



NEWS AT THE TOP

May, 2017

Editor's Comments:

A News quote from the AMA:

As you've probably heard by now, a federal appeals court today struck down the FAA's registration requirement for recreational model aircraft.

Today's Court ruling is effective immediately. As such, if you have not registered with the FAA, you are no longer required under the law to do so. For those of you who have already registered with the FAA, you may be wondering what this means for you. We are currently working to obtain answers from the FAA and will share more information as it becomes available.

Please keep in mind that this is a fluid situation and there is always the possibility of a renewed push in Congress to compel federal registration for model aircraft. If that happens, rest assured that AMA will continue to advocate for your interests and keep you well informed every step of the way. We have repeatedly argued that federal registration for our community is duplicative and unnecessary, as our members already register their model aircraft with AMA. In addition, our 80-year history of safe and responsible flying demonstrates that we're not the problem. We shouldn't be burdened by overly broad regulations.

President's Comments:

Our flying season is well underway, and I hope that members of our club are having a great time. I know that there have been some difficulties with field availability at Squatrito, but I have tried to resolve these problems, hopefully to our satisfaction. Certainly we have a second field to use not more than 30 minutes from Squatrito, which is in excellent shape. Right now we are able to use Squatrito until the new field is ready for use providing there are no scheduled activities for Waterloo Village. Members, please make sure that notifications from Tony about field availability are followed as directed.

Speaking of Reynolds field Tony has scheduled a work party to fine rake and collect stones that might interfere with landings and take offs. Members have received a separate notice - please try to attend. At present we have had extraordinary luck with the weather. Seed and fertilizer that has been laid down has received substantial rainfall, and Mike has been on top of the cutting. Additional seed was put down, and again we had substantial rain. The field is doing well, and we will let you know when flying will be transferred completely to Reynolds.

Apparently we are going to have to contend with Notams regarding field shut-downs due to the President's flying schedule into Bedminster. All fields seem to be within the Notam area, and we are obligated to respect the shutdown. Tony has told me that for the first time, state officials and local police have visited Squatrito to check. I know it is an inconvenience, but please respect the Notam. Not doing so and being caught will put the club at risk as well as the members.

See you soon.... Pat

May, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. Pat and Mike were absent. Anthony and Craig ran the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurers Report:

March's opening balance was \$17,985.00. After debits and credits, the closing balance was \$17,246. A more detailed report is in the newsletter.

Field Reports:

Squatrito is in good flying shape. Tick-rid was put down to control the ticks there. Same goes for Hardyston. At Hardyston, Mike redid the kit for going onto the property adjacent to the flying field. Remember to call the farmer before going onto the property and to wear the safety vest - you may be shot if you don't (by accident). Grass is growing on Reynolds Field.

Safety:

Check for ticks before you get into your vehicle. Anthony got a tick from his car two days after visiting Squatrito Field. Anthony also mentioned that Pat is selling insecticide infused clothing that may help.

Membership:

We took in three more applicants, bringing the total to six. One more is on the way from a previous member who left the club years ago.

Old Business:

The Club will have a Special Use Permit before the week is out for Reynolds Field. Following that, a Land Management Review (LMR) will be submitted from the input Anthony put together a couple of months ago. While we can fix the field for flying, grading the runway extension, fixing the road and cutting trees will have to wait for the LMR. This could take months. This is why grass was planted on the field. We have no lease or permit to fly at Squatrito. We could be asked to leave at any time. Cars may be parked on the runway from the Blues Fest on May 20th and 21st. The field may be not flyable as a result.

New Business:

Anthony asked how many members received a NOTEM email from the FAA a couple of weeks ago informing them that they could not fly because a VIP was in the area. The NOTEM stated that if you were in 30 nautical miles from Solberg Airport, you could not fly your plane. Since many did not receive the email, Anthony will send out a notice in the future. Anthony then read a memo from Mike DiGennaro. The whole memo will be included on page 3.

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Anyone remember this original type of radio transmitter?



(Continued from page 2)

Bill Mitchell brought in a Fly Baby for a show and tell. It was powered by an Evolution GT10 gasoline engine. The engine is about the equivalent of an OS 55. John Morgan brought in a real old radio and talked about how it worked. Picture of both are in the newsletter

From Mike DiGennaro, regarding FAA TFRs/ NOTAMS & The Visiting Members program

Fellow AMA District 2 club,

You have been contacted because your club is located within a 30 nautical mile radius where the federal government has and will most likely continue to issue FAA TFRs that ground ALL RC aircraft in your area.

As you know in the beginning of May the FAA grounded everyone in a 30nm radius centered at the Solberg NJ VOR station for a few days. What you may not know is that these groundings may become a regular occurrence throughout the spring and summer.

With the future in our area holding a bleak outlook for the RC hobby there is however some good news from a program called "Visiting Members" where clubs outside of the affected zone were contacted and asked to allow airfield access to AMA pilots who are grounded by the FAA during VIP TFRs issued for Presidential protection. These "affected clubs" are now the focus of contact to bring everyone up to speed and to impart the generosity of your brother clubs in the AMA District 2.

The list of "Host" clubs is not yet completed as I wait for responses from many dozens of potential host clubs, additionally much of the logistics are not yet settled. Meanwhile I would like your club to consider issuing ID cards to its members (unless you already do) so that members can show proof of membership in a valid AMA club when visiting a host club as a guest pilot. I would also like the folks who visit these host clubs regularly consider joining as a full member as these TFRs could continue for 4 to 8 years.

There is much more information to follow as this brand new program unfolds and debugs. I stand by to answer any questions you may have. Below you will find more details about the FAA and the TFRs you can share with club membership.

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Event Schedule for 2017

Monthly Meeting	
January 19, 2017	
February 16, 2017	
March 16, 2017	
April 20, 2017	
May 18, 2017	
June 15, 2017	
July 20, 2017 Hardyston	
August 17, 2017 Squatrito	
September 21, 2017	
October 19, 2017	
November 16, 2017	
December 21, 2017	

***The next club meeting will be
on June 15th at
Andover Senior Center***

March / April 2017

March's opening balance was \$17,985.00. Collections for March and April totaled \$237.00, represented by Dues \$210 and Fifty/Fifty \$27. Expenses for the 2 months totaled \$976.17 as follows: AMA \$360, Squatrito Field Maintenance \$138.88, State of NJ \$85.50, and Reynolds Field \$391.79. The result is an ending balance of \$17,245.83.

Reserves are as follows:

Encumbered for Operations	\$6,508
General Reserve	\$3,000
Event Reserve	\$2,000
Reynolds Field Reserve	<u>\$5,738</u>
Total	\$17,246