



NEWS AT THE TOP

April, 2019

President's Comments - April 2019

One of life's mysteries is that when a date is selected some two to three months prior to that date, we can be almost certain that it will rain on that particular date. It was unfortunate that we found it necessary to cancel the dedication ceremonies for Reynolds Field and we are looking at a tentative date of June 8 or 9. We will discuss these dates and once selected an e-mail will be sent to all members.

Speaking of Reynolds Field, a special thanks to those members who worked so hard on repairing the road and drainage areas in need of repair. Scott Geller, John Skewes and Joe Florio did a great construction job in making these repairs which were needed so badly. Please remember that following a heavy rain, the field may not be useable until the road is allowed to dry a bit and that a lot of hard work that went in to the road can be destroyed if we drive on it too soon.

Speaking of the field, I would like to inform the membership that we have received the AMA flying field development grant in the amount of \$783.56. Tony has deposited the check and also advised me that we have received the lease from the State of New Jersey for Reynolds Field. Along with the check we also receive a very nice letter which will be posted on our web site congratulating us and advising us that our success story will be mentioned in a future AMA magazine.

On a less positive note, we must remember that we are a self-policing club and that our flying safety record has been excellent due in large part to the efforts all of us make to fly safely and keeping club safely rules in the forefront. If members are uncomfortable in confronting a member who is flying in an unsafe manner, please speak to a club officer so we can address the problem. However, it has been brought to the attention of the club officers that some club members at Reynolds Field are not using the portable barriers which have been made available. Not to do so exposes the flyer to a possible runaway plane on the ground not to mention nearby members who may be in the area preparing their planes for flight. Let's use these barriers; they are there for a reason. Further, members must also remember that flying over the pit area has always been prohibited and is dangerous to all members as well as flyers on the flight line. Please follow the appropriate flight pattern on left to right or right to left configurations.

Many of our members have devoted a lot of time and effort in developing the field, not to mention the funds that the club has expended. We addressed the field layout and know that there would be a slope to come up from the parking area to the flight line and pit area. It was decided that we could unload our vehicles and then place them in the parking area. Apparently, some members are parking their vehicles on the slope to avoid carrying planes up the slope the flight line. If one member does this and others follow in the same way, we are going to damage or destroy any grass on the slope which will lead to erosion during rain.

Now if it would stop raining for a few days maybe we can get some flights in.

Secretary's Report - March 2019 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. Pat and Mike were absent; Tony ran the meeting. There were 12 members present. There were no corrections to the minutes, and they were approved as read.

Treasurers Report:

February's opening balance was \$13,574.10. The ending balance was \$14,413.56. A more detailed report is in the newsletter.

Field Reports:

Do not drive on the roads to either field if they are wet and muddy.

Reynolds Field:

Reynolds – Open - Major repairs were made to the road by Scott Geller and John Skewes

Hardyston Field: – Open

Membership:

Rick Pilotte is the only applicant so far.

111 members on the club roster

91 Dues paying (1 Applicant included)

5 Officers

11 Life (5 Local)

2 Junior (1 active)

1 Web Officer

1 Leave

We lost 17 members – one was a life member.

There were a few members that passed recently – Joe Russo, late last year; George Sanford – member that moved a few years back; and lastly, John Marx.

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Wanted – Flight Instructors

There were a few members that joined the club that did not get out to learn to fly this past year at Reynolds Field. There were a few reasons – field was closed in the early part of the season, Trump visits, and a lack of instructors.

If you are a seasoned pilot with good flying skills, and of course patience, contact me at toponewjersey@comcast.net if you are interested. Training days at Reynolds field are Wednesday afternoons.

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Old Business:

The field dedication and Anniversary is still on for May 5th. Repairs are being/have been made to the road.

Pat and I are still working on the required documents for the lease. We had to refile for an IRS tax exemption.

Grant Money has not been received yet; Pat will check on the status.

The event that we were planning for late August date had to be canceled – conflict with the Bridgewater Club. Still no word from the AMA on flying at an AMA sanctioned field when Trump is in town.

Safety – No report

New Business:

The AMA sent out new rules for flying at an Event with a turbine or plane weighing more than 55 pounds.

We're looking for ideas to make/save money for the club – maybe some kind of fund raiser. Partner up with a full-size Airshow as we did in the days past with Sussex.

CONTACT THE TOP O' NEW JERSEY

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Squatrito Field Chairman:

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Event Schedule for 2019

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monthly Meeting | |
| January 17, 2019 | |
| February 21, 2019 | |
| March 21, 2019 | |
| April 18, 2019 | |
| May 16, 2019 | |
| June 20, 2019 | |
| July 18, 2019 Reynolds | |
| August 15, 2019 Hardyston | |
| September 19, 2019 | |
| October 17, 2019 | |
| November 21, 2019 | |
| December 21, 2019 | |
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***The next club meeting will be
on May 16th at
Andover Seniors Center***

Treasurer's Report - April, 2019

February's opening balance was \$13,574.10. Collections for the 2-month period totaled \$1,506, represented by Dues \$1,470 and 50/50 \$36. Expenses for the same period totaled \$666.54 represented by AMA \$280, State of NJ \$166.54, and Andover Borough \$200. The result of the above is an ending balance of \$14,413.56.

Loss of members has created a dues shortfall of \$1,120.00 compared to budget. As a result, we will have to keep a close watch on spending for the year.

Reserves are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Encumbered for Operations | \$ 5,575 |
| General Reserve | \$ 2,500 |
| Event Reserve | \$ 2,000 |
| Reynolds Field Reserve | \$ 4,339 |
| Total | \$14,414 |