

# GDM

Gardner Municipal Airport

NOVEMBER 30 AM 11:30

## AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

**Date:** Wednesday, January 4, 2023  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Location:** GDM – Gardner Municipal Airport  
499 Airport Rd, Gardner, MA 01440  
Meeting will take place in the Pilot Lounge

### AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes from the December 7, 2022 meeting.
2. Old Business
  - AMA (Remote control aircraft)  
Presentation  
Gale Associates, Inc.  
Update Runway Project  
Update 5-year Plan & Master Plan  
Fire Alarm Repair  
Unable to coordinate a date.  
Grant Assurances document discussion  
Beacon Lights  
Airport Manager  
Airport Maintenance
3. New Business
4. Next Meeting- Wednesday, February 1, 2023
5. Adjourn Meeting

***NOTICE: The listing of Agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.***

**Andrew Argenio**  
**New England Vice President**  
3 Sheila Lane  
Smithfield, Rhode Island 02917  
(401) 575-6215 / 231-6901  
[amaflightsystems@gmail.com](mailto:amaflightsystems@gmail.com)



**Academy of Model Aeronautics**  
*Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts,  
New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont*  
[www.amadistrict-i.org](http://www.amadistrict-i.org)



**Associate Vice Presidents:**

Andy Figlar  
Shelton, CT  
(203) 513-8546  
[Figlar335@att.net](mailto:Figlar335@att.net)

Joan Liska  
Middletown, CT  
(860) 347-0257  
[Jliska9000@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Jliska9000@sbcglobal.net)

Tom Rocheleau  
Wethersfield, CT  
(860) 280-1701  
[trocheleau@cox.net](mailto:trocheleau@cox.net)

William Unghire  
Newton, CT  
(860) 978-5353  
[N1cnv@cloud.com](mailto:N1cnv@cloud.com)

Ray LaBonte  
Standish, ME  
(207) 892-7994  
[rplabonte@aol.com](mailto:rplabonte@aol.com)

Steve Goler  
Salem, MA  
(617) 373-0884  
[nipmuck2@comcast.net](mailto:nipmuck2@comcast.net)

Mark Montella  
Falmouth, MA  
(508) 457-4884  
[montellami@comcast.net](mailto:montellami@comcast.net)

Daren Hudson  
Greenland, NH  
(603) 674-5809  
[dth7@comcast.net](mailto:dth7@comcast.net)

Ted Wojcik  
Freemont, NH  
(603) 479-3799  
[tedwojick@comcast.net](mailto:tedwojick@comcast.net)

John Yassemedis  
Nashua, NH  
(603) 321-8442  
[jyassemedis@comcast.net](mailto:jyassemedis@comcast.net)

Steve Brehm  
Jamestown, RI  
(401) 423-1085  
[stbrehm@yahoo.com](mailto:stbrehm@yahoo.com)

Tom Lavoie  
N. Smithfield, RI  
(401) 824-6134  
[d2w4all@yahoo.com](mailto:d2w4all@yahoo.com)

Thomas Puma  
Clarendon, VT  
(802) 558-4439  
[usakingcat@aol.com](mailto:usakingcat@aol.com)

Gardner Municipal Airport  
499 Airport Road  
Templeton, Mass.  
Airport Commission  
Member: Robert R. Swartz, Jr.

RE: Airport Event Consideration

Dear Mr. Swartz,

My name is Andrew Argenio and I serve as an Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) executive board member and district vice president representing AMA members and clubs in New England. I was recently informed by one of our members Steve Baake that you and possibly other members of the commission may have an interest again in having AMA conduct a sanctioned Model Aircraft Flying Event at Gardner Airport.

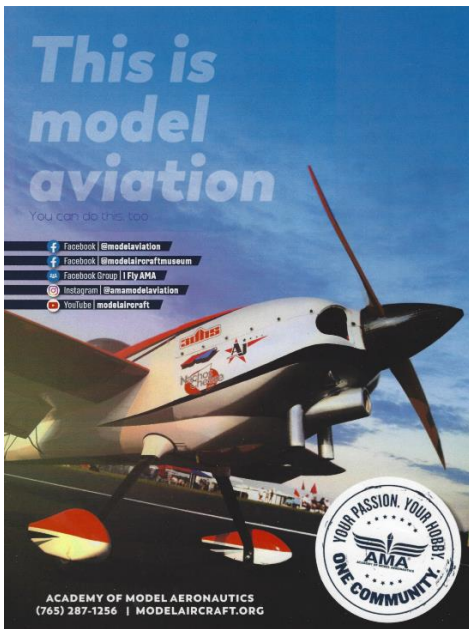
If the commission wishes to discuss possible AMA events we can attend the December 7 meeting or any future monthly meetings.

In well over a decade we have sanctioned and provided AMA insurance for a number of AMA Jet Rallies, Huckfests, and Giant Scale flying events at Gardner Airport that have been some of our most successful events not only for the pilots but for the many spectators that attended. We certainly would love to sanction events at Gardener if the opportunity is there in 2023 or going forward.

Although we continue to engage in airport events at Concord Airport, Beverly Airport, Mt. Washington Reginal, Plum Island Airport, Plymouth Airport, etc. Gardner's central location in New England always attracted attendees from throughout the district states and beyond. For any members of the commission who are not familiar with AMA events, we conduct or participate in at N.E. airports some images may be viewed below.

Thank you and the commission for any consideration and please call or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Argenio  
AMA DIVP  
401-575-6215



**AMA District 1**  
**Academy of Model Aeronautics**  
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

AMA National website: <https://modelaircraft.org>  
 AMA District 1 website: <https://amadistrict1.org>  
 AMA D1 Facebook Group: <https://facebook.com/groups/amadistrict1>  
 D1 website Home Page Features Button Links to "The Most Viewed Aeromodelling Channels"

**ABOUT AMA:**  
 The AMA is the world's largest aeromodelling membership association with 170,000 members, 2,450 chartered clubs, 2,800 flying sites, and the AMA sanctions over 2,000 flying events each year. AMA is dedicated to the promotion of model aviation as a recognized sport as well as a recreational activity that's fun and challenging.

AMA was founded in 1936 and in the past 85 years AMA's Safety Programming has been recognized by the FAA and the aviation community as exemplary in assessing and mitigating model aircraft flying risks. AMA's HQ and museum are located in Muncie, IN on 1,200 acres of land with 4 runways and multiple specialty areas for conducting National and International aeromodelling competition and fun-fly events.

AMA is a non-profit governed by a 13 member executive board of the 11 AMA District Vice Presidents, an Executive Vice President, and a President. District VPs are elected by members in their district while the President and Executive VP are elected by members from all the districts. District VPs appoint district AVPs to assist them in providing benefits and services to clubs and members in acquiring and retaining flying sites, attending events and club meetings, organizing and sponsoring club events including airshows, educational initiatives and participating in State or Municipal hearings on any proposed legislation that might impact AMA model aircraft flying.

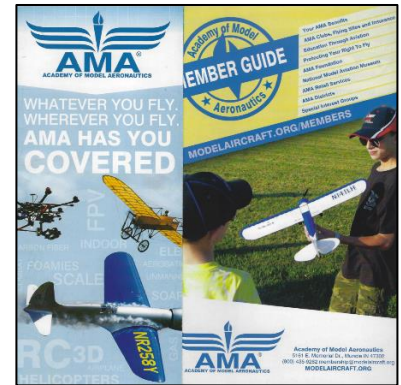
AMA's best assets are its members and their 2,800 flying sites on public, private and commercial property. Clubs are able to acquire flying sites because AMA provides \$5 million dollars of primary liability coverage for site owners and 2.5 million dollars of coverage for members. AMA clubs and members are divided into 11 districts in the United States. District 1 includes the 6 New England States which have 110 clubs and over 8,000 club members and 4,500 non-club members who are also FAA registered remote operators.

**WHY AEROMODELLERS JOIN THE AMA**

**FAA sUAS Regulations require Remote Pilots to Operate sUAS under the Safety Guidelines of FAA recognized Community Based Organizations/AMA**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MODEL AIRCRAFT FLYING IS AWESOME</li> <li>• LIABILITY INSURANCE UP TO \$2.5 MILLION</li> <li>• 2,450 AMA CLUBS IN USA</li> <li>• ACCESS TO 2,800 SAFE FLYING SITES</li> <li>• 110 AMA CLUBS IN NEW ENGLAND</li> <li>• OVER 2,000 SANCTIONED EVENTS/YR.</li> <li>• MEMBER, CLUB, &amp; SITE INSURANCE</li> <li>• WHATEVER YOU FLY &amp; WHEREVER</li> <li>• FLY MORE TYPES OF MODEL AIRCRAFT</li> <li>• NATIONAL &amp; INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRAFTSMANSHIP SATISFACTION</li> <li>• CAMARADERIE WITH OTHER HOBBYISTS</li> <li>• FLIGHT TRAINING PROGRAMS</li> <li>• STEAM YOUTH EDUCATION</li> <li>• SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS</li> <li>• AMA SAFETY PROGRAMMING</li> <li>• TURBINE JET WAIVERS &amp; CERTIFICATION</li> <li>• LARGE MODEL AIRCRAFT &amp; PILOT CERTIFICATION</li> <li>• FLY SAFER, LARGER, HIGHER, &amp; SAFER THAN ANY OTHER CBO!</li> </ul>
--	--

AMA SAFETY PROGRAMMING IS AUTHORIZED BY THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AND ENDORSED BY THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS ASSOCIATION & THE EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION



## Gardner Jan4, 2023 BOD and AMA Meeting:

After introductions of Gardner Airport BOD members and AMA officers and members, the AMA District VP, Andy Argenio, and the AMA members engaged in discussion with the BOD on having AMA-sanctioned RC flying events once again at the Gardner Airport.

We provided AMA handouts to the BOD members and talked about and showed photos of AMA's history of the variety of AMA events that we had conducted at Gardner and other New England airports. We discussed our FAA CBO status, safety programming, insurance, and how we conduct events from marketing to public engagement and the potential benefits for the airport and the community. We talked about food vendors, RV and trailer parking, camping, and possible spectator, parking, and pilot fees.

We understood that the BOD's interest was to bring activities back to the airport that would benefit the community and the airport. Rather than a specialty event, we felt that an "AMA District Sponsored Aeromodelling Festival" from Thursday thru Sunday featuring all the popular aeromodelling flying with ample time slots for compatible aircraft flying groups as well as times for mixed sport flying would have the best community appeal for both spectators and pilots. Of most importance were the dates that might be available for events this year that wouldn't conflict with the airport's two-month runway construction project that's scheduled to start the last week of June.

The 5 BOD members in attendance were impressed with our presentation and all voted YES to offering the AMA a 4-day event sometime around June before the construction on the runway starts or after. We emphasized that the sooner event dates could be confirmed the more time we would have to market the event and that if it were too late in the season we would have to consider 2024.

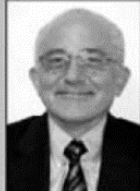
## District I

Andy Argenio, District I Vice President; [imaasaction@aol.com](mailto:imaasaction@aol.com)

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont



District I



**Andy Argenio**  
3 Sheila Ln.,  
Smithfield RI 02917;  
Home: (401) 231-6901;  
Work: (401) 231-5380

For a complete listing of district officers and volunteers, please visit the District I Web site at [www.amadistrict-i.org](http://www.amadistrict-i.org)

NEW ENGLAND states were the hardest hit by the rainstorm and flooding of March 29 through 31. Rainfall total was highest in Rhode Island with 9.97 inches.

I bring this up because my club's access road to the flying field is 1/2 mile in length and sustained considerable damage. In numerous sections, there are washouts across the road making passage to the flying field impossible.

AMA Document 714, the Club Disaster Assistance Program, is designed to grant immediate financial assistance to AMA chartered clubs that have flying sites damaged by a natural disaster. The purpose of the grant is to assist clubs in making their flying field once again accessible and usable for club members.

The grant is limited to \$500 per club and the club must provide adequate pictures and information on the application to qualify. Note that this is a grant and no repayment to AMA is necessary.

I mailed district clubs this message in early April and if your club flying site sustained damage, you might want to apply for this financial assistance.

District I will be sponsoring four flying events again this year. The two following events have no fees for pilots or spectators.

The first event is the Multi-Club Fly-In described in the following advertisement. I have written about this event before and you may recall that it was conceived by my friend, Bill O'Donnell, several years ago.

It has become an annual event growing larger with nearly 60 registered pilots representing more than a dozen District I clubs last year. The new officers of the South Shore Radio Control host club welcome guest fliers from throughout the district to attend and fly all types of RC aircraft.

The second event will be the popular annual Electric Fun-Fly & Air Show hosted by the Wintonbury Flying Club. This is our fourth year sponsoring a weekend event and it continues to get bigger and better each year.

Other sponsored events will appear in the next MA District I column.

Join us this flying season for what it has always been about: friendship, flying, and fun.

# MULTI-CLUB FLY-IN

## SATURDAY JUNE 5, 2010

AMA District I and South Shore RC Club Sponsored

9AM Open Flying for ALL Types R/C Aircraft



- All AMA Members welcome to fly!
- Large open area & grass runway

South Shore RC Club Field is located in Bridgewater, Massachusetts  
CONTACT: William O'Donnell CD (508) 473-4441 [bill@odonnellelectric.com](mailto:bill@odonnellelectric.com)

Everything from small electrics to Giant Scale aircraft will be flying at this popular event.

## AMA District I Sponsored

# "Electric" Fun-Fly & Air Show

Saturday & Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 2010

Hosted By: The Wintonbury Flying Club of Bloomfield, CT

[www.flywfc.org](http://www.flywfc.org)

- All AMA Members Free
- Huge Grass Runway
- Smaller Paved Runway
- RV & Trailer Parking
- Food & Refreshments
- Vendors Welcome
- Nearby Motels
- All Types of Electric Flying
- Awards & Prizes

Join us at one of New England's finest flying sites. Open flying starts at 9am. There will be a noontime Air Show and selected times each day to participate in group category flying of aerobatic, warbird, sport and jet style electric aircraft. A section of the site will be provided for electric helicopter flying.

**DON'T MISS THIS EVENT...** Over \$2,500 of Great R/C Products were Raffle'd Off at last year's event!

Club field is located north of Hartford. From I-91 take Exit 36. Turn west onto Park Avenue and proceed through four traffic signals. At the sharp left turn, go straight onto Wintonbury Avenue. Follow Wintonbury to the Seabury Retirement Community and take the first right then follow signs.

CONTACTS: Bob Enliger-Director (860) 644-5873 / Gerald Knoblauch CD (860) 658-1538  
[mmodelairplane@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmodelairplane@sbcglobal.net) / Andy Argenio-DVP (401) 231-5380 [brandshobby@gmail.com](mailto:brandshobby@gmail.com)

With a paved and grass runway, this event site is perfect for electric fliers.

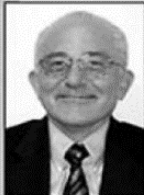
## District I

Andy Argenio, District I Vice President; [imaasanction@aol.com](mailto:imaasanction@aol.com)

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont



District I



Andy Argenio  
3 Sheila Ln.,  
Smithfield RI 02917;  
Home: (401) 231-  
6901; Work: (401)  
231-5380

For a complete listing of district officers and volunteers, please visit the District I Web site at [www.amadistrict-i.org](http://www.amadistrict-i.org)

AMA DISTRICT I is cosponsoring two events in July. The first is the Fun-Fly and Air Show at the University of Rhode Island, providing family activities, flying of all types of model aircraft, and free entry for pilots and helpers.

The second event is the Snap a Huckfest, limited to the flying of Giant Scale 3-D aircraft at the Gardner Airport. Watch the new Booty Shake competition with celebrity event director Elie Houayes, aka "Snap a Saurus."

Join us for friendship, flying, and fun!

### AMA District I Sponsored Fun-Fly & Air Show

Saturday & Sunday July 17 & 18, 2010  
At the University of Rhode Island Balloon Festival

- All AMA Pilots & Helpers Free
- Model Plane Flying 9am to 4pm Daily
- All Types of Model Aircraft
- Festival Food Court
- Fee for overnight RV parking
- Evening Balloon Rides
- Balloon Glow at Dusk
- Craft & Art Exhibits
- Kite Flying Show Area
- Antique & Classic Cars
- Spectacular Fireworks Sat. 9:30pm
- Live Music "Beaver Brown Band"
- Pony Rides & Petting Zoo
- Raffles & Prizes
- Carnival Rides & Games

Event location: Festival on the University of Rhode Island's Athletic Field, Route 138, Kingston, Rhode Island. Contact: Andy Argenio, District I vice president at [brandshobby@gmail.com](mailto:brandshobby@gmail.com); (401) 231-5380.

# SNAP A HUCKFEST 2010

JULY 30TH - AUGUST 1ST, GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

ONCE AGAIN ELIE "SNAP A SAURUS" TAKES THE CONCEPT OF A HUCKFEST AND BRINGS IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL! DO NOT MISS THE LARGEST AND MOST INSANE NORTHEAST 3D EVENT EVER HELD!

SPONSORED BY: AMA DISTRICT I

FEATURING A NEW FLYING CONTEST! BOOTY SHAKE A SAURUS

Event location: Flying site is at Gardner Municipal Airport, Templeton, Massachusetts. For more information, visit [www.flyinggiants.com](http://www.flyinggiants.com). Contacts: CD Elie Houayes, e-mail [vanalex@comcast.net](mailto:vanalex@comcast.net), (508) 801-7239; or Andy Argenio, District I vice president at [brandshobby@gmail.com](mailto:brandshobby@gmail.com); (401) 231-5380.

## District I

Andy Argenio, District I Vice President; [imaasanction@aol.com](mailto:imaasanction@aol.com)

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont



District I



**Andy Argenio**  
3 Sheila Ln.,  
Smithfield RI  
02917;  
Home: (401) 231-  
6901; Work: (401)  
231-5380

For a complete listing of district officers and volunteers, please visit the District I Web site at [www.amadistrict-i.org](http://www.amadistrict-i.org)

**YOU DON'T** want to miss this event. Join us for four days of action-packed flying, fun, raffles, prizes, and entertainment celebrating AMA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the Snaps 3D Showdown.

The photos below are from the 2010 Snap-a-Saurus Gardner event, which was awesome. This year's gathering, with all its additional activities, will be spectacular!

*South Shore R/C Club, OTIS Model Aero Club  
and AMA District 1 proudly present*

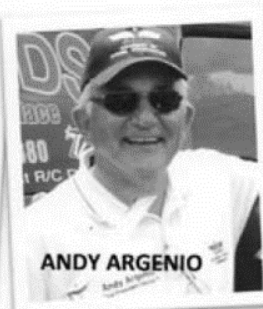
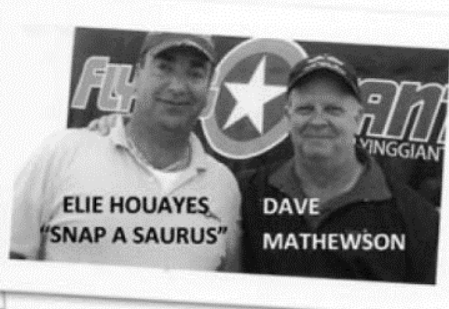
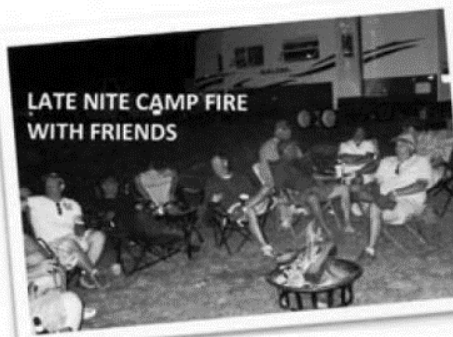
# SNAPS 3D SHOWDOWN

and  
**AMA 75th Anniversary  
Mega-Celebration**

## July 28-31, 2011

### Gardner Airport Gardner, Massachusetts

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.amadistrict-i.org](http://www.amadistrict-i.org) ©2011 rcakropilot





AMA District I Officers, Cubs, and Members Participate in Airport Airshows to Introduce the Public to the Awesome Sport of AEROMODELLING

## Sanford Regional Airport Maine Event



AMA SANCTIONS OVER 2,500 FLYING EVENTS ANNUALLY NATIONWIDE

[www.modelaircraft.org/events/calendar.aspx](http://www.modelaircraft.org/events/calendar.aspx)

Horizon Hobby in association with the Academy Model Aeronautics and Ray & Robin's Hobby conducted the Horizon Air Meet USA at the Sanford Regional Airport in Maine. Over 20,000 spectators including 700 students from area schools and 300 pilots and helpers attended the 4 day event.

JTEC  
RADIOWAVE & FLYING GIANTS present:

# SNAP-A-HUCKFEST

July 31 - Aug 2 Gardner Airport Gardner, MA

Once again the Flyinggiants.com crew invades the North East for another chapter in the HUCKFEST series!

**Three full days of 3D action!**

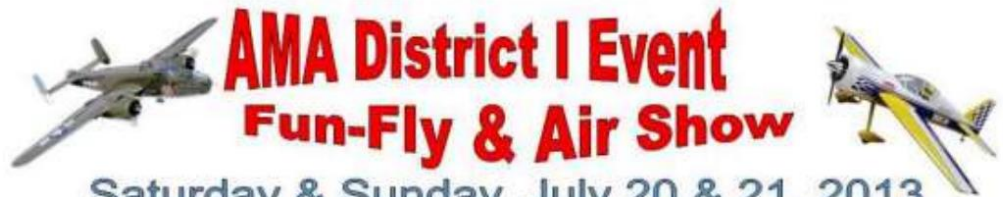
Come and fly with some of the best 3D pilots in the country.  
Or pull up a chair and watch the 3D action!  
Either way, you DO NOT want to miss this event!

Sponsored by  
District 1 AMA

For more info visit: [www.flyinggiants.com](http://www.flyinggiants.com)



**R/C PILOTS  
& GUESTS  
COME JOIN  
US AT THE  
BALLOON  
FESTIVAL.  
R/C FLYING  
FOR ALL  
TYPES OF  
MODEL  
AIRCRAFT  
FROM  
9AM-4PM**



# AMA District I Event Fun-Fly & Air Show

Saturday & Sunday, July 20 & 21, 2013  
At the University of Rhode Island Balloon Festival



- All AMA Pilots & Helpers Free
- Huge Grass Field
- Fee for overnight RV parking
- Festival Food Court & Barbecue
- Nearby Motels
- All Types of Model Aircraft
- Raffles & Prizes
- Evening Balloon Rides
- Balloon Glow at Dusk
- Craft & Art Exhibits
- Giant Kite Flying Show
- Corvette & Classic Cars
- Pony & Train Rides
- Carnival Rides & Games
- Spectacular Fireworks Sat. 9:00pm with Music live Concert Band!
- **Model Plane Flying 9am to 4pm Daily**
- Bawana Jim's Wild Animal Show
- Airborne Jugglers & Cannon Lady
- Kids Trout Fishing Pond
- Inflatable Rides

**EVENT LOCATION:** Festival on the URI Athletic fields off Route 138 in Kingston Rhode island. Festival information at Wakefield Rotary Club web site [www.southcountyballoonfest.com/events](http://www.southcountyballoonfest.com/events) AMA Event Flying information contact Steve Brehm District I AVP at [stbrehm@yahoo.com](mailto:stbrehm@yahoo.com) HM-401-423-1085 or CELL-401-338-1445

**DIRECTIONS:** Event is on University of Rhode Island campus (30 miles South of Providence).

**From the north,** take I-95 south to Exit 9 (Route 4 south); follow Route 4 to Route 1 South. Stay on Route 1 at the intersection with Route 138 take right West to URI on right side enter at lower campus Plains Road entrance on right and follow signs to R/C parking area.

**From the south,** take I-95 North to Exit 3A (route 138 East). Continue east on route 138 to URI campus on left enter left on lower campus Plains road entrance and follow signs to R/C parking area. **For Info Contact:** AVP CD Steve Brehm at [stbrehm@yahoo.com](mailto:stbrehm@yahoo.com) or (401) 338-1445.

**FREE ENTRY PASS**

SCRC CLUB MEMBERS

PILOTS & HELPERS

**2013 BALLOON FEST**

**FREE ENTRY PASS**

SCRC CLUB MEMBERS

PILOTS & HELPERS

**2013 BALLOON FEST**

**FREE ENTRY PASS**

SCRC CLUB MEMBERS

PILOTS & HELPERS

**2013 BALLOON FEST**

# Gardner Municipal Airport Mass.



Jet Meet 2015

# Plum Island Airport Mass.



Runway →

AMA Pilots buddy box groups of spectators trying RC plane flying.

# Concord Municipal Airport NH



# Beverly Regional Airport Mass.



# Mount Washington Airport NH



Rutland County RC Flyer's Former Fair Haven Airport

