



NEWSLETTER



Proudly serving the Huntsville community at the Captain Trey Wilbourn Model Airplane Field.

P.O. Box 2163

Huntsville, AL 35804

January 2020

Board of Directors

President

Bob Templeton 256-479-7378

Vice-President

Al Blair 269-277-0879

Secretary

Chris Pry 803-348-1179

Treasurer

Gene Hauck 256-684-5111

Newsletter Editor

Board of Directors (TBD)

Committee Chairmen

Field Maintenance

Clint Bestor besthome@peoplepc.com

Programs

Al Blair 269-277-0879

Public Relations

Bob Templeton 256-533-3316

Safety

Al Blair 269-277-0879

Web Administrator

Bob Templeton 256-479-7378

Flight Instructors

By Appointment:

John Pieczynski 256-651-6487

John Tubb 401-450-9669

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2020! I hope everyone had a great holiday season with their friends and families. I also hope that Santa left plenty of new RC projects under the tree for everyone.

I wish we could be starting this year on a positive note, but unfortunately, that is not the case with the **FAA releasing its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for UAS Remote ID on 31-Dec-2019.** (Please see the links below for access to the official documents.) The initial draft was 319 pages. The release version PDF appears to be 87 pages, but it has multiple columns with small typefaces.

Many are saying this will be the death of our hobby. I disagree at this point. This is not a final rule and will take years to finalize let alone implement. As US citizens that will be drastically impacted by these proposed rules, we have a voice! Now is the time that we use that voice to fight this draconian overreach of the government (FAA)! The worst thing we can do is nothing. Without pushback, the Commercial Drone Alliance and the FAA will likely get everything they want. For us it's not about getting what we want...it's about keeping what we already have.

So, what can we do?

There are many avenues to fight this proposal. I'm sure AMA is doing their best, but as a registered non-profit, they cannot participate in lobbying functions and to date, they have simply been ineffective dealing with the government whatsoever. There is a Political Action Committee (PAC) that is being formed to fight this. They may need help financially and volunteer mobilization-wise. While the formation of this PAC may not help with the NPRM commenting process, they will be able to lobby on our behalf and fight this process from a legal standpoint. **(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So, what can we do? (continued)

First, we need to make comments on the NPRM. Use the links below to do this. Comments like “You’ll have to pry my transmitter out of my cold, dead, hands!” and “The FAA sucks!” are not constructive or helpful and will simply give the reviewing parties an excuse to exclude your comment from consideration. I strongly advise against using the template that AMA has come up with as it is inaccurate and does not address all of the issues appropriately in my opinion. If that’s all you can do, it is still better to have another check mark for that comment in their proposal than nothing as numbers are important too. I urge you to read the NPRM or one of the summaries available online and draw your own conclusion and formulate your own comment. If these comments end up getting reviewed for validation, a thoughtful, respectful, individualized response is likely to get noticed far beyond a quoted form letter.

Some items you should keep in mind when making comments. *These are only a few that scratch the surface. Please read the NPRM, you will find more.*

- We have an excellent safety record. RC Modelling has been around for many decades without any full-scale safety incidents. There have been no accidents, incidents, or operational changes on our part that can justify this overreach.
- RC Modelling contributes significantly to the technology pipeline. Both scientifically and financially.
- There are serious privacy concerns with the data that will be collected by the proposed remote ID rules.
- The flying of self/amateur-built aircraft will not be possible due to the proposed restrictiveness and availability of the technology yet to be developed. You won’t be able to purchase an RID unit to put on your aircraft to be compliant. Only FAA-approved manufacturers will be permitted to offer these systems and only as a complete ready to fly system (toy).
- The NPRM effectively lays out a plan of complete and total elimination of fixed flying sites through attrition. FAA Recognized ID Areas (FRIA) can only be applied for by a CBO (which there currently are none) and only within the first twelve months of the enactment of these policies. There will be no further applications after this period and renewals/changes will not be permitted.

Second, only congress can control the FAA. Please consider writing our congressmen and senators about this issue. Please keep your communication respectful and concise. Let them know your fears about how this will affect our community...the one they represent. Let them know what you think the benefits are that we provide the both the local community and the industry community as a whole and how these proposed policies will adversely impact not just us as hobbyists, but the entire community. Offer to discuss this further and answer any questions that may arise from our communication. Invite them to come pay us a visit to our facilities and experience the community. I am reaching out in an attempt to get them out to our facilities to show them first-hand what this is about and what we offer the Huntsville and Alabama community.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So, what can we do? (continued)

Third, share the news. Let your friends and family know about this. Try to briefly summarize the situation to them and get them involved. Even if we give comments for them to submit to the NPRM or to congress, it's still one more voice than we had. Numbers are important here.

Fourth...and most important, be stubborn! Keep flying, keep building, keep participating-in and enjoying this hobby! It will likely be years before this is implemented and it will likely be decided by an expensive and lengthy legal battle in the court system. As a result, it will also likely be years until there is any effect to us or to our operations. **Don't let them steal your love of this hobby or prevent you from exercising your current freedom.**

This proposed rulemaking will be open for comments until 2-Mar-2020. Anyone can make a comment and you may make multiple comments. See link below.

Notice of FAA Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) Web Version:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/12/31/2019-28100/remote-identification-of-unmanned-aircraft-systems>

Downloadable PDF of NPRM:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-12-31/pdf/2019-28100.pdf>

AMA's summary of the FAA NPRM for UAS Remote ID:

<http://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2020/01/02/summaryremoteidproposal/>

Make a comment to the NPRM:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/12/31/2019-28100/remote-identification-of-unmanned-aircraft-systems#open-comment>

I will do my best to stay on top of this and keep the club informed with any updates.

The next club meeting is Tuesday January 21 at 6pm.

Fly well, fly safe!!

Bob Templeton

President – RCRC





Minutes for RCRC monthly club meeting: 17 December 2019 Meeting: 18:04-18:40

Attendance:

- 3 board members
- 8 voting members
- 11 Total

Meeting Opened:

- November Expense Report: Passed (2nd vote)
- November Safety Report: Passed (2nd vote)
- November Previous Meeting Minutes & Newsletter Content: Passed (2nd vote)

- December Expense Report: Passed
- December Safety Report: Passed
- December Previous Meeting Minutes & Newsletter Content: Passed

Old business:

- BoD Election summary.
- Thanks to club members for their work with the gravel on the approach road. Clint Bestor, Al Blair, Jerry Haygood, Gene Hornbuckle. The adding of more coarse gravel being added on top of the current layer was discussed. Al Blair will contact Hsv Parks and Rec to see if they are willing to deliver a few trucks of coarse gravel.
- November 20th Avion event was recapped. \$500 donation was made to the club.

New Business:

- AMA Leader Program (John Pieczynski)
 - Club well-being and longevity. Ideas for maintaining and building membership. Club Flyers, local charity partnership/cooperation, parade participation. SIGNS, SIGNS, SIGNS.
 - Chamber of commerce membership was discussed. It was stated that the last time this was researched, it was very cost-prohibitive for any reasonable return on investment.

Closing remarks: None

Adjourned: 18:40





Minutes for Board of Directors meeting 8 January 2020: 17:40- 16:55

- Gravel/Road discussion. If Parks&Rec won't provide some gravel, we'll have some delivered.
- FAA NPRM discussion: The sky is not falling...yet. Don't over-react. Discuss, respond, and comment.
- April District V Fly-in:
 - Setup Thursday, event is Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
 - Registration/payment site or page. Facebook? Wordpress? (by end of Jan-Bob).
 - Event flyer for other clubs (by end of Jan-Bob).
 - Wristbands, nametags, swag in general.
 - Pilot's meeting at designated time on each day(9am?). Nobody flies until then.
 - RV locations. Alternate location? (Generator only)
 - Flame rules check.
 - Money Making opportunities.
 - T-Shirts
 - Decals/stickers
 - Raffles (50/50, donated items)
 - General cash/check/other donations.
 - Club Sound System will be upgraded (Bob).
 - Gate keeper/traffic director will be required (Need Volunteers).
 - Sponsors/participants (Motion RC, PRCJ, RC Hobbies).
 - City Council, Tv Station, Chamber of commers to be notified.
 - FAA Notification/Clearance? After checking, we are in Class-G (uncontrolled) airspace. Approval/Notice not required.
 - Night Flying?
 - Tennis courts notification and relationship building.
 - Distance Pole for pilot visualization of distance limits.
 - Orange fencing to be used along flight line to restrict access runway.
 - Controlled entrance and exit to flight stations.
 - Demonstrations (Jets, 3D Helicopters, Airwolf)
 - "Turbine Hour" limited to turbines each day...likely lunchtime.
 - Spotters mandatory for all flights. Spotters will be responsible for all communication.
 - Additional pilot stations (one to the north of station 1 and one to the south of 5)
 - Notify the city administrator/parks & rec.
- Power Repair. Report to Huntsville Utilities.





Important Links:

RCRC Website:

<https://rocketcityrc.com>

Direct link to the current weather conditions at the field:

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KALHUNTS256>

FAA Registration:

<https://faadronezone.faa.gov>

FAA Recreational Flyer Information, Guidelines, and Policies:

https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_fliers/

RCRC YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBPcz2UzsCDMR-oAO-PaA4g>

Academy of Model Aeronautics:

<https://modelaircraft.org>

