



# NEWS AT THE TOP

FEBRUARY 2025

## From the Editor

I missed it last year and I am going to miss it this year - an RC Aircraft Scale Building Seminar. Before work used to get in the way, now it's vacations. Check the details on page four of the newsletter. I heard from a few that attended last time that it was really good.

Membership renewal is over – finally. While it went to the end of February, we did lose six members this year. I will give a complete report at the April meeting.

Also in the newsletter is an update from Frank Fanelli on the STEM program he is running. He has proposed an RC demo at the Hardyston field in early June and flight training for any kids or parents with interest during the summer. Hopefully we will get some more members from this.

At the January meeting, a new member, Eril Cussen (grandson of Jack Squire) proposed that we have a Water-Fly at Mountain Lake. He was instrumental in getting the venue and Pat put in the paperwork with the AMA for the event. The Water-Fly will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 4:30 pm. Landing fee is \$10.

The event is in the process of being sanctioned. More information to follow as we get closer to the event.

The address is 137 Lakeside Dr W, Belvidere, NJ 07823 [Click here for directions](#).

We will need volunteers. If you want to help out, send me an email or give me a call at 908 256-2342.

The Lebanon RC Flea Market is over. I didn't take any pictures, but there were many nice planes for sale. Some of the planes for sale had low process.

The crowds were light. When they opened the doors for attendees, I could not tell. Joe Florio and I had a couple of tables and we both sold some items. I saw a few old friends and made a couple of new ones.

The next show is in Hamburg. I include a flyer in the newsletter. The date is March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The old saying is if it didn't sell at Lebanon, it will be on sale at Hamburg for less. I could attest to that. Last year I got a Hanger 9 Corsair for \$130.

**Hope to see you flying soon.**

# January 2025 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. All of the officers were present. There were 14 members. The minutes from the previous meeting were read without corrections. One of our founding members was present at the meeting – Jack Squire. It was great to see him. He is 91 years old and is still very active God bless him.

**Treasurers Report:** The December beginning balance was \$10350.12. The ending balance of \$10,303.12. There is a more detailed report further in the newsletter. An annual report was filed with the Sate of NJ.

**Field Reports:** There were no field reports; however, Pat mentioned that Frank Fanelli will need some help mowing Hardyston this coming flying season.

**Membership Report:** Our annual membership drive is underway. We have two applicants so far this year. Brad Noble and Eric Cussen (the grandson of Jack Squire).

**Unfinished Business:** Frank Fanelli is going to start the STEM program soon. Watch for NOTUM's indicating that we cannot fly due to Trump in the area at his Bedminster golf course.

## New Business

- A committee was formed to go over the club constitution and bylaws and update them.
- An audit of the treasury will be done soon.
- The next meeting will be on April 17<sup>th</sup>
- Anthony talked about a Facebook Group be formed for club members only. It will be a forum for members to communicate and form meetups etc.
- Lee Bender donated a picnic table to Hardyston Field
- Eric Cussen is going to look into getting Mountain Lake for a Float Fly. If we get the venue, we have a few volunteers to help run it. Of course, we need a few more members.
- Brad Noble talked about having an indoor flying facility. Mike Srsich is going to look into getting a facility.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

## CONTACT THE TOP O' NEW JERSEY

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## Meeting Schedule for 2025

<b>January 16th</b>	Andover Borough Senior Center
<b>February</b>	No Meeting
<b>March</b>	No Meeting
<b>April 17th</b>	Andover Borough Senior Center
<b>May 15th</b>	Reynolds
<b>June 19th</b>	Hardyston
<b>July 17th</b>	Reynolds
<b>August 21th</b>	Hardyston
<b>September 18th</b>	Andover Borough Senior Center
<b>October 16th</b>	Andover Borough Senior Center
<b>November 20st</b>	Andover Borough Senior Center
<b>December</b>	No Meeting

**The next meeting will be on April 17th at 7:30 pm at the Andover Borough Senior Center.**

## Treasurer's Report January 2025

The December beginning balance was \$10350.12. There were no collections for the month. Expenses for the month were \$47 for field maintenance at Reynolds Field.

The result is an ending balance of \$10,303.12

Reserves are as follows:

Encumbered for 2024 Operations	\$1456
General Reserve	3,847
Reynolds Field Reserve	3,000
Business Reserve	<u>2,000</u>
Total	\$10,303

Summary: We stayed within budget. Saved a little money on mowing because of the dry spell.

**Our Annual Report was filed at the beginning of the month.**

# Water Fun Fly

The Top O' New Jersey is having a Water Fun Fly at the Liberty Township Beach at Mountain Lake.

**May 18<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am to 4:30 pm

**Landing fee is \$10**

Bring a float plane to fly off the scenic lake.

Bring R/C Items to Sell or Trade.

Spectators are welcome.

More information is to come as the event gets closer.

**Location: 137 Lakeside Dr W, Belvidere, NJ 07823**

Pat Rizzuto is the Contest Director.

Email us if you have any questions to [toponewjersey.org](http://toponewjersey.org)



Hamburg, PA AMA Club #573

**TCWS Annual Swap Meet  
Saturday, March 22nd 2025  
Leesport Farmers Market  
312 Gernants Church Rd.  
Leesport, PA 19533**

## AMA members in the Region

I want to invite you to a unique event on Saturday, March 29, 2025, that all aeromodelers will enjoy!

The RC Aircraft Scale Building Seminar is your opportunity to meet and learn from national, competition-level model builders. The event is presented by the [Mid-Hudson RC Society](#) (MHRCS) and the [National Association of Scale Aeromodelers](#) (NASA). MHRCS is the same great group of modelers that bring you the annual Rhinebeck Jamboree, and NASA is AMA's official [Special Interest Group](#) (SIG) for scale aeromodeling, supporting and helping scale modelers nationwide. This event is your opportunity to learn tips, tricks, and techniques that will help with any model aircraft.



The flyer features logos for MHRCS and NASA at the top. The main text reads: "RC Aircraft Scale Building Seminar, Saturday March 29, 2025, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (with lunch break), Poughkeepsie United Methodist Recreation Mall, 2381 New Hackensack Road (RT. 376) Poughkeepsie, NY 12603". The theme is "DREAM IT .....BUILD IT" vs. "ADD TO CART .....BUY NOW". Topics include CAD/Laser cutting, composite materials, and vacuum forming. Contact information for Tom Lowrie and Gerry Garing is provided at the bottom.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, March 29, 2025 when the seminar will be presented at the [Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church](#), 2381 New Hackensack Rd, (route 376), Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Please pass along this email to your fellow aeromodelers and don't miss this great event.

**[Eric Williams](#)**  
**AMA Vice President**  
**District II**

## STEM Update by Frank Fanelli

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) is an increasingly familiar and important educational initiative in middle and high schools. One of the more popular aspects in its broad scope is aviation, from modeling to full scale.

Thinking that getting involved in it might help increase the diminishing club membership led me to propose an aviation themed STEM program in a local school, the Franklin Borough close to the Hardyston field. So I met with the principal, J.R. Giachhi, and the STEM teacher, Laura Roberts, in late Spring last year to pitch the program and its scope.

They enthusiastically endorsed it and after some planning it was scheduled to begin in the second and third trimester for the eighth grade. So far it looks like there will be 60 students in all. It will run for 2 weeks each trimester and will entail simple aerodynamic theory and experiments; paper airplanes; simple free-flight gliders and propeller models; radio control instruction; quadcopters; culminating in a field trip. A potential site includes Sussex Airport. That's a brief outline and I'm asking for the club's support in the following ways: back issues of Model Aviation and/or Model Airplane News; or perhaps donating a retired RC trainer type aircraft.

The flying portion of the program will mostly take place in either the large gym in the school or the football field at the side of the school building. There's ample space in each for the free-flight stuff and small, slow flying RC ships since the Franklin school was once K-12 and the gym size is more than ample.

Hopefully the kids' involvement may pique the interest of some parents, as well as the kids, and bring new members into the club. The academic part of the program could be followed by a broader instruction period at the Hardyston field--only because it's just a few miles from Franklin--during the late Spring and through the Summer.

This may be the opportunity for any one of the kids to discover an interest that leads to a career in aviation or a hobby in modeling. There certainly have been some notable people that climbed the rungs of modeling into illustrious careers, flying, designing, or maintaining aircraft. Who knows, it may lead to another Hoot Gibson or Sean Tucker or Burt Rutan.

Since I wrote this, I'm just completing the second trimester program and will continue it in late April for the third trimester. The kids have enjoyed it and learned some basic things about aircraft. I've proposed an RC demo at the Hardyston field in early June and flight training for any kids or parents with interest during the summer. This is an investment in the club's future so I hope you can support it in any way you can or even get involved.