

# THE TRANSMITTER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE

## JERSEY COAST SPORT FLIERS

AMA CLUB #1265, EST. 1973

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ROB KALLOK—EDITOR 732-804-6082

EMAIL— [ROB.KALLOK@COMCAST.NET](mailto:ROB.KALLOK@COMCAST.NET)

ADDRESS—18 BAMPTON PLACE, WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ 07764

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### QUIET TIME

So I think this month's newsletter title says it all. We are in the midst of the winter doldrums. Not a heck of a lot going on. We unfortunately had to cancel last month's club meeting as we had another storm coming through and we didn't want risk folks having problems getting around. This winter we've had our share of rain but essentially no snow to this point. March is right around the corner, but I've lived my entire life in Jersey so I know better than to count out a real winter storm in that month. Time will tell if we get any of the white stuff before spring shows up later next month. In the meantime this has been a very strange, warm winter for us. Considering the weather in the rest of the country I'm feeling pretty grateful—all things considered.

One of the bright spots of wintertime is that swap meet season kicks off. A bunch of JCSF members descended on the ATOMS RC Swap Meet on Saturday February 11th for a day of buying and selling. Your truly got a table at the last moment (thanks Jason!) and I sold a bunch of stuff as I really need to make room in my shop for new projects. And that's the beauty of swap meet season. You can take an assessment of what you're flying and what's collecting dust and make some hard decisions. On the plus side, I did make some money for my next project ;) The next swap meet that I recommend checking out is the Central Penn Aeromodelers Association (CPAA) Swap Meet in Lebanon, PA on Saturday March 11th. This is THE swap meet in the northeast and is a huge facility to host such an event. For many of us it's like Christmas in March as you never know what you'll find. A number of us rent tables to sell, which also gives us early access to check out the other seller's merch. It's about a three-hour drive but it's a great way to spend a day in late winter. I strongly suggest checking it out and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to me.



As I mentioned earlier we didn't have a meeting last month so there are no minutes in this issue. With little happening I'm taking a different tact for this issue and I did an interview with Adam L. in regards to the mystery crate that he received around the holidays. I hope you find this fun and interesting. BTW don't forget that club renewals are coming up— I believe members have until the end of March to send in their dues to Darryl along with a SASE to get their membership card back. In the meantime, I hope you're all healthy and staying busy in your shops. We'll be back at the field before you know it!!!

## A Interview with Adam Lilley discussing

### “What’s in the crate?”

*Before our Exec Board meeting on Tuesday February 7th I sat down with Adam to clear the air about all the rumors flying around in regards to the mystery crate that everyone’s been talking about. Following is the conversation we had—hope you enjoy!!!*

**Rob:** So there’s been a lot of discussion about the crate. And what’s in the crate. What was the deal with the crate? I know what was in the crate but everyone else wants to know.

**Adam:** There is my insanity in the crate (laughing). No, it was a 1/3 scale P-51.

**Rob:** Wow, OK. Damn...

**Adam:** It has a link the movie “Empire of the Sun”.

**Rob:** OK, so I was going ask you what makes this so special, other than the sheer size.

**Adam:** That’s what makes it special – the size and the fact that the mold for this aircraft came from the plug that was used to make the model airplanes in the “Empire of the Sun” – for the movie.

**Rob:** Wow, ok that’s awesome. So I know that this came all the way from the UK. How was it getting it here from over in Europe?

**Adam:** OMG, I work at an airport – I talked to the parts guy there, and he made it sound like this would be a piece of cake, nothing to worry about. Yeah so he made it sound like it was going to be easy. But after I acquired the plane I realized that the shipping of it was not so easy. Everyone that we had gotten quotes from were for commercial shippers (and this couldn’t go that way).

**Rob:** Oh crap.

**Adam:** And to find a non-commercial shipper was very difficult. Ah – finally we found UShip and UShip auctioned it (the shipping) off and found a place that was willing to ship it. Then there was a whole bunch more on top of that. You’re dealing with folks overseas and it’s not like you can just make a phone call. It’s all email and they are in England and it’s a totally different time zone and they are way off from our time. Yeah, it’s like getting one email out a day. So yeah, I had to deal with that, and eventually I changed my cell phone to put an international calling plan on it which helped tremendously. Then I had to deal with customs – everything was not what they said it would be. It was one form after another after another after another. And I even got rejected at one point for not being able to verify the address being shipped to as it wasn’t my home address, and I got that squared away. And for everything you got an email about how if you don’t respond to their email within 24 hours you may incur penalties and storage fees. Yeah...

**Rob:** Oh wow...

**Adam:** It was very stressful.

**Rob:** So actually I’m very curious to know - this is a 1/3 scale Mustang – not something you just sneeze at. What are you planning for power?

**Adam:** Oh, well originally I was told to not go with an engine smaller than 250cc, and it was suggested to go with a ZDZ-25 inline twin two stroke engine.

**Rob:** OK.

**Adam:** And that's a very nice engine, a great engine, but um this is probably going to be my biggest build I ever do, and I wanted something very special to go in this plane. So the very best engine in my mind out there – the baddest, most badass engine out there is a Kolm IL310. That's a 4 cylinder engine – it's an inline four-stroke engine. It has an amazing sound you can't get anywhere else. So that's the engine I'd love to put in this airplane, but it's \$8500 with all of the accessories. I can't afford that – I just can't afford that or do that. So I've come up with the wild idea of a fundraiser for it. I started a GoFundMe page and it's doing very well. I expected \$5 from here and there, and I figured with the 1500 followers that I have (on Facebook) it would add up, and that would be very cool. But I can't believe the amount of support I have received - there are some \$300 donations, \$250 donations - some very high dollar donations and the average is like \$20-\$25 and it just blows my mind how much support I have on this. Sometimes it even puts a tear in my eye – it's pretty cool.

**Rob:** That's just awesome. So I know you're knee deep in your ¼ scale P-40 build. What the plan for the Mustang?

**Adam:** The Mustang, yes. The P-40 has to be done first. I wanted a P-40 to replace an old one I had for a long time, and unfortunately the first attempt at this P-40 (kit) didn't go well. Umm there were some issues there – manufacturing and what not. Not anything that I did, so this second build needs to get done, and it is close to being ready for paint - maybe a month or so. So I will continue with that. The P-51 is planned for this coming November (2023) to start. I've started to get some parts in ahead of time – this summer if I have time in between all of the shows that I go to I might start to put it together and show some activity on Facebook.

**Rob:** Cool, well, that's fair. Now I know this for a fact, but a lot of folks will want to check her out when she's done. Do you have a goal of when you want to maiden her and possibly where?

**Adam:** I don't know where yet, but I'm thinking June of 2024 for the test flight. I'd love to go down to Virginia to test fly her – they have a beautiful field down there but I just think I might want to keep it up here.

**Rob:** I would definitely appreciate that myself! OK, all of this sounds awesome. I mean, fantastic – are there any other tidbits of the experience that you'd like to share?

**Adam:** Umm, you know this is a very, very big project – it's a very expensive project, much more than I anticipated. When I originally bought this plane – I couldn't think of a better build – I couldn't think of a bigger build – this is going to be my very best.

**Rob:** Well you're a larger than life kind of character already so this kind of goes along with that whole thing.

**Adam:** Yeah, I love history – this was all an accident. I love the history of the airplane and I kinda got stuck in that, and slowly things developed and wow, before you knew it I'm here at this stage which is incredible.

**Rob:** I've got one last question for you. What the heck did you do with the plane while you're waiting to build it? It's not exactly small...

**Adam:** Yeah, that's right. Well that was a big issue and big concern when I bought it, and I just figured – you know what – I'll work that out when I have to. Well, the plane is here and now I have to work it out. So it came in this giant crate – beautiful crate, very nicely done. So I decided to store (the plane) inside the crate, but the crate takes up a lot of room in the house. And now I need to do something to make this all work. So I turned it into a bar (ha ha ha). I bought \$20 worth of hardwood flooring at a Habitat for Humanity store – I covered the box and made this beautiful bar out of it, and the Mustang lies inside of it and the top is removable so it's right there in my living room.

**Rob:** So, if I'm not mistaken you threw out your old dining room table set and chairs to make room for this, right?

**Adam:** Yeah, it was a nice dining room table too but that's all right, it went out to the curb and was gone within thirty minutes.

**Rob:** Well, for a single guy I think a bar is more useful anyway...

**Adam:** Absolutely - I sit at the bar every night.

**Rob:** I'm sorry, did you ever name the bar?

**Adam:** Oh yeah, that's right, so you know there's only one name that this bar could be- it's the Mustang Bar.

**Rob:** Nice....

**Adam:** And I have a picture of a scene from the movie hanging and a 3D printed P-51 propeller on the wall, Yes, I love it. I love every aspect of it and enjoy sitting at it every night.

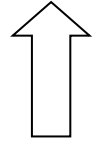
**Rob:** Thanks Adam, I appreciate the info – have a good one!!!



Adam's GoFundMe page: [Fundraiser by Adam Lilley : Dream engine for a historic P-51 Mustang \(gofundme.com\)](https://www.gofundme.com/f/fundraiser-by-adam-lilley-dream-engine-for-a-historic-p-51-mustang)

More on the Kolm IL310 engine: [IL310-V4 – KOLM Engines](https://www.kolmengines.com/)

Video of the Kolm in action: [133\) Rc "The Galloping Ghost P-51" - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=133Rc) (turn up the volume!)



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## First Class Mail



Rob Kallok  
18 Bampton Place  
West Long Branch, NJ 07764

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Next Meeting – Wednesday March 22nd, 8:00 PM at the Eatontown Public Library. Model of the month and raffle.**

**Sat. March 11 – CPAA Lebanon Swap Meet (Lebanon PA)**

**Sat. March 25— Adopt-a-Road cleanup. 10am Dorbrook**

**March 31st—Last day for dues!!!**