



THE TRANSMITTER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY COAST SPORT FLIERS

AMA CLUB #1265, EST. 1973

WWW.JCSPORTFLIERS.ORG

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BLUE SKIES ED

You know the day will come, but even when it does it's still hard. And so it was when we got the message this morning that Ed Runkel passed away. Ed's health had been in decline for some time now. It was harder for him to hear and see, but he was hanging in there. And now he's gone, and there's a big hole where he once stood. A founding member of the Jersey Coast Sport Fliers, Ed was a regular sight at the field and club events for as long as I can remember, and I've been a member for over 25 years. But Ed predated most of us, flying, competing and training new pilots since the mid-70s.

Ed's presence and influence in the club over the years was sizable. As our newsletter editor for 33 years, Ed informed and educated members and kept them up to date on all things related to the club. He also took the opportunity inherent in the position to educate members about the history of our club, how it evolved and how we ultimately found our home at Dorbrook Park. Being the newsletter editor in the early days wasn't just writing the newsletter, but also printing, addressing and mailing copies to all JCSF members. I still have a collection of those printed newsletters—they are a great trip down Memory Lane. It was a lot of extra work but we always enjoyed getting our newsletter in our mailbox each month.

When I joined the club back in '95 Ed was one of my first instructors, so I got to spend quite a bit of time with him in the process. I was lucky to have a number of legacy JCSF members help me to learn the ropes, before we had flight simulators where we could practice at home. Ed was generally a patient instructor, but if you didn't follow instructions he'd be sure to correct you. Sometimes both Ed and I would cross signals and the plane would end up some strange place, but we'd retrieve it, check it for damage, and get it back in the air. That's how we did it back then, and Ed (and our instructors in general) was willing to share his time with us so that we'd be able to earn our wings.

Before Ed's eyesight became a limiting factor he was an avid contest participant and a disciple of pattern contests. In Ed's mind, pattern contests were the one event we hosted where a pilot had to have total control over their plane. This wasn't boring holes in the sky—this was a demonstrating the skills you had developed. I learned from Ed that all of the contests that we host have a purpose—to make us better pilots. Like I said before, we have a big hole that will be difficult to fill.

This month's club meeting is on Wednesday night 1/24 starting at 8pm at the Eatontown Public Library. We'll have our regular Model of the Month contest plus the runoff for the 2023 Model of the Year. We'll see you there.



December 2023 Meeting Minutes

We had very light turnout for the last meeting of the year. We had six members in attendance, five of which were Exec Board members. Because this was our holiday meeting we had light refreshments to celebrate the season.

- The Exec Board elections were held, which due to the low turnout consisted of having the current board accept their existing positions again for the 2024 year with a corresponding vote to retain the board (which passed). However two positions did change hands with the closeout of the year:
 - Joe Lupo assumed the role of Membership Coordinator. He took over the role that Darryl Schlosser held for many, many years. Thanks Darryl for all of your help running the club!
 - Tom Cirqua joined the board as a Trustee, replacing Mike Cripps in that role. Thanks go out to Mike for his help on the Exec Board!
- We had a brief discussion on the changes are happening with the club membership renewal process. Details on this are included in this issue.
- We talked about upcoming events, and noted that the Atoms RC'ers will have their annual swap meet on Saturday 2/10 at the Hillsborough Town Hall.
- For Model of the Month we had one entry, which was Frank Beshear's "Swallow" John Deere –themed old timer. Frank purchased the plane several years ago at NEAT and is getting it ready for our field. Hopefully we'll see more of Frank in '24—he's been extremely busy. (Editor's note—sorry Frank, I can't seem to find the picture that I took of your plane...).

2023 Model of the Year Candidates

Yes, it's that time of year! Planes that won Model of the Month in 2023 (not Project Night) are eligible for the prestigious **Model of the Year** award. All planes must have been flown at least three times prior to the club meeting this month (no hangar queens – sorry). To be eligible for voting the plane must make it to this month's meeting for consideration.

The planes that are eligible are:

- ⇒ **June:** Ray Merry with his scratch-built and designed AT-6.
- ⇒ **July:** Ray Merry with his scratch-built and designed Dornier Dragonfly flying boat.
- ⇒ **October:** Rob Kallok with his scratch-built and designed BigEyes Halloween night flyer.
- ⇒ **December:** Frank Beshears with his NEAT-acquired Swallow old-timer.



2024 Brass Monkey

The Brass Monkey! The mention of this traditional (and sometimes infamous) club contest that welcomes the new year oftentimes brings shivers and dread. We've had it all—rain, wind, snow, bitter cold, or some combination thereof. And as tradition stands, we fly regardless of the conditions. I can only recall once when the Brass Monkey was postponed and that was because we had a foot of snow and couldn't drive back to our flying field.

So it's always a pleasure when Mother Nature opts to give us a nice day to kick off the season. This year we had cold (but not frigid) weather, the winds were moderate, and there was no precipitation on the field or in the sky. It was actually a pretty decent day for flying! And our Brass Monkey CD, Tom C., had a contest for us that most of us were familiar with, but with a twist...

Tom opted to keep things simple for the Brass Monkey and rolled out his **Balls** contest. Without going into lots of details, this contest revolves around having a bunch of tennis balls on the field, the dropping of an orange "points" ball, and an associated spot landing. Depending upon where your points ball lands, its proximity to other balls, and if your spot landing was within a certain distance from your points ball, you accumulated points. But Tom had a devilish twist up his sleeve that none of us could have anticipated.

The twist was that Tom had a number of songs that he had collected where the word "monkey" was repeatedly mentioned. Tom would play one of these songs while the pilot was flying, and said pilot had to count the number of times that the word "monkey" was mentioned during their flight. If you counted higher or lower than the actual number you had points deducted from your score. And let me tell you, it was hard counting monkeys while just listening— trying to do the same while flying your plane was really tough!

We decided to fly two rounds since the conditions were pretty decent, and Tom indicated that the pilot's total score across two rounds would be used. With eight pilots in attendance the contest kicked off. After the first round Rob K (me!) was in first place after having nailed the spot landing and the extra associated points. The second round kicked off and Stan had a great run, getting a solid score and setting the overall pace. I had a second strong round— again getting the spot landing extra points, but not enough to catch Stan. Our final pilot for the round, Frank R., then took off for the final flight of the contest.

Did I mention the point multipliers on the field? No? Well, painted on the field were circles with numbers in them— 2x, 5x, etc. If your points ball stopped in one of those circles your score was automatically multiplied. No one had come close to one of those multiplier circles until Frank's last flight. His points ball bounced into the 5x circle, and suddenly the contest was done! Frank scored 880 points (after having scored zero in the first round). Suddenly Stan was in second and I was relegated to a solid third place.

After the contest and group photo a number of pilots opted to stay a little longer to get in a few extra flights since the conditions were so good for January 1st. It was a lot of fun, the company was great, and I'm looking forward to warmer weather and lots of flying at Dorbrook this spring!

Pilot	Score	Finish
Frank	880	1st
Stan	370	2nd
Rob	300	3rd
Jason	240	4th
Tom	150	5th
Dave	90	6th
Mike	70	7th
Joe	40	8th

PS: thanks go out to Stu for printing and shipping the trophy, and to Jason for hurriedly printing the replacement when the original got lost in the mail!

Photos from the 2024 Brass Monkey



Happy New Year!!!



Measuring for points



Hot coffee!!!



Return for spot landing



The Winnah!!!



Brass Monkey



ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS LIVE

JCSF has finally entered the 21st century. Don't worry - it's easy! Prospective and returning members will first have to validate their AMA Membership on our website at www.jcsportfliers.org/apply. Once validated you will fill in a short form and have the option to pay via PayPal/credit card or send a check to our membership coordinator. You will receive your new membership card via email as a downloadable PDF to save or print. If you are paying by check, you can include a self addressed stamped envelope with your payment to receive a hard copy.

After many years, we have increased the dues by a very small amount, roughly \$2 per year across the board. This is already included on the new form. Please make sure you use this form if renewing by mail. The Exec Board realizes that this update is substantially late and that some of our members have already renewed by the old method at the old price. Not to worry, that's on us. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Joe Lupo, our new Membership Coordinator, via the Contacts page on our website.

Thanks everybody for choosing to be a member of Jersey Coast Sport Fliers!

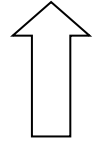


6TH PLACE SPORT FLYER 82



A little farewell to Ed.

When I was writing my opening for the newsletter the night of Ed's passing I was feeling rather sad. Another old friend gone. But then today I had a chance to read Ed's obituary and I recalled how much he did—how active he was. I doubt Ed ever sat still. Between sports and golf, coaching, model airplanes, and his family he seemed to always be doing something. Ed was 95 at the time of his passing, which is something to celebrate. He only slowed down in the end as his sight and hearing faded. But otherwise he had a great life—something worth emulating. We'll miss Ed, but we should also celebrate a life well lived.



First Class Mail



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting – Wednesday January 24th, 8:00 PM at the Eatontown Public Library. Model of the Month and plus 2023 Model of the Year!!!

Sat. February 10 – Atoms RC'ers Swap Meet (Hillsborough)