



AMA Charter 1648 Oklahoma City, OK IMAA Chapter 544

Club Web Site: <http://www.torks.org>

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Safety Officer</u>
Gary Crews	Mark Grennan	John Graham	George Burton	Ken Kehlet
AMA 633762	AMA 953575	AMA 892422	AMA 953575	AMA 1528
(405) 285-1859	(405) 343-9332	(405) 942-4941	(405) 202-3409	(405) 721-2782

TORKS Club meetings: The first Tuesday of each month at the Will Rogers Garden Center on the corner of NW 36th and the Lake Hefner Parkway overpass. Meeting time: 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

TORKS TALK

The Oklahoma Radio Kontrol Society Official Newsletter

APRIL, 2013

The next TORKS club meeting will be May 7, at the Will Rogers Garden Center, 7:30 to 9 PM.

TORKS has received notification that its AMA charter has been approved for 2013 through March, 2014.

City Requests Cooperation

During the second week of May, May 11 through May 16, 2013, a film crew

will be working at Lake Hefner. The City has asked that TORKS restrict any RC operations that would interfere with filming. Due to the noise, this may mean that internal combustion engines (at least) will not be permitted to fly during that time. Watch your emails and observe signs posted at the field for more information as it becomes available.

RC operations versus DRONES and other Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

By Mark Grennan

(Editor's comment: TORKS VP Mark Grennan prepared this article based on his research of AMA and FAA rules regarding First Person View (FPV) RCflying and automatic (GPS) navigation. Mark begins by quoting the AMA.)

“There are distinct differences between R/C FPV autopilot equipped model aircraft flying and Drone flying. Drone flights are mission oriented, flown beyond VLOS, (Visual Line of Sight) and computer controlled for nearly their entire flight. AMA members fly R/C FPV autopilot equipped model aircraft as a recreational visual/video experience. The AMA FPV pilot is required to fly within VLOS and manually controls the aircraft via R/C for nearly the entire flight. “

The world of RC aircraft is changing quickly. With the advancement of electronics, hobby builders can now do wonderful things. We are expanding the boundaries of RC flight with First Person View (FPV) and GPS's to provide waypoints and three axes gyros can make flying in high winds a breeze.

The public has taken GREAT interest in unmanned aircraft (UAV, UAS or drones). The RC hobby blended transparently into the airspace for over 100 years. While we are expanding RC flight with new electronics, public aviation is itself become more robotic. Companies like FedEx want to remove the pilot from the cockpit and replace them with “RC” pilots on the ground. (See:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/the-drones-are-coming-2012-12>)

Police and fire departments want to use all types of “RC” aircraft for search and rescue. Paparazzi and videographers are using UAS to snap pictures of people and property. There is little or no difference between these UAS and RC aircraft.

In the last few months, many states have begun to consider state-level legislation that would regulate the use of UAS that may affect our hobby. While likely well-intentioned, some of the language in these proposed bills is so poorly written that, if passed, they would have a negative impact on recreational model aviation. The public's perception could become a threat to recreational model aviation. The

public may not see the difference between a model airplane and a commercial, public-use UAS.

Some are worried we (the RC hobbyist) may be regulated out of our space. Don't be, The US National Airspace System (NAS) by Public Law (49 U.S.C. § 40103) states, "A citizen of the United States has a public right of transit through the navigable airspace."

What does the AMA allow?

First person view (FPV) and autopilot flying is permitted by the AMA. All the normal rules apply like staying under 400 feet and more than three miles from an airport (controlled air space). In all cases you must maintain a line of sight with the aircraft!

Model aircraft flown FPV are limited to a weight (including fuel, batteries, and onboard FPV equipment) of 15lbs. and a max speed of 70mph. Model aircraft exceeding 15lbs and/or 70mph may only use an autopilot for a programmed "return to launch" (RTL) flight and not for programmed waypoint flying of a predetermined course. AMA pilots must be able to instantaneously deactivate programmed flight stabilization and autopilot systems at any time during flight and resume manual control of the model aircraft.

What is not allowed?

Any use for financial gain requires an FAA certificate. Section 336 - describes how ANY aircraft for "hire" requires registration. Flying your RC with a camera to take pictures of homes for sale without the FAA certificate is illegal. And taking video of beautiful public places then putting them on YouTube to create advertising income is illegal.

Resources:

AMA Guidelines for Radio Controlled Model Aircraft Operations Utilizing First Person View, Failsafe, Stabilization and Autopilot Systems

http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/report_on_revised-550-560-oct-8-2012.pdf

Public talk about UAS with the AMA and FAA

<http://amablog.modelaircraft.org/amagov/2013/02/21/ama-faa-forum-ama-expo-2013/>

List of Planned Club Events for 2013

MAY

Tulsa Glue Dobbers - Tulsa, OK - (TGD's Jumbo Fun-Fly - May 4)

CORKS - Norman, OK - SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013 AT 1:00 FLOAT FLY AT THE NORMAN VETERANS CENTER

OKRC Cloud Busters - Fairland, OK - (Spring Fun-Fly - May 11)

MVAA - Yukon, OK - (9th Annual Warbirds Over Oklahoma - May 17 - 19)

JUNE

OK Sooner Squadron - Guthrie, OK - (28th Annual Jumbo Fun-Fly - June 1 - 2)

CORKS - Norman OK - SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2013 AT 10:00 FLOAT FLY AT JERRY SHORTS

Bartlesville Falcons - Bartlesville / Copan, OK - (Annual BigBird Fun-Fly - June 15 - 16)

N.W. Oklahoma R/C Flyers - Mooreland, OK - (14th Annual Fun-Fly - Aug 31 - Sept 1)

JULY

CORKS - Norman, OK - SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2013 AT 1:30 FUN FLY/NIGHT FLY

CORKS - Norman, OK - SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2013 AT 1:30 FLOAT FLY AT NORMAN VETERANS CENTER

AUGUST

CORKS - Norman, OK - SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2013 AT 1:00 FUN FLY AT JIM TRAW FIELD

CORKS - Norman, OK - SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2013 AT 1:30 FLOAT FLY AT NORMAN VETERANS CENTER

SEPTEMBER

N.W. Oklahoma R/C Flyers - Mooreland, OK - (14th Annual Fun-Fly - Sept 1)

Tulsa Glue Dobbers - Tulsa, OK - (4th Annual Warbirds Over Tulsa - Sept 6 - 7)

Collective R/C Club - OKC - (5th Annual Heli Fun-Fly - Sept 6 - 8)

GOOFS R/C Club - Ponca City, OK - (All Size Fun-Fly - Sept 14 - 15)

CORKS - Norman, OK - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013 AT 10:00

NORMAN VETERANS CENTER FAMILY DAY

CORKS - Norman, OK SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013 AT 1:00 FUN FLY
AT JIM TRAW FIELD

OCTOBER

10/11/2013 - 10/12/2013 -- Muskogee, OK (C-Restricted) HATBOX MEMORIAL
IMAA FLY IN. Site: Hat Box Field. Gaines Smith CD PH: 918 478-8410 Email:
gsmith6879@gmail.com. Come join the TRAMPS for our 12th Annual IMAA fly
in. Sponsor: THREE RIVERS AREA MODEL PLANE SOCIETY

CORKS - Norman, OK - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2013 AT 10:00 MAX
WESTHEIMER AVIATION FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER

CORKS - Norman, OK - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2013 AT 2:00 VETERANS
DAY FUN FLY AT JIM TRAW FIELD

MVAA - Yukon, OK - (2nd Military/Pre-1950 Vintage Scale Fun-Fly - Nov 16)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013 AT 6:30 MEETING AT JIM TRAW FIELD

DECEMBER

TORKS - Christmas dinner, Dec 5th, 6:00 PM - Golden Corral Restaurant

TORKS Tom Solinski at Speedfest III

While I did not attend Speedfest III in Stillwater, I was able to watch some of the action on a live internet feed. The scores for each event were also posted online. The Harding Charter High School team (assisted by Tom Solinski) did not win but

they posted some very impressive scores. The teams that dominated the competition were from Gordon Cooper technical school in Shawnee.

TOM SOLINSKI submitted the following fine report from the event:

First I am extremely proud of the students and teachers of Harding Charter Prep. High School STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Class. These young adults came together to build an RC plane using tools and skills that were new to them. Then they used their STEM skills to evaluate which propellers were going to make our plane fly the fastest. And finally most importantly they came together to be a cohesive team that had all the details and actions needed to win a pylon race down pat.

We did well through the first two rounds, completing two very competitive 12-lap races. In the third round we threw the spinner, prop, washer and nut on the fourth lap resulting in a dead stick landing on the runway. Luckily, the holes for the prop in the spinner were small enough that every thing stayed together and was found for round four. Round four we were back on our 12-lap pace and received a round of applause for a hovering landing. The winds had gotten high enough out of the south that the Dazzler could hover over the runway and touch down with zero forward speed. Round five was our downfall. In an effort to gain some groundspeed, I'd been keeping the plane low to avoid the higher winds. Sadly I clipped the left wing on a cattle fence, resulting in a rather spectacular explosion of balsa and monokote. That ended our attempts for the day.

We learned a lot and will be ready for next year.

TORKS work day and Burger Burn -- Highly Successful

We had a great turnout for our first workday Saturday, April 6. There were so many willing hands that the work was completed quickly and the field looked great when we were done. Thanks to Mark Grennan for his hard work getting the burger burn fixin's and doing the organizing for this event. And thanks to Linda Grennan who supplied these photos from the day...



Copyright Linda Grennan



Copyright Linda Grennan



Copyright Linda Grennan



Copyright Linda Grennan



Copyright Linda Grennan

MODEL OF THE MONTH -- APRIL, 2013 Meeting



On the right is Gary Potter displaying his electric-powered flying wing. Gary indicates this is a fun flyer. On the left is Ken Kehlet showing his scratch-built electric "Looks About Right" airplane. Ken's plane got Model of the Month honors.

Have a great month and fly safe! -- John Graham