



ROTATE

The Official Monthly Publication of the St. Louis Radio Control Flying Association

MARCH 2015

Your Story Here

Have an interesting aviation or hobby related story/experience you would like to share? Want to let fellow members know about your latest build? Or perhaps a tip or technique that could help everyone out?

Get it published in SLRCFA's Rotate newsletter. It's simple, send your story and pictures to SLRCFA's newsletter editor via e-mail to slrcfa.rotate@gmail.com and it will be published in the next month's issue.

Spectators Welcome



As the weather continues to warm, the ground is thawing, trees are budding, and our friends, neighbors and guests are watching us from the spectator fence line. Please make every effort to take a minute to greet these people, they are watching us fly and have an interest in our hobby. All of these spectators share the same common interest as all of us and are potential

new members to SLRCFA. Talk to them, ask them if they fly (R/C, full scale,...), or have a relative interested in R/C flying. Inform our guest that we have instructors available and give them a brochure. (Brochures are located in the pavilion in a plastic flyer holder on a support post near the electrical power panel.) The brochures have all of the required information to guide these individuals to our website and to get in touch with an instructor. This quick talk could get you a SLRCFA membership discount for the following year. If a NEW (to SLRCFA) paying member joins SLRCFA and list you as their personal reference, you will receive a \$50 credit towards the following year's dues.

Take a minute and talk to guests, it pays.

Increased Traffic

Traffic??? On Augustine Road??? Really???

SLRCFA shares the valley with numerous children riding their bicycles, families walking their dogs, and runners jogging up and down Augustine Road. Please obey the **SPEED LIMIT of 25 MPH** on Augustine Road and be on the lookout for pedestrians and their pets. Our driving to and from our field reflects directly upon our club, and SLRCFA strives to be a Family Friendly and SAFE area for all.



AMA's Response to the FAA's sUAS NPRM

On February 23, 2015, the FAA published its proposed regulations for small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) as a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM). This began a 60-day period during which the public can comment on the proposed regulations. When finalized, the proposed rules would become the safety regulations for operating small, *non-recreational*, unmanned aircraft.

In accordance with the Special Rule for Model Aircraft (the AMA amendment) established by Congress in the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-95), ***the new regulations would not apply to model aircraft operated within the safety programming of a nationwide community-based organization.*** This is good news for AMA members; however, the FAA has said that to be exempt from regulations, model aircraft operators must operate within the parameters of the Special Rule set out by Congress in 2012.

The NPRM references FAA's June 2014 interpretation of the Special Rule. As indicated in detail in [updates to our members last summer](#), the AMA has taken exception to several aspects of FAA's interpretation. The main areas of concern are that the FAA's interpretation:

- Asserts model aircraft to be "aircraft" and effectively makes model airplanes subject to all regulations applicable to full-scale aircraft.
- Makes model aircraft subject to airspace requirements that have never been applicable in the past and with which it is impossible or impractical to comply.
- Effectively changes the criteria for operating within 5 miles of an airport from the requirement of providing prior "notification" to a requirement of obtaining prior permission.
- Narrowly defines "hobby and recreation" and puts in question the activities of the supporting aeromodeling industry and AMA's educational programs.
- Rigidly defines the requirement to operate within visual line of sight and targets the use of a specific aeromodeling technology/equipment, namely first-person view (FPV) goggles.

Overall, the AMA views the proposed sUAS regulations as a positive step. With one exception that may impact model aircraft manufacturers, it essentially takes the language in the 2012 Special Rule for Model Aircraft (the AMA amendment) and places it in the federal aviation regulations.

We encourage members to submit comments

commending the FAA for appropriately separating model aviation from the new regulations. However, AMA would also encourage members to include in their comments the need to resolve the discrepancies stemming from the Interpretive Rule before finalizing the sUAS rule. In any case, it's important that our members provide their comments in support of the proposed rule. It's possible that there will be members of the public or aviation industry who will be opposed to a rule that protects the model aviation hobby, and we need to make sure that our voices are heard in support of continued community-based self-governance.

Comments on the proposed sUAS rule can be made by [clicking here](#). Read the proposed rule carefully, particularly the sections concerning "model aircraft," and submit comments on areas where you have a concern as well as thoughtful and productive comments in areas where you feel there could be improvement. AMA has created a suggested template for comments, which we strongly encourage you to edit and personalize. Unless extended, the deadline for submitting comments is 11:59 p.m., Friday, April 24, 2015.

Template Comment for AMA Members

I am writing in response to the FAA's proposal to regulate small unmanned aircraft systems, including model aircraft. ***[Insert personal introduction details such as: I am a [job/profession], a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, and have been safely and responsibly flying model aircraft for ___ years. I am also a model aircraft club officer/educator/designer, etc.]***

I support the exemption of recreational model aircraft from the regulation of unmanned aircraft systems. As Congress recognized, self-governance under community-based safety guidelines has worked exceptionally well for decades, and should remain in place. However, I have the following concerns about the FAA's proposal: ***[choose all that you feel apply, and feel free to add other comments]***

The FAA has repeated its June 2014 statement that model aircraft are "aircraft" subject to all existing aviation regulations. The FAA must revise this interpretation so that it is

in agreement with what Congress directed in 2012, which is that recreational model aircraft are subject to community-based safety guidelines, not aviation regulations. Similarly, the regulatory proposal excludes ultralight vehicles, moored balloons, kites, amateur rockets, and unmanned free balloons from the FAA's aircraft operating regulations but neglects to expressly exclude model aircraft. The proposed regulation should make it clear that model aircraft meeting the criteria established by Congress are not subject to aviation regulations.

Also, the proposal leaves out the part of the statute that excludes "an aircraft being developed as a model aircraft" from aviation regulations. This exclusion must be added to the regulations. Companies in the model aircraft industry should not be regulated as if they are aircraft manufacturers.

The FAA bases its proposal on its June 2014 interpretation of the law concerning model aircraft. There were 33,000 comments submitted last summer concerning that interpretation [including mine]. The future regulations for model aircraft should not be based on incorrect interpretations of what Congress wrote. Some of the interpretations that should be changed to the extent they form the basis for any current or future regulation include:

- Making model aircraft subject to airspace requirements such as air traffic control clearance, that have never been applicable in the past and with which it is impossible or impractical to comply. Congress indicated the maximum obligation, which is actually stricter than what the FAA's guidance has been for the past 34 years: notifying the airport when operating within five miles. That is the most that model aircraft hobbyists should have to do.
- Rigidly defining a requirement to operate within visual line of sight and that calls into question the use of a specific technology or equipment, namely first-person view (FPV) goggles. The language of the 2012 statute

concerning "within visual line of sight" indicates how far away a person should fly the model aircraft, not what method of control may be used for the recreational experience. The proposal for commercial unmanned aircraft acknowledges that an observer (spotter) can be used to ensure airspace safety, just as the AMA's community-based safety guidelines do.

- Narrowly interpreting the words "hobby or recreational use." You should not regulate people who are flying model aircraft in connection with the hobby just because they receive payments. For decades, enthusiasts have participated in contests and competitions that have cash prizes, have been paid to instruct others on how to safely fly models, and have received compensation for aerobatic displays. These payments incidental to the hobby do not change the underlying recreational purpose of the activity or make the hobby any less safe, and regulating these activities would be highly disruptive to the hobby without any benefit.

Respectfully,

[Name]

[Optional] AMA Member Number: _____

Upcoming Events

- April 2nd 7pm SLRCFA Board Meeting @ @ Stratford Inn 800 S hwy Dr. Fenton, MO
- April 18th Midwest Air Wing Swap Meet Bellville, IL <http://midwestairwingrc.com/events/>
- June 6th-7th SLRCFA's Radio Control Fly In SLRCFA's annual Big Bird Fly-in
- July 11th-12th Big Bird Fly In @ Buder Park
- August 21st-23rd RedwingRC Show-Me 3d flying event @ SLRCFA
- September 19th-20th Buder Park Extravaganza
- October 3rd-4th SLRCFA's Warbirds Over St. Louis warbird only Event
- October 18th SLRCFA's Toys for Tots/ Chili Fly

Indoor Flying

Has the weather been keeping you from flying? There is a solution close to home.



Many SLRCFA members have been flying Friday nights 6-9pm indoors at the Central Baptist Church in Eureka, MO. All are welcome to fly for \$5 a night, but must be a current AMA member (SLRCFA membership not required). It's a great way to brush on your flying skills, not weather dependent, and Fun!!

Contact: Ron Lawson 636-677-1247 for details

Volunteers Needed

St Louis RC Flying Association
Radio Control Fly In
June 6th and 7th 2015
 Highway 44 at 109, 788 Augustine Road, Eureka, Mo. 63025

- >Concessions
- >Raffle
- >Balloons for Kids
- >Scale Fly Bys Saturday at Noon
- >On site Primitive Camping
- >Night flying under lights, all planes welcome, 8pm-?
- > Night Flying requires small fee for unregistered pilots
- > Demos Daily
- > Pilot Fee \$30, includes Dinner Saturday night
- >IMAA Rules Apply (80+ inch wingspan)
- >All Flyers Welcome
- >Spectator \$5 per car Gate Donation Appreciated

Hotels Close to Flying Site
 Drury Inn 1-636-861-8300 Hampton Inn 1-636-529-9020
 Holiday Inn 1-636-349-4444 Pear Tree Inn 1-636-343-8820

Check slrcfa.com for more information
 Email: kce19555@aol.com

Volunteers are needed for numerous roles at our June 6th and 7th big bird flying event. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Kerry Eisenbach by phone 314-638-8755 or email kce19555@aol.com

SLRCFA Board Meeting Minutes March 5th, 2015



Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with board members Ken Merrill, Ron Lawson, Kerry Eisenbach, Shane Eisenbach, Mike Stellern, Mark Stellern, Jonathon Hendrickson, Bob Freukes, Alan Main, James Speelman and Doug Thompson in attendance.

1. Treasury report read and accepted .
2. Currently 85 members. All members urged to pay

- their dues. Also \$25 late fee is now in effect.
3. Motion passed to use \$100 out of maintenance field funds for mole problem.
 4. Motion passed to revise current club application. Jonathon Hendrickson will make some rough drafts for club to vote on.
 5. Motion passed to hire Chuck Gansner to do electric for night lights at \$185.
 6. Jonathon will look into new outdoor fan prices and Kerry will look into new first aid kit.
 7. Meeting adjourned at 8:02PM



GENERAL INFORMATION

2014 Board of Directors

Stan King, President.....	314.962.4704
Ken Merrill, Vice President	636.671.7320
Shane Eisnebach, Secretary	314.226.4231
Ron Lawson, Treasurer	636.677.1247
Jonathon Hendrickson, Newsletter Editor.....	815.222.5790
Kerry Eisenbach, Director.....	314.638.8755
Allen Main, Director	636.938.5315
James Speelman, Director	314.503.4350
Mark Stellern, Director	636.458.4874
Mike Stellern, Director	636.458.0006
Doug Thompson, Director.....	636.391.7950

Club Information

The *Rotate* newsletter is a monthly publication of the St. Louis Radio Control Flying Association. Monthly General meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the club field in warm

weather. The Club's private field is located at 788 Augustine Road, Eureka, Missouri. Guest/members are welcome to attend the Board meeting the 1st Thursday of the month. See web page for details.

Flying Instructors List

Jonathon Hendrickson.....	815.222.5790
Dennis Chivetta	636.391.8071
Mark Stellern	636.458.4874
Mike Stellern.....	636.458.0006
Doug Thompson.....	636.391.7950

2015 Membership Dues

Annual Dues (includes children under 18 years old)	\$160
Associate Member (over 75 miles away and Exclusions)	\$60
Family Dues (includes member + spouse & children under 21 years old or full-time students until 23 years old).....	\$200
Junior Dues (17 years old or younger).....	Free
Handicapped Dues.....	\$55
Seniors Dues (65 years old and older)	\$135

Late fee of \$25 assessed to prior members renewing after March 1st
 Make checks payable to SLRCFA. Mail to Ron Lawson, 3225 Rock Creek Road, High Ridge, MO 63049. Any questions call 636.677.1247.

SLRCFA MEMBERS SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT YOU

Schaefer's Hobbies, Arts and Crafts



11659 Gravois Road,
 St. Louis, MO 63126
 Phone 314 729 7077

*Just East of Lindbergh,
 Opposite the Gravois post Office*

Radio Control Airplanes, Boats and Cars

Mark Twain Hobby Center

ST Charles MO For All the BEST for Your Hobbies
 St. Charles MO 63301

636-946-2816

Monday through Saturday - 9:30am to 9:00 pm

Sunday - 12:00 to 4:30 pm
www.hobby1.com



636-600-8735
www.RedwingRC.com