

"TURBULATOR"

Newsletter
of the Rio Rancho
Radio Control
Flying Club
AMA Club #2770

WATERMAN FIELD

ELEVATION 5840 FEET

35° 17.2'N 106° 44.8'W

Slo-Stick at the Field



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"Da Prez Sez"

November is here and some cooler weather is starting to show up. Last Saturday and Sunday were quite nice at the field, with a cool start, little wind and strong sunshine made the weekend enjoyable. No more float flying as Cochiti is closed for the season, and the water I am sure has gotten a little cooler. Two months left in 2015 means time to think Christmas party, 2016 dues, and elections. see

U all at Garry's on November 2.

Comming Events

1. Meeting 2 November 7:00pm at Wallen Club House
2. Dues are payable to our new Treasurer Bill Ryan
3. Club Officer nominations are open.
4. Indoor Flying at the Star November 9th and 16th
5. Congratulations to our new Safety Officer Tom Maier

Academy of Model Aeronautics

Member Communication



Thursday, October 29, 2015

By now, nearly everyone should be aware that the FAA and DOT are considering requiring registration of some sUAS and have created a task force to help develop that process.

As part of these efforts, the DOT and FAA have asked for public input on the issue and have identified 10 questions in the document titled "Clarification of the Applicability of Aircraft Registration Requirements for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and Request for Information Regarding Electronic Registration for UAS" that can be found at www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FAA-2015-4378.

AMA asks that its members review the questions and offer comments. The government website for this project is cumbersome and only allows a person to either type comments into a text box or to upload a file. To help, however, we are offering suggested comments to the questions we feel would impact our membership the most. Feel free to provide your own comments on the registration of model aircraft. We want the DOT to know your thoughts on registration, whether you think its beneficial and necessary to ensure for safe operation in the National Airspace System (NAS) or state any objections or limits you would have to a registration process. Discuss any concerns you might have or suggestions with establishing thresholds of who or what should be exempted from registration and what method of registration would you favor.

If you prefer, you can paste these comments directly into the response box. It's important that you submit your comments by November 6, 2015. Comments offered after this date will still be accepted, but might not carry as much weight as those submitted by the deadline.

Q: Consistent with past practice of discretion, should certain UAS be excluded from registration based on performance capabilities or other characteristics?

A threshold must be established under which sUAS/model aircraft are exempt from registration. Model aviation, operated within the safety programming of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), has an impeccable 80-year track record of operating safely and simply requiring AMA members to now register their aircraft would have no impact on that record.

The sUAS that lack the capability to fly beyond line of site by using either first-person view, or those sUAS that lack onboard navigational systems that allow the aircraft to fly missions beyond visual line of site, should likewise be exempt because they pose little or no threat to other users of the airspace. This would include all sUAS that fall into the toy category.

Q: How should a registration process be designed to minimize burdens and best protect innovation and encourage growth in the UAS industry?

Registration should involve only those platforms whose technological capabilities exceed a certain level. That threshold needs to be identified by using substantive, relevant data and not merely be a subjective point selected with nothing to support it. The process should be as automated as possible and minimally intrusive so as to only collect the data needed to identify the platform, if necessary.

AMA members have used a system of aircraft identification for decades where members place their names and addresses or AMA numbers on their models. This should be acceptable for AMA members as an alternative means of complying with the registration process.

Q: What type of information should be collected during the registration process to positively identify the aircraft owner and aircraft?

The only necessary data would be an identifying number/algorithm that connects through a database the name and address of the owner. Other information could be selected as appropriate such as an email address or telephone number.

Q: Are there additional means beyond aircraft registration to encourage accountability and responsible use of UAS?

Although registration of some platforms might have a minimal impact on the small number of users flying irresponsibly, most enthusiasts are accountable and want to fly safely. This is why it is so important that the DOT and FAA focus more of their efforts on education and training and increase their support of AMA's and AUVSI's efforts with the Know Before You Fly program.

Finally, the most important thing the FAA can do is to step up its efforts in taking enforcement action against anyone doing something that rises to the level of causing an eminent threat to others in the airspace; however, the real solution lies with education and enforcement.

Rio Rancho RC Flyers Christmas Party

When: 12 December

Where: Home of Garry and Mary Wallen

What Time: Starting at 6pm

There will be a short club meeting followed by Dinner. The club will purchase the meats(From Rudys) club members will provide side dishes and deserts.(See club email). There will also be a White Elephant gift exchange with gifts costing less than \$10 and 1 gift per person. The club will also raffle and airplane, tickets will be \$5/ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. All club members and their families are invited to the party. The club secretary will send an email to all club members separately coordinating the number of people and side dishes.

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the October 2015 Club Meeting

The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm
The Minutes were approved as presented.
The Treasurers Report was approved.
Membership Report: 56 Members.
Field Report: 1. The field is in good shape for winter. 2. There was a significant discussion on the purchase of surveillance equipment for the field. Cost of the equipment was projected at a few hundred dollars. The discussion was tabled until spring as the vandals usually get on the field a couple times a year starting in the spring.
Safety: It was discussed that we are in need of a new Safety Officer. This is a presidential appointed position. It was discussed to approach Tom Maier for the position.
Unfinished business: The Club Treasurer is prepared to accept dues for the 2016 year. Dues remain at \$50/year.
New Business: 1. The committee for the Christmas Party has been formed. The date for the party will be Saturday December 12th, the location will be the Wallen Home. We will continue pas traditions of having a White Elephant gift exchange(Gifts \$10 or less and 1 per person), buffet style dinner, and Raffle. Don will email the sign up

list for the dinner. The club will purchase the meats from Rudy's and side dishes/deserts will be provided by the membership.
2. Nominations for club offices was opened. Mike Skipwith did not accept nomination as Treasurer. Bill Ryan was nominated for treasurer and has accepted the nomination.
The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Please take the time to read the AMA Members Update in this newsletter and go to the Regulations website to comment. Also, be aware that when they talk about registering UAS it means Unmanned Aircraft System. This is not just quad copters as most have been talking talking about it means all unmanned aircraft which affects each one of us. Also Congress has exempted members of the AMA by law, but as usual the FAA is ignoring that fact. If you don't want more gov't in your life comment.

Turbulator:

Editor Don McClelland

We are always looking for articles, pictures and your input!

For comments, or suggestions

Please Email Don at
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RIO RANCHO RC CLUB

AMA Charter #2770

www.rioranchorcflyers.org

Next Club Meeting

November 2nd, 7:00pm at the
Wallen Club House. 5545 Lilac Pl.