

# THE FLYER



Middlesex County  
RC Fliers, Inc.

January 2016



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## Holiday Party

Sat. Jan. 9th

## Monthly Club Meeting

Wed. Jan. 13th

## Annual Club Auction

Sun. Jan. 31st

**Christmas Day at the Field.** Christmas Day 2015 was perfect for a brief visit by Santa. *Photo by Jose Mendes*

## President's Message, *by Jerry Crowley*

Greetings to all Club members. I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday and a Happy New Year. It's January, where does the time go, winter is here with an initial amount of snow. For those who fly in the cold stuff it's time to dust off those skies and get them mounted. Hopefully we will be able to get in some nice flying days between now and the Spring season. Paul Sullivan and others have closed in the gazebo for your winter enjoyment. Thanks Paul.

Our Monthly Club Meeting and annual election of Officers and Directors is Wednesday the 13th. I would like to thank all those who served and those who helped support the Club over the past year. Jeff will be the auctioneer for our 25th Annual Auction scheduled for Sunday, January 31st.

In closing, I hope to see you at the Holiday Party on the 9th and the Annual Meeting and Election on the 13th.

Good safe flying.

Jerry Crowley, President MCRCF

## News From the Field *by Jim Orsborn*

From the photo on the cover, it looks like Santa stopped by the MCRCF field for a brief visit. Rumor is that he stopped by to drop off the raffle prizes that will be awarded to a couple lucky members at the annual Christmas Party this coming weekend.

As you can see, the photo shows that Jose, Ray, John and Rohan (L to R) were at the field on Christmas Day when Santa made the stop. Most of you know, but Santa's sleigh actually belongs to Ray (forget those commercials with the red Mercedes). John and Rohan were at the field to get in a quick flight on their newest planes. And they used Jose's quad copter to take the photo.

### **Mandatory sUAS Registration**

Most of you know that the FAA has called for mandatory registration of all small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS). The FAA instructions have caused a bit of controversy and uncertainty. The new rules apply to all MCRCF Members. This is because they apply to both newly purchased quad copters as well as previously purchased airplanes. Yes, even model airplane pilots have been asked to register with the FAA.

If you have been following these developments, you know that the AMA has been trying to influence the FAA regulations. In fact, the AMA has recently sent a notice to all AMA members requesting that we wait to register with the FAA. This is because they are trying to get the FAA to accept our AMA Membership as a suitable substitute for the FAA requirement. The trouble is that the FAA is offering to waive their \$5 fee if you register with them during the first **30 days** of the registration period (apparently between December 21, 2015 and January 20, 2016).

As it turns out, the FAA is requiring that applicants provide a credit or debit card as payment for the registration. They promise to return a credit to your account within several days – so this is not exactly a free registration.



*Monday, December 28th*

*The AMA has recommended that our members hold off on registering their model aircraft with the FAA until advised by the AMA or until the FAA's legal deadline of February 19. Holding off on registration will allow time for AMA to fully consider all possible legal and political options for alleviating this unnecessary regulatory burden on our members.*

I would suggest that sometime shortly after the Martin Luther King holiday, we all need to check that the FAA has approved the AMA request; or else we need to visit the FAA website and register. Keep an eye out for an e-mail from the AMA and we will follow up with a note as well.

### **Membership Renewals**

I can report that about 50% of our members have completed their renewal applications. But that means we still have about 40 past members who have not renewed as yet.

### **Christmas Party**

Our MCRCF Christmas Party (aka Gala Holiday Event) is scheduled for this Saturday, January 9th. Members and their significant other guests are all welcome to join us at the Great Wall restaurant in Bedford, MA. A brief social hour will start around 6:30 PM with everyone joining the buffet line about 7 PM. During the social hour, the restaurant staff will take your drink orders, and a Board Member will collect



## News From the Field (Cont.) *by Jim Orsborn*

your attendance fee in exchange for a raffle prize ticket.

The flyer for our Construction Derby event usually says that participants will have the most fun they've ever had at an RC Event. But our MCRCF Christmas Party has some really great raffle drawings and we get an opportunity to talk about the events of the past flying season. Speaking of the Raffle prizes — rumor is that Santa found a Yak 54 Bind n Fly plane and a 20cc gasoline engine in his sleigh after making his last stop. The Club will be including them as prizes for the membership drawing; The club has also purchased gift certificates that will be awarded to a couple lucky of our guests.

### **January 13th Club Meeting, and MCRCF Elections**

Our monthly Club meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13th. This is an important meeting, because we will be electing Officers and Directors for the coming year.

As chair of the nominating committee, I can report that our current Officers and Directors have all agreed to serve for one more year. In addition, Dan Costa has offered to run for the one open Director position that we have. This means that we have a full slate; but I would remind everyone that any current MCRCF member has until the January Meeting date to submit their name if they would like to run for any of these positions.

### **Flight Training Update**

We still have a few students in the pilot training class. Weather and some windy afternoons seem to bring the fall training sessions to an early end this year. Occasionally we are

able to hold training classes over the winter; but it does take a bit more dedication — so we usually just let things slip until the spring. In the meantime, if a student would like to meet an instructor at the field, please contact us directly.

To help improve communications, we would like to set up an e-mail list that is dedicated to MCRCF Students and Instructors. The plan will be to use this list to let students know about any changes in our training schedule. We will ask that students also use the list to let our instructors know that they will be attending class. Watch for more information in the next few weeks.

### **Summary of Upcoming Events :**

#### **MCRCF Holiday Party**

**Date:** January 9th

**Location:** Great Wall , Bedford, MA

**Starting Time:** 6:30 social hour;

**Dinner:** at 7:00 PM

**Price:** \$21.00 per person

#### **January Club Meeting / Elections**

**Date:** January 13th

**Location:** Lewis Building, 248 Boston Rd. , Billerica, MA

**Starting Time:** 7:30 PM

#### **Annual Club Auction**

**Date:** Sunday, January 31st

**Location:** Marshall Middle School, 15 Floyd St., Billerica, MA

**New Starting Time:**

**Registration:** at 10:00 AM

**Auction:** 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Price:** \$3.00 per person

## FAA sUAS Registration Info *by Jim Orsborn*

As it turns out, the FAA is pushing for pilots to follow some pretty simple instructions that we are all familiar with. I have copied the following information from the FAA's website ([http://www.faa.gov/uas/model\\_aircraft/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/model_aircraft/)). These instructions state that:

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Model aircraft operations are for hobby or recreational purposes only.

The FAA has partnered with several industry associations to promote Know Before You Fly, a campaign to educate the public about using unmanned aircraft safely and responsibly. Individuals flying for hobby or recreation are strongly encouraged to follow safety guidelines, which include:

- Fly below 400 feet and remain clear of surrounding obstacles
- Keep the aircraft within visual line of sight at all times
- Remain well clear of and do not interfere with manned aircraft operations
- Don't fly within 5 miles of an airport unless you contact the airport and control tower before flying
- Don't fly near people or stadiums
- Don't fly an aircraft that weighs more than 55 lbs
- Don't be careless or reckless with your unmanned aircraft – you could be fined for endangering people or other aircraft

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The following Q & A highlights also come from the FAA website

(<http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/faqs/>).

Q2. Updated: Does it cost anything to register?

A. Federal law requires owners to pay \$5 to register their aircraft. However, registration is free for the first 30 days to encourage speedy registration of UAS. During the first 30 days, you must pay \$5 with a credit card, a pre-paid credit card or a debit card from a major bank. A \$5 credit will appear 5-10 days afterwards.

Q5. Do I have to register my UAS immediately? Is there a grace period?

A. If you operated your UAS before Dec. 21, 2015, you have until February 19, 2016 to register your UAS. If you purchase your UAS after Dec. 21, 2015, you must register before you operate it outdoors.

Q6. Does the FAA have the authority to require registration of UAS used by modelers and hobbyists?

A. Yes. By statute all aircraft are required to register. Congress has defined "aircraft" to include UAS, regardless of whether they are operated by modelers and hobbyists.

Q8. Will an operator be required to have proof of registration while operating the UAS?

A. Yes. You will be required to have your FAA registration certificate in your possession when operating your unmanned aircraft.

Q9. Updated: Does the FAA have two different registration systems? If so, why?

A. Yes, there are two systems. ... See the FAA website for additional information on commercial registrations.

Q15. Do children's toys need to be registered?

A. Not if they weigh below 250 gm/0.55 lb. or less. Most "toys" the FAA has identified at a purchase price of \$100 or less have been determined to weigh less than 250g.



## FAA sUAS Registration Info (Cont.) by Jim Orsborn

Q19. Updated: I would like to fly my Radio/Remote Controlled (RC) aircraft outdoors, do I have to register it?

A. Yes, RC aircraft are unmanned aircraft and must be registered online if they weigh more than 0.55 lbs. and less than 55 pounds.

Q20. What about tethered drones?

A. Both tethered and untethered UAS must be registered.

Q21. If I'm just flying it for fun in my yard, do I have to register it?

A. Yes, if the UAS weight is within the stated weights for registration.

Q24. Will the requirement apply to UAS that I owned and operated before the registration process existed?

A. Yes. Owners who purchased their UAS prior to Dec. 21, 2015 will have 60 days to register.

Q30. What happens if I sell my drone?

A. You should log on to the registration website and update your registration information. We also strongly encourage you to remove your registration number from the drone before the transfer of ownership.

Q38. Updated: The website said registration is free. Why am I being charged \$5?

A. The credit card transaction helps authenticate the user. You will see a credit for the \$5 in 5-10 days after the charge appears.

Q39. When must UAS owners who purchased their aircraft before December 21, 2015 register?

A. UAS operated by the current owner prior to December 21, 2015, must be registered no later than February 19, 2016. For all other UAS, registration is required prior to operation.

Q40. Is there a registration renewal requirement for UAS, like there is for manned aircraft?

A. Yes. You will be required to renew every three years and you must pay a \$5 renewal fee.

Q41. What should I expect once I complete my registration on the UAS website?

A. You will receive a unique registration number that applies to any and all UAS that you own. You must mark all of your UAS with the unique registration number before operating. A registration certificate that contains the unique FAA registration number, the issue and expiration dates, and the name of the certificate holder will be sent to your email address immediately.

Q46. Will my drone require an N-number or sticker?

A. No. You will receive a unique registration number, not an N-number, and you must mark the registration number on your UAS by some means that is legible and allows the number to be readily seen. The registration number may be placed in a battery compartment as long as it can be accessed without the use of tools.

Q47. Is putting my AMA number on my drone enough?

A. No. Not at this time. The registration system will generate a unique FAA registration number, which you must mark on your aircraft.

Q48. Would putting my contact information on my drone be enough?

A. No, you must mark it with the FAA registration number.

Q60. If a drone crashes in my yard what do I do?

A. Call local law enforcement.

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I hope that these highlights help make it clear what the FAA is doing.

**Official Publication of the Middlesex County R-C Fliers, Inc.**

**The FLYER** is the official publication of the Middlesex County R-C Fliers, Inc., a non-profit organization chartered for the promotion of radio controlled model aircraft building and flying. The club operates a flying field located on Treble Cove Road, Billerica, MA. The club offers free flight instruction to any member provided they have a current membership with the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Contact any club member for details. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month between September and June in the Billerica Recreation Dept building at 248 Boston Road in Billerica, starting at 7:30 PM.

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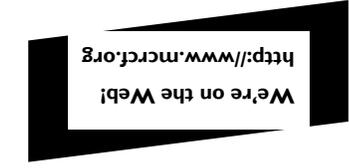
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**Next Club Meeting**  
**Nov. 11th, 2015**  
7:30 PM  
Lewis Building  
248 Boston Road (Rt 3A)  
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**First Class Mail**



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