



# Whirlwind



Newsletter of the Beltzville Flying Machine Society

March 2019

**COCKPIT CORNER** – by Brian Sherman, [did4ways@aol.com](mailto:did4ways@aol.com)

## ***YOU'RE FIRED!!!!!!!!!!***

Groundhog Day 2019: Punxsutawney Phil Predicts An **Early** Spring. Groundhog Club co-handler John Griffiths holds Punxsutawney Phil, the weather prognosticating groundhog, during the 132nd celebration of Groundhog Day on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa., Friday, Feb.



Contrary to the ground hog's prediction there are no signs of an early spring. The past two Friday's I arrived to my home in PA to find my driveway covered with snow and ice. Even the heavy duty snow blower was unable to cut through it. But this little beauty sure helped cut through the ice blocks the unfriendly snow plow driver left in front of my driveway. Hope you all survived OK.



I've been quite busy at work lately so have not made much progress on my giant scale Sukhoi 3D plane. The elevator servos are in and aligned. The protractor method takes a little more time but the up/down travel is now balanced and no signs of the servos binding at any point. Next are the wing servos. Three in each wing. That will take some time to do right.

On another subject critical to drone flyers is to note that the FAA passed a new regulation requiring that your FAA ID number be placed on the outside of every drone effective immediately. The FAA claims the reason is to assist 1<sup>st</sup> responders to identify the drone without having to open it and possibly triggering an IED explosion. But that logic doesn't hold up to scrutiny.

No 1<sup>st</sup> responder is going to go anywhere near a drone (or any other package) that could potentially be an IED regardless of external markings. Standard protocol is to treat them as potential explosive devices and have an expert bomb tech remove the device from the site. It is plain and simple a way to facilitate enforcement of the label requirement from afar. But the reg does not specify where on the outside the ID is to be affixed. So the underside is OK.

**See you at Saturday's meeting!**

Until next time keep the cockpit up and be safe.

## 2019 Dues

You can pay at the next meeting, or you can mail a check to:

**Scott Voth (BFMS)**  
**P.O. Box 74, Palmerton, PA 18071.**

Any questions or comments  
should be directed to  
Scott King at:  
[skyking@ptd.net](mailto:skyking@ptd.net)

The next meeting of the BFMS  
will be at:  
**P.J. Whelihan's (Platz's)**  
Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at Noon