



MEDIA RELEASE

Academy of Model Aeronautics

5161 E. Memorial Dr. Muncie, IN 47302
(800) 435-9262 | www.modelaircraft.org

Media Contact: Mande Mikulski
765-287-1256 x 277
mandeem@modelaircraft.org
www.discoverflight.org

AMA Promotes Model Aviation as a Valued, Important Hobby

Academy of Model Aeronautics supports the tradition of recreational flying as federal regulations await

MUNCIE, Ind. – Nov. 25, 2015 – As the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations for the recreational use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) pend, and as the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Registration Task Force releases its recommendations for UAS registration, the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) reminds the public and model aviation community of its dedication to protecting the model aircraft hobby and supporting its more than 185,000 members – no matter what or where they fly.

On Monday, the task force released its recommendations for small UAS registration (for the full statement released by AMA Executive Director Dave Mathewson, please visit <http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/AMAREACTSTODOTTASKFORCE.pdf>). The AMA holds strong to its opinion that these recommendations, as written, would make the registration process an unnecessary and unjustified burden to its 185,000 members, who have operated harmoniously within the aviation community for decades and who provide their personal contact information when joining the AMA.

Since it was founded in 1936, and with the launch of its Discover Flight campaign, AMA has remained committed to helping model aircraft enthusiasts discover their passion for flying. As technology has advanced, AMA, its members and its industry partners are embracing these changes; supporting the evolution of model aviation in hobby, sport and business; and helping everyone realize they, too, can fly model aircraft.

As technology becomes more sophisticated, AMA maintains its stance that the registration of some UAS that meet an appropriate threshold of weight, capability and other safety-related characteristics makes sense. However, AMA stresses that regulation should not become a prohibitive burden for recreational users who safely and responsibly fly for fun and educational purposes.

“AMA has always regarded safe and responsible flying as its top priority,” said Rich Hanson, director of Government and Regulatory Affairs for AMA, who represented AMA on the FAA Registration Task Force. “While we understand the desire for some level of regulation to prevent irresponsible flying practices, we are passionate about protecting our hobby and the unhindered ability of our members to fly recreationally.”

Current AMA guidelines already instruct members to label their aircraft with important identifying information before sending them into the sky, and the association's safety guidelines are available to all AMA members. An AMA membership also includes additional protections, such as liability insurance and advocacy on important issues. In addition, its more than 2,400 flying clubs and 3,000 flying fields located throughout the continental United States have made safe opportunities to fly virtually endless.

AMA also prides itself on being the voice of its membership, advocating for their rights and being a liaison between its members and government agencies, zoning boards and parks departments to promote a shared sky and keep the hobby thriving.



MEDIA RELEASE

Academy of Model Aeronautics

5161 E. Memorial Dr. Muncie, IN 47302
(800) 435-9262 | www.modelaircraft.org

This supportive community, brought together through a shared passion, is one of the most valuable aspects of an AMA membership, as well as a highlight of the recently launched Discover Flight campaign. The Discover Flight campaign helps communicate why there's never been a more important, or exciting, time to embrace the adventure and hobby of model aviation.

Discover Flight aims to bring the possibilities of model aviation to life, opening up this exciting world to flyers across the country. The campaign shows the true value of the hobby – an entire community of individuals passionate about model aircraft and the joy they experience from exploring the open skies. It also spotlights the many benefits of an AMA membership, including educational programming, mentorship, scholarships, competitive opportunities and liability protections. No matter the skill level or degree of involvement, the AMA community offers something for everyone.

AMA places top priority on the support it provides to its membership – which includes everyone from celebrities and NASA astronauts to engineers and students. And, as federal regulations await, the AMA is committed to continuing fighting for and upholding the tradition of model aviation for future generations. To learn more about the AMA, the benefits of becoming a member or to join, visit discoverflight.org today!

###

Story Assets

The AMA has created a media asset page that includes the Discover Flight video and other visual assets you may need to craft your story. To access this page, please visit <http://discoverflight.org/share-media>.

Interview Requests

The AMA team is here to help make your story unique. For interview requests with AMA staff or members, location shots, or general assistance with story development or additional asset needs, please contact mandeem@modelaircraft.org.

About AMA

With its national headquarters located in Muncie, Ind., AMA is the largest association representing model aircraft enthusiasts in the world and has been helping its members discover flight since 1936. AMA is committed to being the leading voice and advocate for modelers throughout the world and is dedicated to making modeling the foremost sport and hobby across the globe. The Discover Flight campaign was created to bring awareness to the sport of model aviation and advance the AMA's efforts to reach a new generation of modelers. To learn more about the Discover Flight campaign, visit discoverflight.org. You can also learn more about AMA by visiting modelaircraft.org or following them on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/modelaviation>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/modelaircraft>) or YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/modelaircraft>).