strut to length.

I'll need to drill the main hole in the center for the landing gear and one at the front to attach the fishing line. Finally, one partial hole in the back for the small screw to hold on the rubber band. Make sure the screw holes are on opposite sides of each strut.



Next glue the strut to the ski. Make sure that you have the screws on opposite side from each other. The rubber band will attach to the inside side of the ski.



I'll need a way to attach the fishing line and rubber band to the plane. For the Bushwhacker I put a servo push-rod through the bottom of the fuselage and made a bend at the end to attach them.



### Time for the Install



After some paint it's time to put them on my plane. I've used wheel collars on both sides of the ski so that it stays in one spot and tracks through the snow without sliding around. I put the fishing line through the hole in the front of the ski and wrapped it around the loop I made in the push-rod. I'll make sure that the plane is level when I tie them on so that the ski is not able to dip down in the front. This will help me prevent a nose over on takeoff or landing. Next I put the rubber band over the screw on the inside of the ski and wrap it around the push-rod.

## Time For Me To Fly

That's it. Pretty simple build and should work for any size plane. I'm sure there are many methods of keeping the ski level but this has worked for me for years. If you have suggestions, please share.

Let's get this bird in the air.



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