



# THE TRANSMITTER



## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY COAST SPORT FLIERS

AMA CLUB #1265, EST. 1973

[WWW.JCSPORTFLIERS.ORG](http://WWW.JCSPORTFLIERS.ORG)

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## ANOTHER NEAT IN THE BOOKS

It's hard to believe that a week ago tonight I was about 180 miles north of where I'm currently writing this newsletter— getting in a few last night flights and wondering how the past nine days had flown by so quickly. And thinking that I didn't want to turn in yet, as that meant when I woke in the morning that I'd have to pack up and head back to reality. But all good things must come to an end, and it was another great week that we collectively spent in Shinhopple, NY at the NEAT Fair. The picture at the right was taken last Saturday night as we were having a final get-together. I'll give a more detailed report later in this issue, but suffice to say that once again JCSF's presence was known at the Fair...



The really big news is that not only is our club's RC swap meeting coming up soon— **Saturday November**

**2nd** to be specific, but we have a new location!!!! Joe Lupo has a very good relationship with the **Saint Mary School in Middletown** and was able to secure the use of their gym for our event. While for as long as I can remember we've had our annual event at the Croydon Hall gym, unfortunately they've been progressively raising their prices to the point that it's been getting hard to make a decent profit, and this year's increase was pushing us over the edge. Thankfully Joe came up with an alternative, and by all reports it's a VERY nice location, and it's much more reasonable to boot! You'll find a copy of our flyer for this event at the end of this issue—please share it with your RC friends, and if anyone needs a PDF copy please reach out to me and I'll send you a copy. In the meantime you should have gotten an email from Prez Dave about table reservations. If you're interested in a table or two (or three) please send him your request and a check ASAP so we can get you some space. And please mark your calendars—with the swap meet format we'll still need help from the JCSF members to set up and clean up afterwards.

**This month's meeting is this Wednesday night 9/25 at the Eatontown Public Library.** As mentioned before we're moving up our **start time to 7PM.** This month features Project Night so be sure to bring something to show off—we'll have sport and scale categories!!!

## August JCSF Monthly Meeting

We had our last monthly outdoor meeting of the year at Dorbrook Park on Wednesday August 28th. We had eight members in attendance—six Exec Board and two general members.

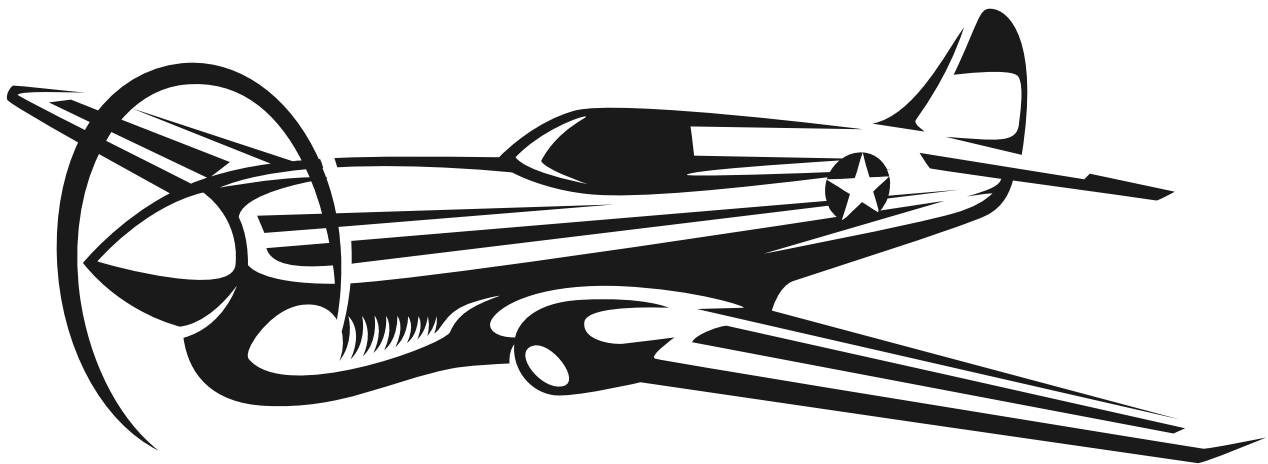
### Old Business:

- We reminded the membership that with September around the corner we'll be back indoors at the Eatontown Public Library. Meetings will start one hour earlier than before— 7pm—to allow folks to get home at a better time with the seasons changing.
- Adam discussed the recently completed Golden Age and Haverstraw events on August 15-18th and August 24th respectively. Adam indicated that the Golden Age event continues to get bigger and better every year, and this year the turnout was fantastic.

### New Business:

- The Rhinebeck Jamboree is coming up on September 5-8th. A number of members make that event, oftentimes as a lead into the next event.
- The NEAT Fair is officially scheduled for September 12-15th, but quite honestly this has become NEAT Week and most pilots show up the weekend before, typically arriving between Friday 9/6 and Sunday 9/8.
  - Editor's note: Look for more details of this year's event in this issue.
- The Club swap meet was discussed— it will be held on Saturday November 2nd.
  - As was mentioned in the opening, the swap meet has a new home this year— Saint Mary School in Middletown.
  - We still need help in setting up and clean up afterwards, so we appreciate members helping out on that day!

Surprisingly there were no entries for Model of the Month, so we don't have any photo or winners to share.



## NEAT Week 2024

For those of you keeping score at home, this year was the 25th anniversary of the *Northeast Electric Aircraft Technology Fair*, or NEAT Fair for short. The first was way back in 2000, two years after the famous KRC event in PA stopped running. Who knew that a couple of guys getting together to fly electric airplanes at a remote campsite in upstate New York would evolve into a week-long celebration of all types of electric flight. Back in 2000 electric flight was still a novelty pursued by a fairly small group of enthusiasts who were still using brushed motors and NiCad or NiMHd batteries. Brushless motors and LiPo packs were still to come, and most planes using this power setup looked more like old-school free flight planes in an attempt to keep weight and wing loading at a controllable level. When I made my first NEAT Fair in 2003 I remember being blown away when I saw folks like Keith Shaw flying sixty-sized electric planes running 24 to 30 cell batteries with Astro 90 motors and getting in four to five minute flights. This was state of the art, and if this was your thing then you needed to be at NEAT. In addition to the amazing planes, we had SO many vendors on site selling their wares. This was before the Internet started to cannibalize these guys, and you'd have 30+ vendors selling everything from batteries and motors to kits and complete airplanes. Folks like Hobby Lobby and Northeast Sailplanes had a tremendous presence at NEAT, and folks would line up to see the latest and greatest they were offering, plus get some sweet deals.

I don't know if folks saw it coming so quickly, but it seems like once brushless motors became generally available things began to change in terms of applying electric drivetrains to more general models (including many glow conversions), however once lithium-polymer batteries became available then things really changed. Kokam and Thunderpower batteries brought energy density to an unforeseen level compared to the heavy metal cells we'd been using to that point, and suddenly building an electric plane became more approachable for the general modeler. Vendors like Tower Hobbies and Horizon picked this up and all of a sudden electric flight was mainstream. You could buy a ready to fly electric plane and have good performance and flight time, and now based on my observations it seems that electric flight is at least as popular as glow (at least in our area). It's amazing how quickly things changed.

So NEAT evolved as well. Yes, as time progressed we started to see a lot more prebuilt electric planes, but there were still those guys who would push the envelope and get our attention. It was these guys who gave inspiration to those of us who still like to design and/or build our own planes. So NEAT still has that technology piece if you look for it.

NEAT also evolved as a social event. As electric flight became more common, it didn't seem that perhaps NEAT was as "important" from a technology demonstration level as it once had been. But a funny thing happened. The guys who had been coming for all those years started looking at NEAT as an opportunity to see a rather select group of people once a year — a chance to see old friends, catch up, and compare notes and ideas. So NEAT became a flying event with a huge social element. This in part led to the idea of NEAT Week, because folks needed more than three or four days to catch up with their once-a-year extended family. Suddenly NEAT became very important for all the right reasons — the people and their amazing airplanes.

At this year's NEAT Fair our trusty club was very well represented and once again hosted many popular events over the course of the week. We had our traditional Vapor Games contest on Thursday night, our (last) Friday night Chinese Hot Air Balloon launch, and a new spot landing contest on Wednesday afternoon. During NEAT Week we assume the persona of the Killer Rabbits—a collection of diverse clubs from around the country that share the Big Top. We "compete" with other tent groups, such as the Pigs that Fly, the Pirates, and others. These clubs keep things interesting after hours, and one of the big things we all pitch in on is a themed "Tent Crawl" on Wednesday night. The crawl starts at our Big Top, and winds it's way north to the other end of the flight line. This year's theme was "Alien Invasion" and most of our tent and many others in the valley dressed accordingly. It was a lot of fun....

I forget how many times I've written a summary of the NEAT Fair— all I know is there have been a lot of them. One constant recommendation that I give is that if you can spare a day or two in early September then you owe it to yourself to check out the NEAT Fair. I tell anyone that will listen that it's the best week of the year, and I suspect most of my NEAT extended family would say the same. There is something magical about this campground nestled in the Catskills—it's a very unique location. And the people who come there are just as special and unique. It's a very friendly, open place, so I suggest checking it out. If you ever have a question on how to get involved with this show please reach out to me and I'll share the details ;)

Photos from the 2024 NEAT Fair...

Wednesday night's Alien Invasion and Friday night's Chinese Balloon Launch.





More NEAT Fair photos...



2024 Vapor Games winners!!!



Vapor Games Pilot Prizes by Hitec



Friday night 9/6—the quiet before the storm...

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!!

# 2024 JERSEY COAST SPORT FLIERS

## RC SWAP MEET

# SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>

Doors open at 8am for Sellers, 9am for the General Public

Admission: \$5

NEW LOCATION!!!

SAINT MARY SCHOOL, MIDDLETOWN, NJ\*

OVER 70 TABLES OF MERCHANDISE!!!

FOOD AND BEVERAGES FOR SALE

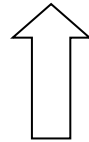
*PRIOR ATTENDEES STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS VIA EMAIL*

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ [WWW.JCSPORTFLIERS.ORG](http://WWW.JCSPORTFLIERS.ORG)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT OUR TABLEMASTER AT [DMPANHEAD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DMPANHEAD@GMAIL.COM)



\* Use Saint Mary School in your favorite GPS app— using the street address for the church will give conflicting directions.



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## First Class Mail



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Next Meeting – Wednesday September 25th, 7:00 PM at the  
Eatontown Public Library. Project Night (sport and scale).**

**Sunday 9/29— Limbo!!! 11am (Adam L. CD) Dorbrook**

**Saturday 10/12— Adopt-A-Road 9AM Dorbrook**

**Saturday 10/12— Club Picnic!!! Noon Dorbrook**