



JCRC Flight Line

2020 Volume I, January 2020

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Board Members

	<i>Term</i>
JERRY BLACK -	2020 - 2025
CRAIG QUILLEN -	2019 - 2020
TERRY BAILEY -	2019 - 2021
ANTHONY HALL -	2017 - 2022
VIC KOENIG -	2020 - 2023
SKIP WELLER -	2019 - 2024

President's Message

President

I hope everyone has enjoyed themselves as much as I have this past year. Now it's time to look forward to a new year for our club.

Dan Jackson

Editor

With this edition, I am trying to add several items I missed from Newsletters past and several things I've heard asked for in our newsletter. In line with that, this is once again a call to members to submit any articles, letters, pictures, or information they would like to share and that also includes items members would like to sell or buy.

Just send your input either by e-mail (rossgtenn@gmail.com) or post -

Glenn Ross
134 Chock Creek Road
Johnson City, TN
37601-3639

by the 19th of the month you would like it included.

Electronic input should be .jpgs and word documents (.doc or .docx).

THANKS!

Glenn Ross

Next Meeting

Tuesday, 28 January 2020, 6:45 PM at the Harbour House Restaurant in Johnson City, Tennessee

New Member Information –

Last year at this time, Phil Swihart provided the following as a new member:

From Phil Swihart – *“As a teenager I really liked to be around airplanes, so after high school I joined the Air Force as an airplane mechanic (Crew Chief). Four years active duty and five years Reservist, earned A&P License, worked for NASA, Kennedy Space Center, for 30 years. A friend introduced me to radio controlled airplanes five years ago ... have not missed a weekend flying. I retired a couple years ago and recently moved to Johnson City to be close to family members. Looking forward to meeting club members and expanding flight skills.”*

On December the 6h, Phil Swihart, now the newly elected Vice President, Jerry Black and Vic Koenig braved the cold and wind to complete the following:



We're sure glad he was *“Looking forward to meeting club members and expanding his fixit skills”*

Upcoming Activities

New Year's Day Fly In

**11AM to 3 PM, 1 January 2020 at
Odom Fennell Field**



Indoor Fly In

**1 PM till 5 PM, 1 February 2020
at Kingsport Civic Auditorium**

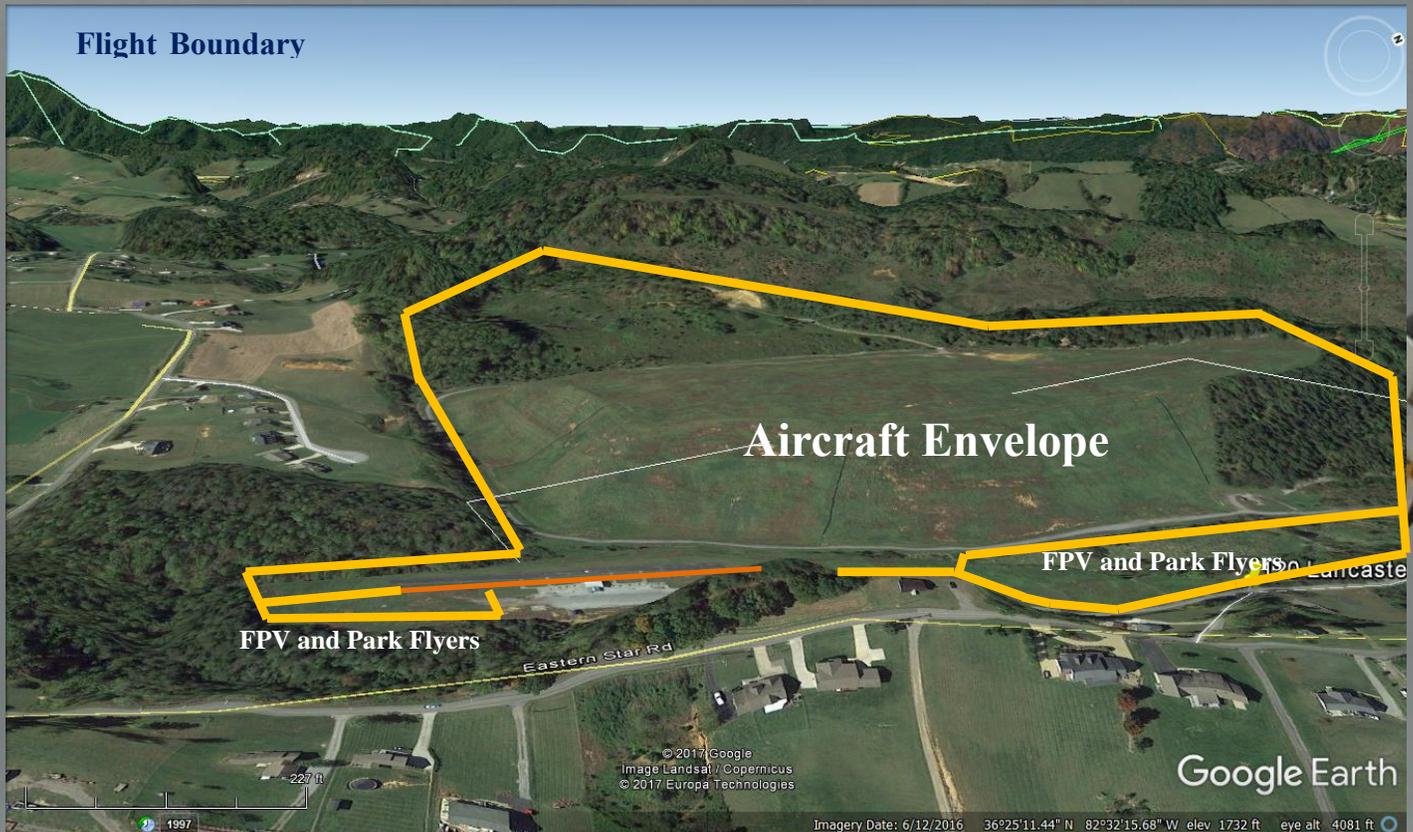


Indoor Fly In

**1 PM till 5 PM, 14 March 2020
at Kingsport Civic Auditorium**

Tips and Techs

Odom - Fennell Field



Our GPS Location is:

Latitude: 36 degrees, 25 Minutes 6 Seconds North

Longitude: 82 Degrees, 32 Minutes, 7 Seconds West

Elevation: 1,713 ASL

Orientation: Our runway is oriented along 20 degrees through 200 degrees, magnetic.

AMA Updates

In October 2019, FAA's Jay Merkle, the executive director for the FAA UAS Integration Office stated "he intends for it (*the upcoming Hobbyist Knowledge test*) to be "a fun, enjoyable format instead of a restrictive, dull format" during a Drone Advisory Committee meeting held in Washington, D.C." Further he stated "that the real goal of this test "is to have the knowledge to operate safely,"

According to a document quoting Merkle that contained meeting minutes, publicly released after the meeting. "We are proposing narrative-style training and testing module. It is going to be for the community. "The FAA is still working to determine what questions the knowledge test would ask, how testing fees would be set, if there is a testing age floor and how data will be collected and made available. Many of those determinations are based on responses to a "request for information," (RFI) that the FAA put out earlier this year that sought input from the community". That RFI period closed on Sept. 19 after receiving nearly 40 submissions.

Though, the FAA said that the work to draft knowledge test content and questions is **95%** complete.

"We want this test to be as approachable as possible," Merkle said. "We want to take the test to gain the knowledge and build a safety culture." *

The FAA placed the following update on their web site in December 2019:

Recreational Drone Flying Aeronautical Test Moves Forward

WASHINGTON – To advance public safety of the largest segment of drone operations, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today announced the organizations selected to advise the agency in developing test administration requirements for the recreational Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) aeronautical knowledge and safety test.

A law passed in 2018 requires that recreational drone flyers pass an online aeronautical knowledge and safety test and carry proof of test passage with them while operating a drone. There are more than one million FAA registered recreational drone flyers. To ensure that flight operations are conducted safely, the FAA is developing a test to increase the aeronautical knowledge of recreational drone flyers.

On September 17, the FAA issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking to work with stakeholders on the administration of a new aeronautical knowledge test for recreational drone flyers. Based on their responses to the RFI, the organizations below were selected to advise the agency in developing the test administration process.

- Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
- Drone Launch Academy Southeastern University
- Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC)
- DJI
- Horizon Hobby, LLC.
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Coach
- King Schools
- Unmanned Safety Institute
- First Person View (FPV) Freedom Coalition
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

- Academy of Model Aeronautics
- Drone Racing League

The above organizations will make recommendations to the FAA on the safety test administration requirements. From these recommendations, the FAA will develop the final requirements that potential test administrators must meet. These requirements, and any associated selection criteria for test administrators will be announced on FAA.gov.

The test must be administered electronically by the FAA, community-based organizations, or others designated by the FAA. The FAA's objective is to work with third party entities to allow them to administer the knowledge training and test content on various platforms for the recreational flyer community.

Section 44809 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (PDF) requires new conditions to operate recreational drones. Many drones can be flown today with minimal training or knowledge of aviation rules or safety practices. The statute provided an opportunity to educate recreational flyers on UAS safety and to bring new flyers into the existing aviation safety culture.

On December 26th, the FAA sent an e-mail notifying its intent to publish proposed rulemaking on **Remote ID** via the Federal Register, providing links to the proposed rule. Unfortunately, the link is to a page stating that the rule won't be posted until 31 December but providing a "pre posting" document that may, or may not be the document that does get posted. Either way, there will be 60 days starting on 31 December to provide any comments. On 27 December, AMA sent the following e-mail to its members reference the FAA's announcement:

Dear Members,

On Thursday, December 26, the FAA released its proposed rule on remote identification (remote ID) in the Federal Register. AMA is still reviewing the 319-page notice of proposed rulemaking; however, an early read indicates that we were successful in efforts to shape the proposed rule including not requiring onboard equipment for our members at our flying sites. We will continue to advocate for our members and the hobby by addressing the concerns in the proposal. We will share our full analysis in the coming days.

When the FAA announced plans to remotely identify unmanned aircraft a few years ago, the Academy immediately began advocating on behalf of our members, including shaping decisions during the 2017 Remote ID Aviation Rulemaking Committee. AMA recommended a **common-sense approach*** to remote ID that would be quick, cost-effective and easy for the recreational UAS community to comply.

Please keep in mind that this is a *proposed rule, not a final rule*. While AMA was successful in shaping elements of the proposed rule, we will continue to address unnecessary burdens for both manufacturers and the recreational community in the final rule and during implementation. AMA will soon ask our members to participate in the process by providing comments to the FAA.

The FAA will begin reviewing comments and feedback in March 2020. The comment review process could take weeks or months to complete before FAA publishes a final rule and begins the lengthy implementation process. We encourage members to look for future communications from AMA for the most current information regarding this proposed rule.

In the meantime, you can read Frequently Asked Questions on our blog. As always, please contact AMA Government Affairs at (765)287-1256 or amagov@modelaircraft with any questions. You can read the entire proposed rule and FAA's announcement here.

Thank you,

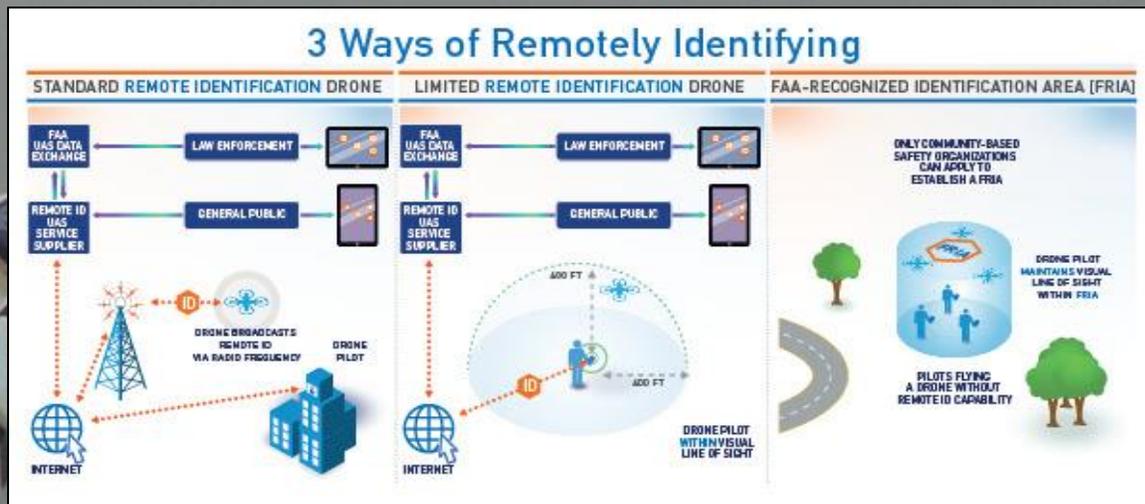
Academy of Model Aeronautics

**Bold italics added*

It should be noted that in the 319 page "pre-post" document, the possible impact to our community appears to be more than a "common sense" impact. Specifically, if there isn't an internet presence where you fly, then you don't legally fly (excepting of course craft less than .55_{lbs} or those flown exclusively indoors). If you fly an aircraft that is exempt from Remote ID

(an amateur built aircraft, or a pre-ban aircraft), you can only fly it at an FAA designated location (FRIA), and only in line of site and without FPV. Also, you will have to register each of your aircraft individually and obtain unique aircraft registration numbers, excepting of course craft less than .55_{lbs} or those flown exclusively indoors.

Below is a graphic from the FAA that shows their proposed strategy (*note that although it says DRONE, to the FAA a UAS and a Drone are the same thing*).



Putting aside the impacts to current flying stock, the need to purchase compliant stock when it becomes available, registration costs and other individual impacts and looking at only flying locations, Flying Sites are going to become premium items, especially ours where there is an internet presence.

Since we are an AMA chartered club, our site SHOULD be able to get FAA designation (FRIA), assuming the process isn't onerous or costly. However areas like a city park or a friendly farmer's field, or even one's own 150 acre farm would not be legal flight areas unless they had publicly available internet connectivity or FRIA designation. The chances of getting the AMA and FAA to designate a private land holding as an FAA site, then allow the land owner to restrict its availability to the public would be extremely slim. Certainly, private land owners are not going to want to bear the cost of providing internet service or assume risk for anyone who shows up and wants to fly. One might be able to meet the internet connectivity requirement if one has a Smart phone, with an unlimited data plan and can configure it to communicate with the Remote ID capability of the aircraft.

What does this mean for JCRC? At a minimum, it means we need to read the document that finally gets posted to the Federal Register. Each member should send any personal concerns to the FAA via the comment capability provided and to our elected officials. As a club, we should be prepared to develop a club position and strategy based on both best case and the worst case scenarios. Lastly, don't let your current FAA registration lapse. When you need to renew, DO IT.

* Source- <https://thedronegirl.com/2019/10/27/faas-jay-merkle-on-knowledge-test-for-recreational-flyers-we-want-it-to-be-fun/>

JCRC Sponsors

Hobby Town USA

Located at 3515 Bristol Highway in Johnson City, Hobby Town offers a full range of hobby needs, from model rail roading, to automotive modeling and aviation modeling. A strong sponsor of JCRC, they offer JCRC club members a 10% discount. Phone: (423) 610-1010.



Benedict's Ace Hardware Store



Due to the sale of *Great Planes model parts and accessories*, Benedicts Ace Hardware is discontinuing their aircraft parts sales. Once the current inventory, shown in the picture below, is gone, they will be out of this product line with no plans to restock. Get stuff while you can. They are at 3607 North Roan Street in Johnson City; (423) 282-1950.

