



# NEWS AT THE TOP

January 2022

## From the Editor by Anthony Curcuruto

We had to cancel the January meeting because the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus was running rampant in NJ. With the health and safety of our club members in mind, the club officers decided to cancel the January 20th meeting. The next meeting will be on February 17th.

A lot of club members like to pay their membership dues in person. With that in mind, the club is extending the dues payment deadline till the end of February.

I hope many of you have a new plane to fly in the upcoming flying season. I personally do not have a new plane as of now, but you never know! If you do have a new plane, bring it to a meeting for a show and tell. Well, it doesn't have to be new. If you recovered a plane or made a major repair to a plane, bring it in and talk about it. Also, if you have any RC product that you want to bring to a meeting to present as a show and tell, please do so.

(Continued in the next column) →

I've seen many members flying foam airplanes, myself included. Because of one reason or another, the plane may have crashed or has been damaged in transit. The result in some cases is a pretty ugly looking airplane. I recently saw an article from Model Airplane News that gives detailed instruction or foam airplane repairs at the end of the newsletter. Take a look at it.

Meetings have been poorly attended this past year for a number of reasons. Try to attend. There is a list of all the meeting dates on the third page of the newsletter. Mark your calendar.

With the new year upon us, I want to mention that our membership drive is in full swing. Previous club members in good standing will be immediately accepted into the club by just paying dues. New applicants will be accepted and voted into the club in November.

*See you at the meeting.*

**Notice**  
**The next club meeting is**  
**on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30**  
**PM at the Andover**  
**Borough Senior Center.**

# November 2021 Meeting Minutes

*(Reprint from the last newsletter)*

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. All of the club officers were present. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved without correction.

**Treasurers Report:** October's opening balance was \$8,992.85. Expenses for the month totaled \$1,020.00 represented by Mowing. The result is an ending balance of \$7,972.85.

**Field Reports:** Both fields are in good shape. Hunters have been seen near both fields. Be careful if you go into the woods to retrieve a plane.

**Membership:** All nine applicants have been voted into the club. We already have one new applicant for next year.

**Old Business:** Anthony cast the one vote necessary to confirm the election of the current slate of officers.

## **New Business:**

- While we had many presentations this year, Pat asked the membership what they would like to hear in 2022. Some asked to have a presentation on how to size a motor, ESC and batteries for planes.
- Craig mentioned a hobby shop on Route 23. Said they had good prices and were competitive with online purchases.
- The Lebanon RC Flea Market is on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- The December meeting has been canceled. Enjoy the Holidays.
- Pat asked if any of the setup benches need to be replaced. The response was that they are all in good shape.

## **CONTACT THE TOP O' NEW JERSEY**

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## **Meeting Schedule for 2022**

<b>January 21, 2022</b>	Canceled
<b>February 17, 2022</b>	<i>Andover Borough Senior Center Senior Center</i>
<b>March 17, 2022</b>	<i>Andover Borough Senior Center</i>
<b>April 21, 2022</b>	<i>Andover Borough Senior Center</i>
<b>May 19, 2022</b>	<i>Andover Borough Senior Center</i>
<b>June 16, 2022</b>	Andover Borough Senior Center
<b>July 21, 2022 Reynolds</b>	Tail Gate Swap Meet
<b>August 18, 2022 Hardyston</b>	Tail Gate Swap Meet
<b>September 15, 2022</b>	<i>Andover Borough Senior Center</i>
<b>October 20, 2022</b>	<i>Andover Borough Senior Center</i>
<b>November 17, 2022</b>	<i>Andover Borough Senior Center</i>
<b>December 2, 2022</b>	TBD

## **Treasurer's Report**

November 2021

*(Reprint from the last newsletter)*

October's opening balance was \$8,992.85. Expenses for the month totaled \$1,020.00 represented by Mowing. The result is an ending balance of \$7,972.85.

Allocated to Operations:	\$ 832
General Reserve:	2,141
Event Reserve:	2,000
Reynolds Field Reserve:	<u>3,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,973</b>

# Easy Foam Airplane Repair Tips

From [Model Airplane News](#)



Now that we're well into the flying season, chances are you have at least one plane that has been "benched" because of a not-so-gentle landing. Why not take a few minutes this weekend and repair it? Here's what you need to know.

Let's face it! Accidents are bound happen, and when it comes to flying RC airplanes, the chances are that you're going to suffer some damage to your airplane. There's no reason, however, to trash your crash. With today's beautiful molded foam fliers, you can get back into the air with very little effort. You also can save some bucks by repairing your bent bird instead of buying new parts or an entirely new airplane.

## What's Needed

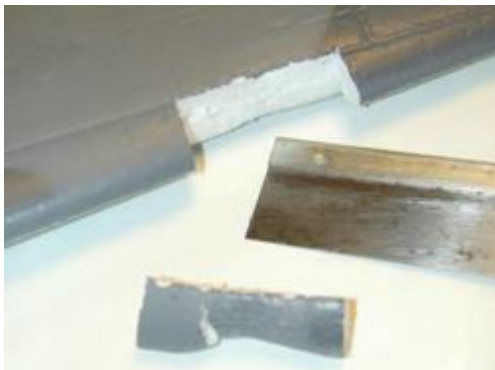
The supplies needed for any model repair are a hobby knife with sharp replacement blades, some masking tape, a sanding bar with medium sandpaper (100 to 150 grit), and some fine 220-grit sandpaper. The glue needed is 15-minute two-part epoxy, foam-safe CA adhesive, and foam-safe accelerator. Denatured alcohol is good for cleaning the surface of the foam and for cleaning up excess epoxy from repairs. We used an assortment of glue, including those by Bob Smith Industries and Flash Adhesives.



## Removing Dents



**Step 1:** The leading edge of a foam wing can really take a beating, but dents are really only cosmetic issues. If you have a minor dent, simply apply a wet paper towel to it and heat with a covering iron. Most of the time, the steam will expand the foam and your dent will disappear.



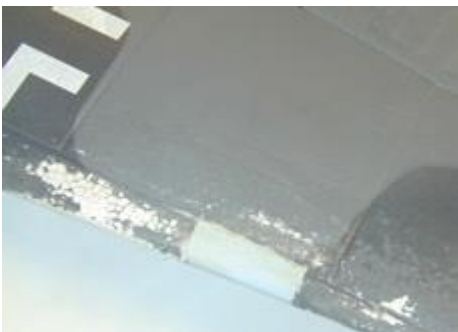
**Step 2:** If the dent is more pronounced, you can quickly cut away a section of the damaged material with a razor saw and glue in some new foam.



**Step 3:** Cut some new foam to length, and glue it in place with foam-safe CA. The best way to do this is to cut the foam a bit oversize, and spray foam-safe accelerator to the new material. Apply the CA glue to the cutout area, and insert the repair piece. Hold it in place until the glue sets. Use your saw to remove most of the unwanted material, then use a sanding block to smooth the replacement piece.



**Step 4:** Apply a little hobby filler around the edges to fill in any gaps (Hobbico HobbyLite Filler is great for this).

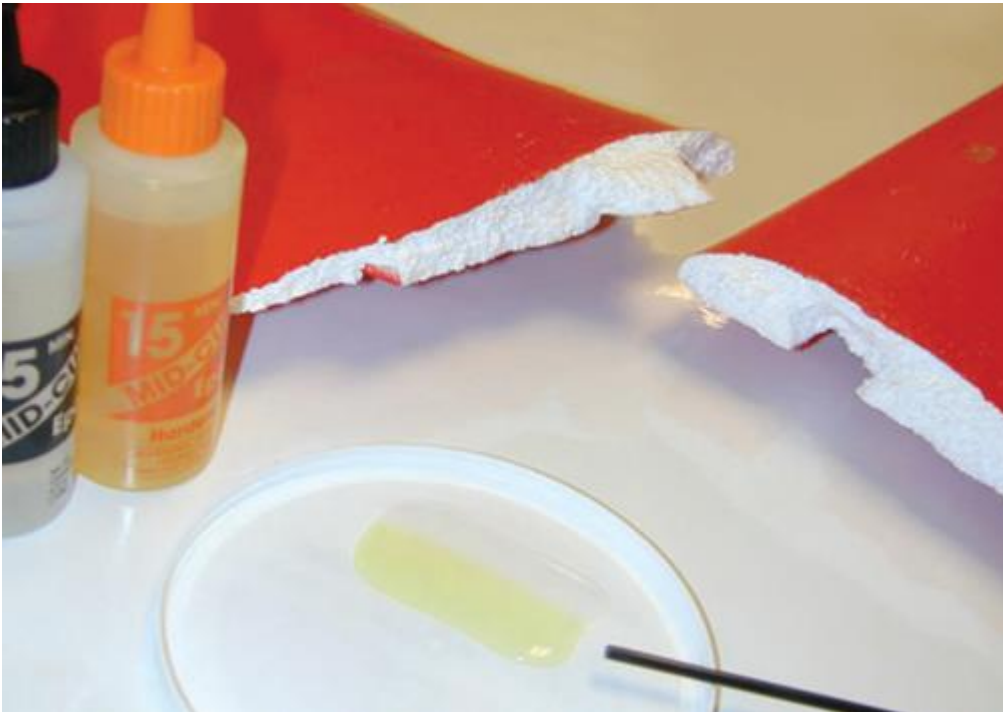


**Step 5:** Once the filler has dried, use fine sandpaper to smooth the repair. If you need to, apply more filler around the repair area to feather out the repair area.

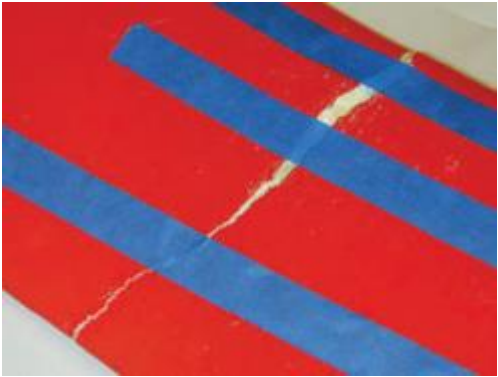


**Step 6:** Apply some matching foam-safe paint to complete the leading-edge wing repair. The hardest part of this repair really is finding matching paint. Usually, the instructions that come with your airplane will call out the colors used. If not, go to the hobby shop and check out the Master Modeler and Tamiya brands of acrylic foam-safe paints. You'll be able to match the color chips and then lighten or darken the colors slightly to match. In real life, warbird repairs seldom matched the rest of the airframe, so welcome to scale weathering!

### Mending Broken Wings



**Step 1:** In extreme cases, you might break a foam wing in two (or more!) pieces. A great trait of foam is that it is usually very easy to piece back together. Mix up a small batch of 15-minute epoxy on a plastic can lid. Run two or three lengths of each part as shown and then mix together.



**Step 2:** Place some waxed paper or food wrap under the wing pieces and then apply just enough mixed epoxy to cover the exposed ends of the break. Use some masking tape to hold the parts together while they rest flat against your work surface. Be sure to wipe away any excess epoxy that oozes from the repair using a paper towel and some denatured alcohol.



**Step 3:** After the epoxy has set, remove the tape. Using a sanding bar, smooth out the repair area.



**Step 4:** If your wing is more than 36 inches in span, use a piece of thin plywood that is 4 to 6 inches long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide as an internal brace. Using a hobby knife and a razor saw, cut a straight line all the way through the wing, as shown. Test-fit the plywood, then apply foam-safe CA and insert it into the wing. Apply some accelerator, and let the glue set.





**Step 5:** After the glue sets, apply model filler to the repair and let the filler dry.

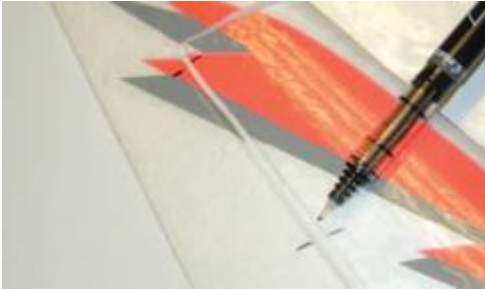


**Step 6:** Using fine sandpaper, sand the filler smooth and flush with the rest of the wing surface.



**Step 7:** Apply matching foam-safe paint, and let it dry. The repair is complete, but you can also apply some decals over the repair area, if you like, to completely cover the mended area.

## Repairing Foam Hinges



**Step 1:** It is not possible to repair a live-foam hinge, where the hinge is molded in as part of the control surface. It is best to install new hinges in the damaged surfaces. Before removing the surface, mark the locations for the new hinges. For this rudder, three 1/8-inch Robart Hinge Points will be installed.



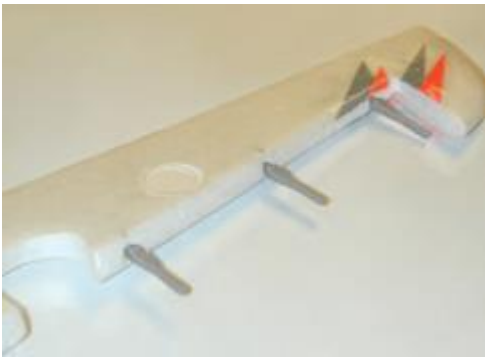
**Step 2:** After marking the hinge locations, take a sharp hobby knife and slice through the molded hinge to separate the rudder from the fin. Use some sandpaper to smooth the mating surfaces.



**Step 3:** Sharpen the end of a 1/8-inch brass tube, and use it as a drill to produce the holes for the Hinge Points. This produces much neater holes than a wood drill bit.



**Step 4:** Mix up some 15-minute epoxy, and use a toothpick to apply the adhesive into each of the holes in the rudder.



**Step 5:** Insert the Hinge Points into the holes, and set aside until the epoxy cures. Make sure that no epoxy gets into the pivot pins. If it does, quickly remove the hinge and install a new one. You have about 20 minutes before the epoxy starts to thicken and set.



**Step 6:** Apply more glue inside the holes in the vertical fin, and slide the hinges in the rudder into place. Again, wipe away any adhesive that oozes out of the holes with paper towels and alcohol. Set aside until the epoxy sets.

That's it! Let the glue set and get your pride and joy back in the air.

