

Balsa Dust

Newsletter of the Fergus Falls Regional R/C Flyers
PO Box 224
Fergus Falls MN 56537



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

Spring is slow to come again this year. I am looking forward to temperatures closer to average. I have had a few flights at the farm though. The new club roller is at the field now. We will do some rolling of the runway as conditions are right.

If you have read through your recent issue of Model Aviation, you will find more information on registration with the FAA. It appears the FAA wants your FAA number on the outside of ALL aircraft at this point. AMA is working with the FAA on this issue at this time. As stated before, I don't believe the problems we are seeing are coming from AMA members. I believe we have a very responsible group of members nationwide. I would like for you to ponder this issue as we will discuss it at the next meeting.

It is time to go through all our flying aircraft and give them a good inspection. Remove the wing or canopy and thoroughly inspect the radio gear. Check for loose mounting screws, servo horn screws, and the actual push rod and control horn linkages. All of these can loosen or wear out with lots of activity. Do the same with your cars and trucks also. Safe modeling should always be our top priority.

The club has some minor roofing repairs to do on the clubhouse. We should have a rock picking session on the track before we roll that. I am looking forward to seeing you at the

meeting on Thursday May 9th at the flying field. The meeting will begin at 7 bells with activity before and after the meeting.

Keep the wheels down and see you soon,

Tom

Upcoming events:

June 1: Alexandria Fun Fly
June 8: Bismarck Fun Fly
Fergus Falls Float Fly on Bass Lake Underwood MN
June 15: Perham Fun Fly

May 9th Meeting @ the field Meeting @ 7:00.

Notes from the April 11th Meeting

The meeting scheduled for April 11th was canceled due to inclement weather.

Policing Amateur Frequencies



Written by Tony Stillman

Flying Site Assistance

Column

As seen in the April 2018 issue of Model Aviation.

I have received quite a few telephone calls and emails concerning this topic since my March column was printed. I am happy to have AMA members contact me with questions or additional comments, so please, continue to communicate with me! Because of the additional questions I've received because of my article, I thought I should provide a little more information to help everyone better understand this issue. Keep in mind that typical frequency use by modelers that require licensing consists of RC transmitters used to control the aircraft using the following frequencies in the Amateur Radio Band: • 50 MHz (CH01–CH09) • 53 MHz (53.000 MHz–53.900 MHz) Typical FPV video transmitters operating on: • 5.8 GHz (5.650 GHz–5.925 GHz) It is important to know that in the FPV frequencies, there are video transmitters out there that operate beyond these frequency limits for 5.8 GHz. These systems are illegal for use in the US. Recently a US importer of such an item was fined by the FCC for importing and selling such. It is

important that modelers verify what is legal and what is not before making a purchase and using a product, especially if the product is purchased from an overseas vendor. It might be that the product is legal in other countries, but not legal in the US. You can find a chart of frequencies and their use at:

www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/2003-allocrht.pdf. It is also important to know that some 5.8 GHz video transmitters might be FCC Part 15 compliant, which means it is a low-power device and no license is required. In this case, there will be an FCC sticker on the video transmitter stating that it meets FCC Part 15 rules. Typically these are video transmitters with less than 1 milliwatt of output power and have a nonreplaceable transmitter antenna. All others would require an Amateur Radio License to operate. Following is a section of AMA Document 580 that is designed to give direction to modelers concerning FPV operation and licensing requirements. 5/5/2019 Policing Amateur Frequencies modelaviation.com/print/1662 2/2 System Licensing Guidance for FPV Flight "Radio Controlled (RC) model

aircraft must use frequencies approved by the FCC for transmitting radio frequency (RF) signals to control the model aircraft's flight path in the National Airspace [System] (NAS). If the model aircraft utilizes an FPV system to transmit video signals/images from an onboard camera to a ground based receiver, the transmission frequency used must also be approved by the FCC. "If, out of the box, your FPV system (on 5.8 GHz) has an FCC sticker stating that it meets Part 15, then you can legally use the system without an amateur (Technician) FCC license. If you modify that system in any way—or your system doesn't have a Part 15 sticker—then you will be required to carry an amateur FCC license. "Part 15 of the FCC code pertains to 'out of the box low power output units that must not interfere with other systems and must accept all interference.' The units are certified as stand-alone systems and all components of that system are certified together, meaning that any modification including attachments, cords, internal components, and associated batteries must conform to, and be of the same specification as, the original unit. Otherwise it is

considered 'modified' and no longer certified, and the user must hold at least an amateur Technician license from the FCC. "AMA's position and guidance to its members is that all equipment must be FCC certified where required. The responsibility of conforming to FCC certification is up to the owner/user of that equipment. The certification requirement is mandated by federal regulation and falls under the FCC's jurisdiction of the FCC. As such, AMA leaves enforcement of the regulation to the federal government." I hope this helps answer some of the questions that you might have. If not, please feel free to contact me by email at fsac@modelaircraft.org, or give me a call at (765) 287-1256, extension 230. Now, get out there and do some flying!

-Tony Stillman



Meeting
May 9th @ the field.
Meeting @ 7:00

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