



NEWS AT THE TOP

March/April 2020

From the Editor

For the past year and a half, Ron Zielensky has been battling cancer. I found out on Monday 4/27, that he passed away peacefully the previous evening.

Ron was a good friend of mine for over 30 years and a member of our club for as long. He was a good friend to the club, helping with the newsletter for 29 years. He also helped out with club events and work parties. He built the frequency board we all used at Squatrito Field for years and he and I built the board dedicated to Bill Reynolds at Reynolds Field.

We carpooled to club meetings and catch up with our lives. He always had good stories to tell. He was always delightful and cheerful.

Ron was a woodworker and craftsman. Aside from the kitchen cabinets he built for me, I have many crafts he made. Two of my favorites were door chimes and a heart shaped jewelry box. A few years back, he and I built a very large model airplane building bench. I have been using it for years and am currently building a ¼ scale Nieuport 17 on it.

Because of the Corona Virus, there was only a virtual service for Ron on Wednesday, 4/29 at Our Lady of the Mountain Church. He was buried on Thursday 4/30 with limited attendees. Rest in peace Ron. I, along with many others, will miss you.

President Comments April 2020

Welcome to spring Top of NJ club members, I want to take this opportunity to say that I hope you are well and safe. If you are like many friends that I have spoken with they clearly would like to reboot 2020 and start all over again. The Covid-19 virus has I am sure been a major concern in all our lives. Most of us are well into the age group that seems to be the most sensitive but if we are in our basements working on our latest projects, we can avoid those unnecessary contacts which might prove risky. Please be safe and careful.

This weekend the governor will be opening state parks which will include our flying fields, now if only the weather would cooperate. Since Mike has been away and unable to return due to the quarantine, Hardyston may be difficult to fly. Mike plans to be back sometime this week and will try to get to the fields as soon as possible. If in fact we do have an opportunity to fly either of our fields please remember to practice social distancing on the flight line and the use of masks when not flying. We will also continue to see when we can safely resume our regular meeting schedule. If not at the Andover Sr. Citizen Center than at our fields for the summer meeting schedule. Once a decision has been reached all members will be notified.

I continue to speak with our other club officers about the status of the AMA District II Fun Fly August 23 and 24th. We have about before a final decision must be reached and prior to that time I will be talking with Eric Williams to hear his thoughts as the AMA will be committing funds to this event.

In closing I am sorry to have to inform the club of the passing of Ron Zielensky this past weekend. Ron fought a valiant battle with cancer and his passing will be a source of sorrow to all of us. Ron served the club as publisher of the newsletter and his positive attitude should be a source of inspiration to all of us.

Flying Fields Opening

With the Governor opening up state parks on this coming Saturday May 2nd, so will our flying fields. There will be restrictions. Members must maintain social distances and wear a mask. Members not following these restrictions will have to leave. The safety and health of all of our members is most important.

I am sure all of you have been wearing masks as you shop for food. The masks don't have to be like the N95 ones, just a simple one will do. My wife made a few while we are waiting for the ones we ordered online.

In Memory
Ron Zielensky



Henry Ronald Zielensky (Ron) was born on September 11, 1943 in Dover, New Jersey. He was the son of Henry and Mary (Polyak) Zielensky.

He was part of the Dover High School class of 1961 and the Trenton State College class of 1965.

On December 26, 1966 he married Trudy Connelly. He proudly served in the [United States Air Force](#) (Captain) from 1966 to 1971. He taught grades 6 and 8 from 1971-1978 in the Dover school system.

Ron was an avid racquetball player/owner/manager of Olympic Racquetball and Health Club in Randolph NJ from 1979-1988. He designed and built their double geodesic dome home in Long Valley NJ in 1982.

He was a computer programmer for Prudential and then New York Life insurance companies until his retirement in 2000. He loved his first car, a 1962 Corvair convertible, and when he turned 70 he got a similar 1962 Corvair convertible and joined the NJ Corvair Enthusiasts club.

He flew model airplanes with the Top O' NJ RC model airplane club. He enjoyed playing bridge, gardening, and creating stained glass projects.

Ron was a country western line dancing enthusiast since 1993. He was a Eucharistic minister at Our Lady of the Mountain Church in Long Valley.

He and Trudy enjoyed traveling and visiting all fifty states. They especially enjoyed their many cruises.

He was an accomplished woodworker. A special highlight of his life was when he built the altar, baptismal font, ambo, and other wooden structures for the remodel of Our Lady of the Mountain Church in Long Valley using wood from some of the original pews.

For the last year and a half he fought a brave battle with pancreatic cancer with a positive, cheerful attitude and a smile on his face. He left this life peacefully on April 26, 2020 at the age of seventy-six.

He leaves behind his beloved wife Trudy, Aunts Olga Wood (Hackettstown) and Alyce Polyak, (Rockaway Township), many cousins, nieces and nephews, his dachshunds (Maksie and Minnie), and many cherished friends.

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Event Schedule for 2019

<u>Monthly Meeting</u>	
January 17, 2020	
February 20, 2020	
March 19, 2020	Canceled
April 16, 2020	Canceled
May 21, 2020	
June 18, 2020	
July 23, 2020	
August 20, 2020 Hardyston	
September 17, 2020	
October 22, 2020	
November 19, 2020	
December 17, 2020	

***Meetings have been canceled
until further notice***