



Whirlwind



Newsletter of the Beltzville Flying Machine Society,

P.O. Box 74, Palmerton, PA 18071
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COCKPIT CORNER – by Brian Sherman, did4ways@aol.com

Well 2015 is in the books. I hope everyone enjoyed a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2016, however, poses new challenges for our hobby as a result of late year registration rules promulgated by the FAA in direct contravention to Congressional the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act section 336. This regulation specifically prohibits the FAA from promulgating regulations for recreational users operating within the safety guidelines of a CBO such as the AMA. In addition, the FAA's contention that model aircraft should be considered aircraft is currently the subject of pending litigation.

In this person's sole opinion the FAA is taking advantage of the security concerns precipitated by the rash of terrorist actions and plots currently affecting countries around the globe to provide a sense of urgency to promulgate "feel good" regulations that are in direct conflict with existing Congressional regulations. The FAA regulation will do little or nothing to prevent the use of all available technologies to inflict carnage and fear to non-Islamic terrorist cultures. And, as has been made abundantly clear by the media reports, the FAA is unable to enforce the existing air space regulations and penalties on those persons that unknowingly or knowingly violate those regulations.

Although the FAA sates that the one of the primary purposes of the registration process is to ensure that persons operating outside the organizations like the AMA know the rules, the levels of proposed fines far exceeds any "reasonableness" test. And even the FAA explicitly states there are no additional FAA resources to be employed nor did they attempt to quantify any "safety benefit" from the regulation. How can the FAA reconcile this position with their original determination that there are an increasing number of dangerous incidents occurring in the NAS?

EXACT TEXT from the FAA Interim Final Regulation

Safety

- We assume this regulation does not affect the levels of FAA manpower or resources expended on UAS safety education and outreach but it will allow the FAA to target those efforts, making those on-going efforts more effective.
- We do not attempt to quantify any safety benefit from this regulation. (See "Qualitative Benefits" section in the Regulatory Evaluation for further discussion).

In short it's just more big government intruding on Americans' personal freedoms with no tangible benefit.

The FAA and the American public would be much better served by the FAA cooperating with and supporting organizations like the AMA. The support would start with the FAA acknowledging that AMA and its members be exempt from the registration requirement. It would continue by giving non-AMA members the option to join an recognized organization like the AMA or registering on the FAA's website. This approach would be a win-win for everyone and greatly enhance the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives the government and public sector are promoting to help American children develop an interest in and capability to compete in the technologies that will make America a global leader well into the future.

One concession the AMA would need to make (and has already offered to make) is to provide the FAA with the AMA membership ID numbers and address information. I believe that this would be a very reasonable compromise.

Although the Interim Final Regulation is in effect now, there is an open window for public comment until Jan 15th and a final registration deadline of Feb 19th. At the end of this article is the AMA's recent pro-action request to its members. In short the requests boil down to:

- a) Hold off on registration as long as possible pending the outcome of the public comment and AMA's efforts.
- b) Take advantage of the open public comment period thru Jan 15th to clearly and loudly register our voices with the FAA. The link is: <http://1.usa.gov/1Jegj0C>.

The outcome of our combined efforts could well make the difference between the continued enjoyment of our hobby unfettered by excessive and ineffective government regulation not only for us but for our children and children's children for generations to come.

In the end, however, your officers are charged with making sure that the BFMS and its members fully comply with all pertinent laws and regulations. But that does not mean we have no voice. This is AMERICA; home of the brave and land of the free.

Come on out to our January meeting and share your views and suggestions with the club officers and members.

Until next time keep the cockpit up and be safe.

**Next Meeting at P.J. Whelihan's Pub at Platz's,
101 Harrity Road,
Lehighton, PA 18235.**

**Located at the Mahoning interchange of the PA Turnpike just across the
Pohopoco Creek from Route 209**

The AMA has recommended that our members hold off on registering their model aircraft with the FAA until advised by the AMA or until the FAA's legal deadline of February 19. Holding off on registration will allow time for AMA to fully consider all possible legal and political options for alleviating this unnecessary regulatory burden on our members.

In the meantime, you can help by making your voice heard with the FAA. Specifically we are asking all AMA members to submit comments on the FAA's interim rule on registration. The deadline to submit comments is January 15, 2016. All comments can be submitted at <http://1.usa.gov/1Jegj0C>.

Below are recommended messages to convey in your comments:

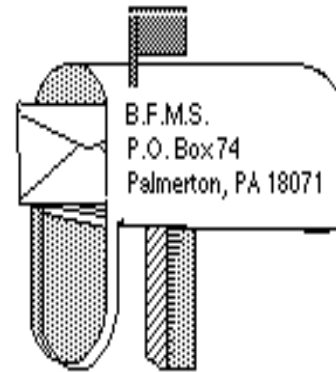
- Express your disappointment with the registration rule. As a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA), I am disappointed with the new rule for UAS registration. I am a long time model aircraft flyer, who has operated under the guidance of the largest community-based organization (CBO) in the world for many years.
- Highlight AMA's history and safety record. Since 1936, AMA has published safety standards and offered training programs for our members - more than 20 years before the FAA was created. Our National Model Aircraft Safety Code has been recognized by Congress as well as by state legislatures as a safe and effective means of managing model aircraft enthusiasts like me.
- Note that you already register with AMA. Additionally, AMA's safety program already instructs me to place my AMA number or name and address on or within my model aircraft(s), effectively accomplishing the safety and accountability objectives of the interim rule.
- Make it clear this rule is contrary to the intent of Congress. The new rule is contrary to the intent of Congress in Section 336 of the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act. Section 336, also referred to as the "Special Rule for Model Aircraft," clearly prohibits the FAA from promulgating any new rules for recreational users operating within the safety guidelines of a CBO. In addition, the FAA's contention that model aircraft should be considered aircraft is currently the subject of pending litigation.
- Affirm that as an AMA member you should be exempt from federal registration. The registration process is an unnecessary burden for me and the more than 185,000 other AMA members. AMA members should not be required to register with the FAA.

[FAA section 336](#)
[Interim Final Rule Regulatory Evaluation](#)
<http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/>

Dues

It is that time of the year when we must ask you, if you wish to retain your membership in the Beltzville Flying Machine Society, to send a check for \$35.00 to Scott Voth at P.O. Box 74, Palmerton, PA 18071. You can also pay in cash by coming to the meeting this Saturday, January 9, 2016 at **P.J. Wheelman's Pub at Platz's, 101 Harrity Road, Lehighton, PA 19235. It is located at the Mahoning Valley exit of the PA Turnpike, just across the Pohopoco Creek from Route 209.**

Enclosed with this mailing of the newsletter is a membership renewal form that we kindly ask you to fill out and return with your Dues Payment. It is helpful in keeping our records up to date, and the membership list that we distribute in February,



“Elections”

The deed is done for 2016. The same old officers have been re-elected, actually appointed to their positions for the New Year. Thank you for your trust and support. We do our best for you and the club!

Brian Sherman is President. Jack Mertz has been elected Vice President. Scott Voth will be the Treasurer and John Carrigan remains Secretary. Our Safety Officer is Randy Sherman and the Newsletter Editor is John Carrigan.

Have a Happy New Year and an enjoyable and safe flying season during 2016!

West End Wings, our neighbor to the north in Brodheadsville has quite a different view of the FAA/AMA dispute. Please take a look at what they recently published. It will be an **attachment** along with this newsletter.

Hats For Sale

Scott Voth is the person to see if you are interested in a new club hat. The cost is \$10.00, the price the club paid to have them produced by Valley Athletic Supply Co. of Lansford.

The two styles were decided upon by the members present at an earlier meeting this Summer.

Get your new hat at the next meeting. If you are like me, it is time for a new one because the old hat is sweat stained, and the “oil needs changing.”

Scott now has a few to sell since he picked up the new order.



Caution: Hunting Season

Remember fellow Radio Control flyers that we are guests in the park. At this time of the year, hunters have the right of way. Please wear some orange if you intend to fly at the field. If hunters are present, they have the field, so to speak, that is, do not attempt to fly.

Comments and suggestions should be directed to
John Carrigan
at
carrjic1238@yahoo.com

Please take special note!

Next Meeting,
Saturday, January 9, 2016
about
12:00 PM (noon)
at
P.J. Whelihan's Pub
at Platz's
101 Harrity Road

Beltzville Flying Machine Society

2016 Renewal Form

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

AMA Membership Number: _____ Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Radio Frequencies Used: _____

Number of years in Modeling: _____ Years in Radio Control: _____

My Favorite Modeling Areas are: (use 1 for first choice, 2 for second choice, etc.)

Radio Control Aircraft _____ Helicopter _____ Cars _____ Boats _____

Control-line Aircraft _____ Freeflight _____ Hand-Launch Gliders _____

If you are a Junior Applicant, Please have your sponsor sign here:

_____ AMA Number _____

If you are applying for Family Membership, Please list the names of those to be included.

1. _____ AMA Number _____

2. _____ AMA Number _____

3. _____ AMA Number _____

Please Sign Here _____ Date _____

Please complete this form and submit with your dues.