



NEWS AT THE TOP

August 2021

From the Editor by Anthony Curcuruto

As the summer season is coming to an end, we will be meeting back at the Andover Borough Senior Center starting in September at 7:30 on the Third Thursday of the month as usual. If you have an item to bring in for a show-and-tell, please let me know. If you have a topic for discussion at a meeting, again please let me know.

I will be bringing in a plane for a show-and-tell in September. I also have a few hobby related items that I will bring in to a future meeting.

We have quite a few applicants to vote into the club in November. I flew with a few of them this summer. I will mention all of their names at the September meeting and I will send each of them a reminder to attend the November meeting to be voted in.

**Goodbye for
now and hope
to see many of
you at the next
meeting.**

President Comments by Pat Rizzuto

I thought I would depart from my normal comments and highlight a subject which may be afflicting some of our members. No, I meant to say afflicting because that is what indeed may be happening. For the past 2-3 three years my flying time has steadily been decreasing to what is now no flight time at all this year except counting once or twice when Mike let me fly his plane in small circles over the field while he stood next to me. The problem was I could not see the airplane clearly and the field of vision was very hazy. This problem grew worse over time and even new glasses could not correct the problem.

The problem that I had and maybe many of you have encountered is cataracts. It is an eye condition affecting the lens of the eye brought on primarily by age although cases encountered in your late twenties are seen more than occasionally. The lens becomes cloudy restricting the passage of light to the retina. The progression of the condition is very gradual and is easily diagnosed by your ophthalmologist or optometrist. But because the progression was so insidious it seemed like I was losing flying skills but really, I could not see the aircraft and was losing my depth perception, hence some rather hard landings at a high rate of speed.

If you are bothered by hazy vision especially on overcast days, twinkling headlights of oncoming cars, loss of depth perception and the inability to comfortably focus on distant objects you may have cataracts. The good news is that cataracts are readily treatable with minor surgery paid for by insurance with downtime of no more than two days. When I was evaluated, my surgeon told me that the improvement in one eye would be 100% and the other eye 95%. The surgery is done on two separate dates on an outpatient basis usually lasting about 3-4 hours. Please contact your ophthalmologist if you have any of these symptoms, don't let this condition ruin your fun in the sky.

August 2021 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7PM at Reynolds Field. Pizza and soft drinks were served prior to the meeting. Pat was absent and Mike ran the meeting. There were 16 members present.

There was a moment of silence for the passing of John Schillaci. He was a long-time member and a WW II war veteran. He was 94 years old.

Treasurers Report. The opening balance was \$11,792.66. The closing balance was \$10,889.05. A more detailed report is in the newsletter.

Field Reports. Both fields are in great shape. The area surrounding Reynolds Field needs some maintenance. We will address it in the spring. Some work will be done late fall.

Membership. While the membership drive is over, returning members will still be accepted and new members that moved into the area will be considered. There were three applicants present at the meeting.

Old Business. Warwick Airport was ruled out for events because of the cost. The Abby is a possibility. There was a discussion about other venues.

New Business. The next meeting will back at the Andover Borough Senior Center. Nomination for club officers will open September and end in October. Voting will be in November if there are any slates opposing the current officers. Also in November, we will be voting in new members. Anthony presented medals from the AMA to the club officers present.

At the end of the meeting, some members talked about some of the items that they brought in to sell.

CONTACT THE TOP O' NEW JERSEY

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Event Schedule for 2021

Monthly Meeting	
January 21, 2021	Canceled
February 18, 2021	Canceled
March 18, 2021	Canceled
April 15, 2021	Canceled
May 20, 2021	Meetings Resume
June 17, 2021	
July 15, 2021 Hardyston	Tail Gate Swap Meet
August 19, 2021 Reynolds	Tail Gate Swap Meet
September 16, 2021	Andover Borough Senior Center
October 21, 2021	
November 18, 2021	
December 2, 2021	

***The next meeting will be at the Andover
Borough Senior Center at 7:30 PM on
September 16th.***

Treasurer's Report

August 2021

July's opening balance was \$11,792.66. Collections for the month totaled \$190 represented by Dues \$140 and applications \$50. Expenses for the month totaled \$1,093.61 represented by Mowing \$1,020, Reynolds Filed Maintenance \$27.61 IRS Form 990n Filing \$20 Hardyston BBQ \$26 Net (\$86 less \$60 transferred from Filed Maintenance). The result is an ending balance of \$10,889.05.

Allocated to Operations:	\$3,748
General Reserve:	2,141
Event Reserve:	2,000
Reynolds Field Reserve:	<u>3,000</u>
Total	\$10,889

Planes For Sale

Joe Florio has a number of airplanes for sale. He brought a few to the last meeting and sold a few online. He has plenty left to add to your hanger at a reasonable price. Some are pictured below. Call Joe at (973) 980-4550 if you are interested.



In Memory – Robert Bodner



I am sorry to say that we lost another valued club member this year—Bob Bodner. Bob was a member of our club for many years. He served the club as a flight instructor, Treasurer, and Club President. Bob also helped at many of our club events.

I could not find Bob's Obituary online, although I did spend a good amount of time searching for it. I did know that Bob worked at Picatinny Arsenal for many years and after his retirement worked as an ambassador at the Flanders Golf course.

I had some good times flying with Bob over the years. He was one of my instructors when I was learning to fly. He helped me with *taking off*. One thing about flying with Bob over the years that I will never forget was that before each flight, he would always fiddle with the needle valve. He spent more time fiddling with the needle valve than he did flying the plane.

I know Bob is up there with all of our members that we lost over the years watching us fly down here. Rest in peace bob.