

The Marion Eagle Newsletter



<http://marionrcflyers.info>

MRCF

PO Box 9202

Rochester, MN 55903

June 2020

Volume 164

Editor: Wayne Brown

Club Officers 2020

President: Wayne Brown (507) 319-4406

rotoman@charter.net

Vice President: Skip Gram (507) 273-2748

klgram@charter.net

Treasurer: Judi Snyder (507) 990-8470

Jsndolly057@gmail.com

Sec. /Newsletter: Wayne Brown (507) 319-4406

rotoman@charter.net

Safety Officer: Jim Payne (507) 993-1962

jimpayneviola@gmail.com

Field Maintenance: Jeff Sorenson

Rc13469@hotmail.com

Flight Instructors: Ray Dray (507) 261-0930 cell

ridmid56@gmail.com ; Skip Gram (507) 273-2748

Skip Gram <klgram@charter.net>

Program Chairman: Open volunteer position

Club Dues accepted at the Club meetings or send your dues to:

**Marion RC Flyers
PO Box 9202
Rochester, Mn 55903**

Adult Membership \$75.00 per year

Family (Spouse) Membership \$75.00 per year

Student (19 years of age or under) \$1.00 per year

No Initiation Fee for New Members

*******Summer Meeting Schedule*******

Summer club meetings will resume on June 10, 2020.

We will meet at the club field starting at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month....

June 10th; July 8th; August 12th; September 9th;

Oct 14th (depending on weather)

Electric Indoor Flying at the National Guard Armory

Wednesday's starting at 9:00 am.

Indoor flying is suspended at the Armory due to the COVID-19. We will inform you when it is open for us to use.

Wayne's Corner....

Our first club meeting of 2020 will be this Wednesday June 10th at the club field starting at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing the June 27th Fun Fly.

In the Model Aviation Magazine on page 4 under "Hygiene" Bullet points 7 & 8 gives good recommendations about food service. It is good to know that we have a certified food server, Dan

Snyder, who always makes sure the food he cooks in okay to eat.

We can talk about social distancing, masks and how to set up the food service line to protect everyone in attendance.

We would hate ourselves if someone contracts COVID-19 and exposes someone else and they come down with COVID-19.

I pray that everyone is healthy and safe. We miss you all!

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As a reminder here are the Field Safety Rules:

Field Safety Rules

Section 1: Field open 8:00 A.M. to dusk.

Section 2: Flying is restricted to club members and their guests if they have current AMA or club membership cards posted.

Section 3: All flyers must follow established AMA frequency control procedures.

Section 4: Expansion type mufflers required on .049 cc and larger engines. The noise limit is 100 dB for 9 ft. In addition, any aircraft with a noise level that is objectionable to the general membership or neighbors will be grounded until it is made acceptable. The Safety Officer will make the final determination.

Section 5: All flying within the prescribed field boundaries.

Section 6: Dangerous flying or unruly behavior is not permitted.

Section 7: No spectators allowed beyond this point without escorts. Pilots are responsible for anyone under their escort.

Section 8: Flyers not complying with the AMA and field rules will lose their privilege to fly at this site.

Section 9: The pilot of an RC aircraft shall fly using the assistance of a camera or First-Person View (FPV) only in accordance with the procedures outlined in AMA Document # 550.

Section 10: The pilot of an RC aircraft shall fly using the assistance of an autopilot or stabilization system only in accordance with the procedures outlined in AMA Document #560.

Section 11: Please take your entire trash home with you.

The Student Flight Instruction Program will resume June 2020 weather permitting. We recommend students make reservations with the Flight Instructors.

Beginner's Night: Wednesday afternoons/evenings. Contact our qualified Flight Instructors for free flight instruction. It is recommended that you make an appointment with Ray Dray or Skip Gram for flight instruction.

Call Ray Dray at (cell) 261-0930 or (home) 775-6933.

Call Skip Gram at (507) 273-2748

Student Flight Instruction Program

Student flight instruction is provided free of charge during the flying season, June through September, by one of our qualified flight instructors.

- Please call Ray Dray at 261-0930 (cell) or 775-6933 (home) or Skip Gram at 273-2748 to set up an appointment for flight instruction. They can answer any questions you might have.
- You should read and understand the club rules that are posted online and at the field. If you have any questions have your instructor clarify them during the first flight lesson.
http://www.marionrcflyers.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20&Itemid=16
- Please call our club instructor to make an appointment for flight training. This will assure that there will be somebody at the field to assist you.
- After completing your lessons, you will need to join the AMA and our club to be allowed to fly at our club field. Join the AMA at <https://www.modelaircraft.org/joinrenew.aspx>. To join our club, contact Wayne Brown at 319-4406. Our membership forms can be found in the New Pilot Info link to the left.

The available instructors are listed below:

Instructor	Phone Number	Special Information
Ray Dray	261-0930 cell	Airplane Instruction
	775-6933 Home	
Skip Gram	273-2748	Airplane Instruction

- If using your own airplane for flight lessons you should make sure your radio equipment has been charged and the switches are in the off position before you arrive at the field. If you do not own your own airplane you can use the club training aircraft at no charge to you.
- When you arrive at the field ask for your instructor. He will provide direction on where and how to set up the airplane for instruction.
- Pay attention to what your instructor has to say and show you. He will show you proper flying field procedures and etiquette. You can learn by observing how pilots set up and fly their aircraft.
- Relax and take your time. If you feel tired or worn out call it a day and schedule a lesson for another day. When learning to fly it may take more lessons than expected.
- When your instructor says you are ready you will complete a check flight, where you will be asked to do three takeoffs and landings, demonstrate the correct pattern and flying field etiquette. After successful completion you will then be considered a qualified R/C Pilot and allowed to fly solo without an instructor.
- You can request additional lessons at any time. These can include aerobatic maneuvers.

Meeting Minutes

**No meetings until
June 2020**

AMA Government Affairs Update 5/22/2020

The AMA Government Affairs team continues to work with Congress and the FAA despite the ongoing pandemic. We have been able to conduct telephone meetings and participate in virtual video conferencing in order to continue our efforts to advocate for the hobby. In the past few weeks, we have seen developments that will impact our hobbyist community. Throughout the last year, we have been working with clubs in controlled airspace to secure Letters of Agreement (LOA) with local air traffic control (ATC) facilities. In the last few weeks, we have been able to get many of these mutually agreed-upon LOAs signed and we are happy to see that this process is progressing more quickly. In addition to securing LOAs for our clubs, we have also secured a path for night operations at fixed flying sites in controlled airspace. To streamline the LOA process for our clubs, the FAA is working to finalize a LOA checklist that will be used in its ATC manuals.

We continue to conduct Safety Risk Management panels for clubs in controlled airspace that need to fly over the FAA UAS Facility Map altitude. The clubs that have gone through this process have been successful and are being approved for their requested altitudes. This process highlights potential safety risks and results in identifying safety mitigations in order to continue our safe operations.

We are being told that Advisory Circular (AC) 91-57C will be out for public comment sometime soon, and the FAA is working to finalize this AC sometime this calendar year. This AC will include an outline for community-based organization recognition and the recreational Knowledge and Safety test. In addition, we are hearing rumors that the FAA is on schedule for a final rule on Remote ID by the end of the calendar year. Recreational operators had a large impact during the comment period on the NPRM. We have heard that there were many identified issues with the rule that will need better solutions, which include cost, broadcast abilities and FAA Recognized Identification Areas. Again, thank you to everyone who commented on the NPRM.

AMA will continue to work with the FAA to advocate for our members. As always, please contact the Government Affairs department with questions and concerns at (765) 287-1256 or amagov@modelaircraft.org.

Join the AMA Foundation in celebrating the ninth annual National Model Aviation Day, August 15, 2020!

National Model Aviation Day was created to encourage clubs to celebrate their hobby by sharing it with their communities. Year after year, clubs use this day to raise money for the AMA Foundation and other charities close to their heart. Donations made to the AMA Foundation are used to inspire the young and young-at-heart to pursue a hobby that will inspire creativity and advanced learning through the use of hands-on applications.

Read what District X Associate Vice President Jim Mohan has to say about this day of fun and celebration:

Our celebration [of National Model Aviation Day] is our club's chance to reach out to neighbors and invite those in the area to come out and enjoy a nice day with RC model flying, food, and a chance to fly one of the club's trainers under the supervision of an instructor. Activities also include several raffles used as fundraising tools. National Model Aviation Day falls during the hottest part of the summer in the Phoenix area. With that in mind, the Arizona Model Pilots Society (AMPS) shifts its celebration to November when the weather better cooperates with outdoor activities.

This past year, our event outreach and advertising resulted in roughly 30 registered pilots, but more importantly, nearly 100 guests stopped by to take in the activities. Approximately 25 visitors of all ages took advantage of the opportunity to fly an RC airplane. Several current club members got their start with model aviation as guests at our open house and National Model Aviation Day celebration.

Supporting the AMA Foundation on NMAD is a "no-brainer."

Although there are many worthy causes supported by several excellent groups, celebrating National Model Aviation Day calls for dedicating proceeds to the AMA Foundation. Last year, raffle proceeds allowed us to contribute \$500 to the AMA Foundation. The foundation's support of a variety of model aviation causes and activities provides clubs like ours the opportunity to contribute without the extra work of vetting and determining which activities deserve financial backing.

Having recently received an AMA Flying Site Improvement Grant, AMPS' ongoing support of the AMA Foundation is one way to pay it forward to provide funding for other clubs and their projects.

-Jim Mohan, AMPS president & District X associate vice president

Register your club to participate or Find an Event at <http://modelaviationday.com/>

Written by Rachelle Haughn

In the Air

Column

As seen in the November 2018 issue of Model Aviation.

Email, internet, and telephone scams are nothing new to Americans. News stories about identity theft and people overseas convincing others to wire them money are commonplace today. You might not expect these scammers to infiltrate the hobby that you love, but they have. And it has been going on for some time.

AMA wants you to be aware that some emails appearing to come from AMA, its officials, or members of your club, in fact, are not legitimate. Often, these messages ask for money to be wired or have a link to click on. These are scams or phishing schemes.

Be cautious when visiting websites that appear to be for the FAA's UAS registration. Only one of these websites is legitimate; the rest were devised to steal your money and could cost you at least 10 times what it should cost to register your aircraft with the FAA.

When a club or member is scammed, the AMA Headquarters is often one of the first places that they call. AMA has received some reports this year from club members who believe that they received emails from fellow members. These messages instruct someone to wire money to a bank account or to a company. The email address appears to be legitimate, but it is not. This year alone, AMA has received reports of AMA clubs losing thousands of dollars in such schemes and the clubs were unable to recoup it.

Some individuals received an email in September that appeared to have come from AMA and asked for money for a sick child who needed an operation. The message, which includes the AMA and Go Fund Me logos, asks for donations to help a child named "Jason." This email also is a scam and did not come from AMA. If you received this email, please delete it immediately.

A scammer has also been writing emails to individuals asking for their phone numbers. The emails appear to come from Chad Budreau, AMA's interim executive director. These are fake.

Keith Sessions, AMA's chief financial officer, and Chad have some advice for members. Keith urges members to never click on a link in an email because that could lead to a security breach. Also, personal or confidential information, such as Social Security numbers, birthdates, addresses, etc., should not be provided through email or over the telephone.

"Always be cautious when an email asks for personal information or money," Chad stated. "Even if the email appears legitimate, please investigate. Sometimes scammers will use email addresses that are identical to someone else or very similar (perhaps as a minor spelling change). This doesn't necessarily mean someone's identity is stolen. It is easy to mimic an email to appear as from someone else."

The FAA also released some advice this year for how to avoid UAS registration scams.

"There are a number of entities that offer to help drone owners and operators file an application for a registration number. Some attempt to mimic the look of the FAA's website with similar graphic design and even the FAA logo, or suggest they are somehow 'approved' by the agency. They aren't—and you could be wasting your money.

“The FAA neither regulates these entities nor will speculate on their legitimacy. However, we have recently received reports of vendors charging exorbitant fees up to \$150 for this service. The actual FAA registration fee is \$5. For that charge, hobbyists receive one identification number for all the drones they own. All others pay the registration fee for each drone they intend to operate.

“We strongly advise you to avoid registering your unmanned aircraft anywhere but at the FAA Drone Zone. It’s the only way to make sure your drone is legally registered and that you’ve gotten your money’s worth.”

According to Angie Martin, AMA Government Affairs and Public Relations assistant, the FAA registration scam websites began appearing when drone registration was first introduced in December 2015. Since that time, AMA has received hundreds of calls (if not more) from unsuspecting members who were duped into paying a hefty registration fee.

“If they are on any website besides www.faa.gov, they are in the wrong place,” Angie stated. “The fee for recreational users flying under Section 336 is \$5 for all of your aircraft and there is not an option to buy labels or impose any additional fees. When a member calls in, my advice is to dispute the larger charge through their credit card company.”

For more information about how to protect yourself or your club from scams and phishing schemes, read Keith’s column in the October 2018 issue of Model Aviation, stay current with news reports and social media posts about scams, or visit AMA’s Government Affairs and Public Relations page at www.modelaircraft.org/about-ama/advocacy.

If you or your club fall victim to a scam, report it to local law enforcement.

—*Rachelle Haughn*
rachelleh@modelaircraft.org

Fly straight or crooked as-long-as you fly!