

A Message from MCRCC President Mark Sexton

January 27, 2016

Last week I sent out a notice to our Club members trying to help reduce the confusion between the FAA registration and the AMA's position. Since last week the AMA has made a change (explained below).

You will need to display your FAA registration number in or on each aircraft that you fly outdoors.

The AMA is also encouraging members to put their AMA number in or on their aircraft as we have always done.

The statement from the AMA this past week:

We will continue to work on behalf of our members, but since a solution to the registration requirement is unlikely by February 19, members should register at www.faa.gov/uas/registration. Once registered, pilots will receive a Federal registration number that is to be placed on or within aircraft over 250 grams (0.55 lbs.). Members are encouraged to continue placing their AMA numbers on their aircraft as well. Members only have to register once, they do not have to register each unique aircraft. The FAA requires registration regardless if you fly a multirotor, helicopter, fixed wing, or any other type of radio control model aircraft that uses a ground control system with a communication link, such as a transmitter. You can read more in our Frequently Asked Questions at www.modelaircraft.org/gov.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can ensure the future of our hobby.

A message from Monroe County RC Club president Mark Sexton...

January 24, 2016

I called the AMA this past week to discuss their progress with the FAA and your rights as an AMA member.

The AMA is still fighting for your rights and privileges to fly model aircraft. I understand some folks believe this and some do not. I am only reporting what they have reported to me. All members are entitled to contact your AMA and discuss these issues with them.

First off we have past the deadline to register with the FAA at no charge. That deadline was January 21, 2016.

The AMA is suggesting all AMA members register with the FAA at this time.

The FAA is requiring RC pilots to register by February 19, 2016 or be in violation of their guidelines if you fly outdoors.

This registration will now cost you \$5.00.

The AMA is working with the FAA and they hope in the future they will be able to keep you registered with the FAA through membership in the AMA.

I have listed below some of the more frequently asked questions about the FAA registration and the flying rules.

The AMA says if you are registered with the FAA, keep your FAA registration on your person.

Display your AMA number on or in your aircraft as you have always done.

You do not need to put your FAA number in or on your aircraft. The AMA has worked this out with the FAA.

The AMA is also telling me that if you are an AMA member, the FAA agrees that you are allowed to follow the AMA safety code and guidelines and will not be in violation of FAA guidelines.

The FAA guidelines were written and are in place for non AMA members.

Q: How do I register?

A: You can register at www.faa.gov/uas/registration/ .
If you need assistance, please call **877-396-4636**.

Q: Do I have to register every aircraft?

A: No, you only need to register your name, physical address, and email address.

Q: Why did AMA change its position on registration? Why are they telling members to register now?

A: AMA has not changed its position. We continue to be disappointed with the registration rule and believe it is contrary to congress's intent within the Special Rule for Model Aircraft, which is part of the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act. We have been working with our legal counsel and the FAA to find a solution for our members on the registration rule. To date, the FAA has agreed in principle to several items that will help ease this process for our members. However, we want to emphasize that this is not the end of our efforts to protect AMA members from this overreaching regulation. We are continuing to explore all legal and political options available, but these conversations may take time and a definitive solution is unlikely before the February 19 registration deadline. For this reason, we are suggesting that AMA members may wish to take advantage of free registration period, which is available until January 21.

Q: Is the AMA giving up? Why doesn't the AMA take this matter to court?

A: AMA is by no means giving up. We are resolute in our commitment and will continue to advocate on behalf of our members. We are continuing to fight for the aeromodelling community and working to protect modelers from unnecessary and burdensome regulation. AMA is exploring several legal options that would address the registration rule as well. These legal strategies will take time to develop and pursue. We ask for your continued loyalty and patience as we work closely with our legal counsel to find the best path forward.

Q: I am already registered through the AMA, why do I have to register twice?

A: We understand the concern of our members and, while the FAA is open to streamlining the registration for our members, unfortunately the technical issues involved will not be resolved before February 19. Therefore, it will be necessary for current AMA members to register separately with the FAA. For future AMA members, we are working on an agreement with the FAA where for new members federal registration will automatically be fulfilled when they join the AMA, thereby creating one simple registration.

Q: Am I permitted to fly above 400 feet? What if I had to check a box saying otherwise on the federal registration website?

A: Yes. AMA members who abide by the AMA Safety Code, which permits flights above 400 feet under appropriate circumstances, and are protected by the Special Rule for Model Aircraft under the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act. Checking the box on the federal registration webpage signifies an understanding of the 400 foot guideline. This is an important safety principle that all UAS operators need to be aware of, and is the same guideline established in AC 91-57 published in 1981. However, the placement

of this guideline on the FAA website is intended as an educational piece and more specifically intended for those operating outside of AMA's safety program. We have been in discussions with the FAA about this point and the agency has indicated that it will be updating its website in the next week to make clear that this altitude guideline is not intended to supplant the guidance and safety procedures established in AMA's safety program.

Q: Do I need to list both my AMA number and my federal registration number on my aircraft?

A: No, you need to have your AMA number on or in your aircraft.

Q: Do only drones and multi-rotor operators need to register?

A: No. Everything that uses a ground-control system with a communications link, such as an RC transmitter that is over 0.55 lbs (250 grams) and under 55 lbs. is required to register. This includes operators who fly fixed-wing RC aircraft and helicopters, not just multi-rotors or drones.

Q: I am an Affiliate Member, do not live in the US, or I am not a US Citizen. How do I register?

A: The FAA is now allowing non-citizens and non-residents to register. In the near future, the www.faa.gov/uas/registration website will begin allowing non-citizens and non-residents to register. For assistance you can call 877 396 4636 or email FAAHotline@faa.gov.

Q: I only fly CL or FF, do I need to register?

A: No. If you exclusively fly FF or CL and never plan on using a model that involves a transmitter, then you do not need to register.

Q: Can I fly my large model aircraft & turbine jets?

A: Yes. The Special Rule for Model Aircraft, which is part of the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act, allows AMA members to operate model aircraft over 55 lbs as long as they are operating in accordance with AMA's Large Model Aircraft safety program. AMA members can also fly turbine jets provided the operator holds a current AMA Turbine Waiver.

Q: Am I permitted to fly first person view (FPV)? Can I fly at night?

A: Yes. AMA members are still protected by the Special Rule for Model Aircraft, which is part of the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act. As long as AMA members continue to follow AMA's safety guidelines for these activities, they can continue to fly. The guidelines listed on the FAA UAS website do not negate the modeling activities and

related safety procedures established in AMA's community-based safety program.

Q: What happens if I don't register by February 19?

A: According to the FAA, failure to register an unmanned aircraft may result in regulatory and criminal sanctions.

Q: What can I do to help?

A: 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 Friday, January 15. More details can be found [here](#).

Q: I do not want to give my credit card information over the internet or have a computer? What should I do?

A: Live phone support from the FAA is available from 7 am to 5 pm Eastern, seven days a week. Phone assistance is available at **877-396-4636**. You can also email FAAHotline@faa.gov .