



NEWS AT THE TOP

November/December 2024

From the Editor

I can't believe it's the end of the year already. I got big plans for the upcoming building season. We'll see how it goes; I'll bring in any project that I finish in January or April. As for the rest of you, do the same.

The day after Christmas, I will mail out the club membership renewal forms (one is at the end of this newsletter). Please send you dues payments in to me as soon as possible. Note that there is a modest dues increase because of the number of members we lost last January. The dues are now \$75. Everything you need to do is on the form.

You know the drill to get your membership cards. With your payment, include a SASE. If you do not, you will not get your card. Oh wait, we do have a meeting in January. Attend and pay in person.

At the end of every note, I send out to the membership, I say "*Like us on Facebook*". The club does have a Facebook page. Not many members have accessed it though. I recently created a *Group* on that same site. The group will be only for club members to post. Things like you have an item to sell, need help with a hobby related item or simply who is flying tomorrow can be posted. I will send out an invite in late January to all of the club members. Since many members do not attend meetings, it will be a good way to communicate with each other. I will be testing it with a few members until then.

I am looking for an *admin* to administer the site. If anyone is interested let me know. You do need to know a little about Facebook. It will be a good experience.

It's Time to Store Your Batteries from AMA Magazine

For many of you, flying season is over and it's time to store your flight batteries. Even if you fly throughout the winter, chances are that you fly less frequently and you need to store your batteries longer than usual. Whatever the voltage level is at when you choose to store them, be sure it's not fully charged or fully discharged. Arguments continue over the "proper" voltage level to use, but all agree it's somewhere between full and empty. Most of my chargers use something around the 3.8-volt level and I'm good with that. If a pack shows perfect balance and voltage, but its physical damage makes it unsafe for continued use.

This is also a great time to put your batteries on your battery-management system and bring them down to or up to storage level while balancing. Inspect your packs for damage or wear on the covering, wires, or connectors. If the connector is pitted and shows signs of corrosion, replace it. I shared a picture of one of my packs that I completely discharged and disposed of because of physical damage from a crash. It's tempting to keep such a pack and just watch it because the photo shows the balance is still perfect across the pack, but this pack isn't safe. I can't see what has happened internally that might suddenly cause it to destruct. Yes, it hurts to toss out what appears to be a perfectly functioning pack, but safety is more important. Do not continue to use damaged packs.

Reynolds Field

When the club was moved to the current location in Alamuchy State Park, we obtained permission, via a Land Management Review, to clear certain areas around our landing area mainly the ridge behind the wind sock adjacent to the runway. Over the years vegetation grew back along with Russian Olive bushes and wine berry bushes.

On rare occasions, some pilots land (crash) their planes on the ridge and it is very difficult to retrieve them because of the vegetation. Joe Florio cut some paths to the top of the ridge a few years back, but the paths were difficult to maintain. He tried with a walk-behind brush hog a few times.

A recent applicant to the club, Brad Nobel, is a landscaper and has some fine equipment to navigate the ridge. He and Joe started to work on paths to the top. Later Lee Bender assisted and now there are two wide paths to the top of the ridge.

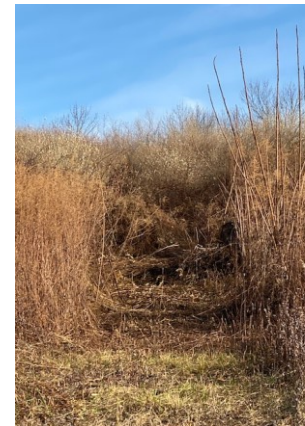
Early next spring more work is planned to make more paths. A work party will be formed. Basically, there are some small trees, probably olive bushes that need to be cleared for the path and perhaps some downed trees from years ago. A notice will be sent to the membership early March.



**Lee Bender, Joe Florio,
Brad Nobel – left to right**



Path
behind the
wind sock
to the top
of the
ridge.



Path to the
right of the
field facing
the wind
sock



Check out that machine Brad used
to cut a path to the top of the ridge.

November 2024 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Pat was absent; John Morgan ran the meeting. There were 10 members at the meeting including the 2 club officers. The minutes from the previous meeting were read without corrections.

Treasurers Report: The October beginning balance was \$11,475.12. After debits and credits, the closing balance was \$10,350.12.

There was one guest at the meeting – Brad Noble. He is a new member for the 2025 season.

Field Reports: Reynolds field is good shape. Joe Florio did some work on the ridge and along the road; Brad Nobel cut the grass and brush around the field. Hardyston Field is in good shape also.

Membership Report: Two new members were voted into the club – Rich Murphy and Ivan De Casvalho. Our annual club membership drive starts in January. Try to get members and friends from other clubs to join.

Unfinished Business: Anthony cast the only vote necessary to confirm the slate of officers. For the coming year you have Pat Rizzuto for president, John Morgan for vice president, and Anthony Curcuruto for secretary/treasurer.

New Business

- The club approved the 2025 budget – Dues increase of \$5 – we lost 10 members last year and a couple passed this year
- Watch for NOTUMs in the coming year now that Trump will be president and will visit his Bedminster home
- Next meeting will be on January 16th at the Andover Senior Center
- Membership renewal forms will be mailed out after Christmas
- Anthony is going to set up a Facebook Group for members to communicate. More Information will be available at the January meeting.
- Anthony will look into the possibility of potential members to fly drones at our fields to increase membership.
- Anthony is the only club officer that is able to access the club checking account/ John Morgan will be added to the account in the near future.
- We will look into the transponders that will be attached to our planes and see what will they do

CONTACT THE TOP O' NEW JERSEY

Web Site: <http://www.toponewjersey.org>

E-mail: toponewjersey@gmail.com

FaceBook: [Top O New Jersey R/C Club | Facebook](#)

President: Pat Rizzuto (973) 764-7779

Vice President: John Morgan (973) 222-3857

Secretary: Anthony Curcuruto (908) 256-2342 email:
toponewjersey@gmail.com

Treasurer: Anthony Curcuruto (908) 256-2342

Hardyston Field Chairman: Frank Fanelli (973) 827- 4579

Reynolds Field Chairman: Anthony Curcuruto

Ways & Means: Frank Costello (973) 361-4451

Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Anthony Curcuruto (908) 256-2342

Reynolds Safety Officer: Scott Geller (973) 464-5995

Membership: Anthony Curcuruto (908) 256-2342

Meeting Schedule for 2025

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

The next meeting will be on January 16th at 7:30 pm at the Andover Borough Senior Center.

Treasurer's Report

November 2024

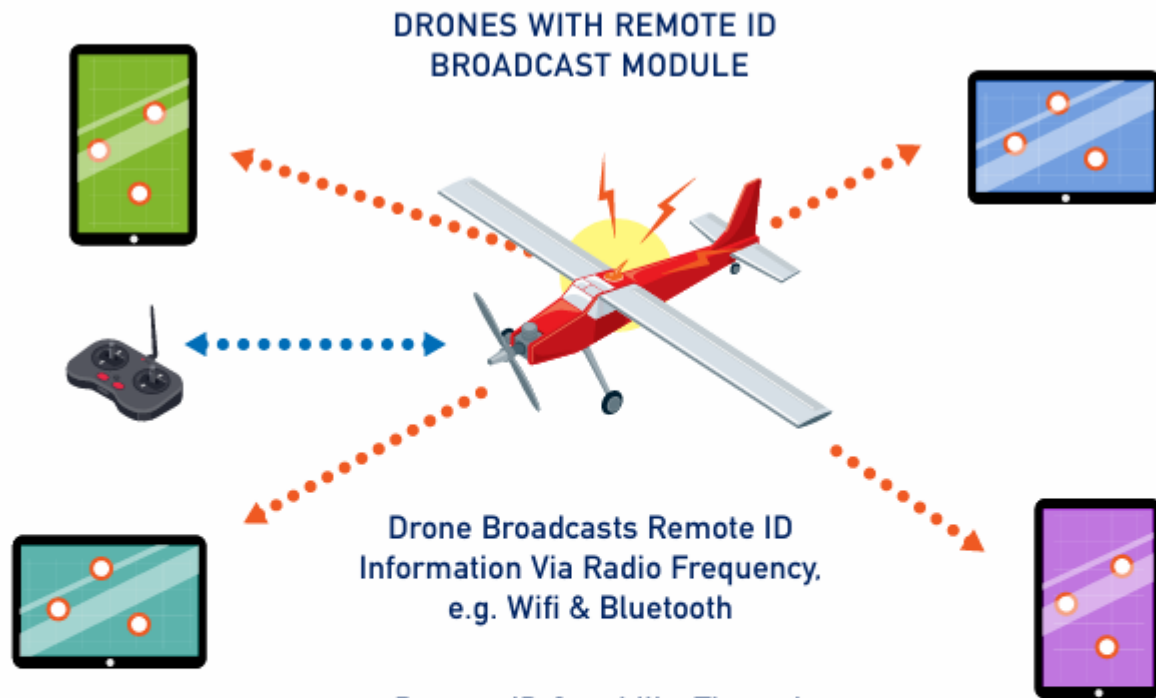
The October beginning balance was \$11,475.12. There were no collections for the month. Expenses for the month were \$375 for mowing Reynolds Field and \$750 For mowing Hardyston Field.

The result is an ending balance of \$10,350.12

Reserves are as follows:

Encumbered for 2024 Operations	\$1593
General Reserve	3,847
Reynolds Field Reserve	3,000
Business Reserve	<u>2,000</u>
Total	\$10,350

DRONE REMOTE IDENTIFICATION



- Remote ID Capability Through Module Attached To Drone
- Limited To Visual Line Of Sight Operations
- From Takeoff To Shutdown, Drone Broadcasts:
 - Drone ID
 - Drone Location and Altitude
 - Drone Velocity
 - Takeoff Location and Elevation
 - Time Mark

What Information Is Contained in the Remote ID Broadcast Message?

The FAA's Remote ID requirements state that the following information must be included in the Remote ID broadcast when using a Remote ID module:

- Serial number of the Remote ID module
- Current location of the model (latitude, longitude, and altitude)
- Current velocity of the model
- Takeoff location of the model (which is presumably where the pilot is located)
- Time
-

It is possible that some modules might transmit additional information

Who Can Receive My Remote ID Broadcast?

Remote ID modules broadcast data using a Bluetooth or Wi-Fi signal that is intended to be received on a smartphone. Anyone with a smartphone who is running a Remote ID-capable app and is within range of the signal can potentially read the data from your model's Remote ID module.

If your Remote ID module is broadcasting only the minimum required data listed previously, civilians reading Remote ID data will not be privy to your name or any private information; however, law enforcement officers will be able to cross-reference the Remote ID module serial number with the data in your FAA UAS registration.

A Drone Scanner uses a mobile device's Wi-Fi and Bluetooth receivers to pick up the data being transmitted by a Remote ID-enabled drone. More specifically, the app leverages Bluetooth 4, Bluetooth 5, Wi-Fi Beacon, and Wi-Fi NAN protocols to extract detailed information about the drones flying nearby in real-time.

Some Scanners

Apple iPhone Scanner – only works if Drone module broadcasts over Bluetooth

Drone Scanner 4+

Drone Remote ID scanner

2025 Membership Renewal Form

Please complete this form, and send it along with a **check for \$75** to Anthony Curcuruto at 8 Townsbury Road, Great Meadows, NJ 07838. **Make the check payable to the Top O' New Jersey RC Club.** Please send in a **SASE** so that we can mail you back a membership card. You will not receive a membership card if your AMA dues are not paid. **The deadline to pay your dues is January 31st.**

Life Members and junior members are exempt from paying dues; however, a donation of dues is appreciated.

Please check if any of your contact information from last year has changed.

Member Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
e-Mail Address: _____
Phone Number: _____ **Cell Number:** _____
AMA Number: _____
FAA Number: _____

Answer all of the follow questions.

Age: Under 18, 18-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, Over 70

What field do you fly at – Hardyston or Reynolds

Do you still fly – Yes No

Do you have a hobby related topic you wish to share or want presented at a meeting? If so, what is it? _____

By signing, I agree to respect Top O' New Jersey's rules and bylaws and shall conduct myself in a manner that reflects the spirit of the club. I understand that membership is a privilege and that failure to comply may result in non-renewal.

Member Signature _____