



NEWS AT THE TOP

SEPTEMBER 2024

From the Editor

The flying season is winding down. As of late, flying has been good. It's time to start thinking about next season. For me, I have a few planes that I never finished last year. I just started to fly a plane that I finished last winter. Go figure.

Just a reminder, Frank Costello has a lot of planes he wishes to sell. Frank can be reached at (973) 361-4451 or (862) 251-9676.

See you all at the next meeting.

A Nice Battery Charger

Just a few years back, I lot of planes power requirements were just 3S or 4S packs. And, pack sizes were at most 3200mah packs. Now, larger packs are getting popular and the prices are coming down. There are a lot of planes out there that require 6s packs and or large capacity packs.

The question is, can your old chargers handle them. If you are looking to upgrade consider this high-end choice.

A feature that stands out besides the fact it is a four-port charger charging four packs at a time is that it has battery resistance meter that help you determine the health of a pack. Note that if a cell in a pack is over 20 olms, that pack nips heading south.

Hitec RDX4 Quad Smart LiPo Battery Balance Charger (6S/10A/AC-200W/DC-400W) \$229.99

<https://hitecrd.com/rdx4-four-port-400w-dc-200w-ac-battery-charger/>

Features

- **4 port AC/DC Charger delivers up to 100 watts per channel at 10 amps.**
- Built-in Bluetooth communication for use with iOS and Android Link Power X App.
- Balance, Standard, Storage and Cycle Modes for All Lithium Battery Chemistries
- **Battery Resistance Meter - very important feature to determine the health of a pack**
- Terminal Voltage Control
- Re-Peak Charge Mode and Delta-Peak Sensitivity for NiMH/NiCd Batteries
- Capacity Cut-Off Limit
- Built-in Power Supply Function for Powering Devices up to 27V @ 10A

Technical Specifications

- 100V – 240V AC Operating Voltage Range
- LiPo, LiFe & LiIon Cell Count: 1-6 Cells
- NiCd/NiMH Cell Count: 2-15 Cells
- Pb Lead-Acid Based Cell Count: 6-24V
- Charge Circuit Power: 200W AC / 400W DC (Max 200W per port)
- Discharge Circuit Power: 10W
- PC Interface with Downloadable Software - nice feature
- Dimensions: 4.8 x 4.7 x 3.1 in.
- Weight: 1.50 lbs

September 2024 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at the Andover Senior Center. There were nine members present. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved with no corrections.

Treasurers Report: The August beginning balance was \$11,929.92. After debits, the result is an ending balance of \$11,475.12. A more detailed report is in the newsletter

Field Reports

Reynolds field is in great shape and the road is holding up fine.

Hardyston Field has been mowed. Amazon is building a large facility in the area but will not affect flying at Hardyston

Safety Report – Be careful with handling your airplanes. Electric powered planes can be just as dangerous as glow or gas powered.

Membership Report – We have two members to be voted in in November.

Unfinished Business: Frank Fanelli talked in length about the STEM program. The program is intended o bring in more members and to make people in the area aware of out club. He has targeted the Franklin School 8th graders (about 60 students) starting in January.

New Business

- Next meeting is at the Andover Senior Center at 7:30 on October 17th
- The floor was opened up to nominations for club offers. There were none from the members. Anthony nominated the current offices for 2025.
- Anthony talked in detail about the Eflite Extra 300 he is selling. He also demonstrated the features of the Spektrum NX6 radio he uses to fly the Extra.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:20 pm

CONTACT THE TOP O' NEW JERSEY

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Membership: Anthony Curcuruto (908) 256-2342

Meeting Schedule for 2024

January 18th	Andover Borough Senior Center
February	No Meeting
March	No Meeting
April 18th	Andover Borough Senior Center
May 16th	Reynolds
June 20th	Hardyston
July 18th	Reynolds
August 15th	Hardyston
September 19th	Andover Borough Senior Center
October 17th	Andover Borough Senior Center
November 21st	Andover Borough Senior Center
December	No Meeting

The next meeting will be on October 17th at 7:30 pm at the Andover Borough Senior Center.

Treasurer's Report September 2024

The July beginning balance was \$11,929.92. There were no collections for the month. Expenses for the month totaled \$453.90 represented by mowing Reynolds Field \$350, and Pizza and soda at the last meeting for \$78.90.

The result is an ending balance of \$11,475.12

Reserves are as follows:

Encumbered for 2024 Operations	\$2,628
General Reserve	3,847
Reynolds Field Reserve	3,000
Business Reserve	<u>2,000</u>
Total	\$11,475

Stem Program

By Frank Fanelli

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) is an increasingly familiar and important educational initiative in middle and high schools. One of the more popular aspects in its broad scope is aviation: from modeling to full scale.

Thinking that getting involved in it might help increase the diminishing club membership led me to propose an aviation themed STEM program in a local school, the Franklin Borough close to the Hardyston field. So I met with the principal, J.R. Giachhi, and the gifted and talented teacher, Laura Roberts, in late Spring to pitch the program and its scope.

They enthusiastically endorsed it and after some planning will begin the program in the second and third trimester for the eighth grade. So far it looks like there will be 60 students in all.

It will run for 2 or 3 weeks each trimester and will entail simple aerodynamic theory and experiments; paper airplanes; simple free-flight gliders and propeller models; radio control instruction; quadcopters; culminating in field trips. Potential sites include Sussex Airport, a major airport, or a sim center.

That's a brief outline and I'm asking for the club's support in the following ways: back issues of Model Aviation and/or Model Airplane News; help with pre-kitting the simple gliders and propeller aircraft; perhaps donating a retired RC trainer type aircraft.

The flying portion of the program will mostly take place in either the large gym in the school or the football field at the side of the school building. There's ample space in each for the free-flight stuff and small, slow flying RC ships since the Franklin school was once K-12.

Hopefully the kids' involvement may pique the interest of some parents, as well as the kids, and bring new members into the club. The academic part of the program could be followed by a broader instruction period at the Hardyston field—only because it's just a few miles from Franklin—during the late Spring and through the Summer.

This may be the opportunity for any one of the kids to discover an interest that leads to a career in aviation. There certainly have been some notable people that climbed the rungs of modeling into illustrious careers, flying, designing, or maintaining aircraft. Who knows, it may lead to another Hoot Gibson or Sean Tucker or Burt Rutan.

ZEEE Batteries



[Zeee RC Lipo Battery official store](http://zeeebattery.com)
zeeebattery.com

I have had a lot of luck with Zeee batteries. They are better than any I bought so far. Check them out by clicking the line in the illustration above.