



# The Radio Flyer

The Monthly News Bulletin of the Iowa City Aerohawks Radio Control Flying Club  
April 2021, No. 345 P.O. Box 25, Iowa City, Iowa 52244 [www.iowacityaerohawks.com](http://www.iowacityaerohawks.com)

## NEW RULES, NO CHANGES

As most of you know, as of December 2020, the FAA came out with their final regulations for sUAS (small Uncrewed Aircraft System) which includes everything RC that flies...this means every RC plane/helicopter/quadcopter/sailplane/electric/nitro/gas/jet...everything that leaves the ground is now regulated by the FAA. But before you shake your fist in the air and curse the FAA for doing this, take 5 min to read the feature article on page 16 that came out in the April, Model Airplane News magazine. There's a ton of great information, but since the AMA has to disseminate it for all the deferent types of operations and locations for our fellow RC pilots, the question we are all asking ourselves is "How do these new regulations affect me?"...The simple answer, for the average Aerohawk, they won't.



To make sure the last statement was correct, I had a enjoyable conversation with AMA Government Affairs Representative, Chrystal Pearson who confirmed that when we are able to apply to have our flying site as a FAA-Recognized Identification Area (FRIA), nothing would change from the current status quo. You can take any aircraft out to the field and fly it without having any special Broadcast Modules or individual aircraft registration. What you are flying now is what you can fly after September 2023 when the new FAA regulation go into effect. Chrystal mentioned that the application for a FRIA (pronounced "free-ugh") might come some time around late 2022. While we're on the subject of FRIA's, one of the biggest changes the AMA fought for was that sites can be added and changed even after September 2023 versus the first draft the FAA only allowing applications for the first year. A big win for us.



Also, for those of you like me that like to scratch build,

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Spectators are welcome at the Aerohawks' flying field and clubhouse on Hebl Avenue, west on Melrose, west of HWY 218, on manicured, reclaimed land near the entrance to the Landfill. New members are welcome at any time, at any level of skill.

The Club has an active, free instructional program for beginners. Membership is \$60 annually, and the Club also requires that members volunteer help with work projects from time to time. Members must also join the Academy of Model Aeronautics, (the Iowa City Aerohawks are Chapter 824).

# Iowa City Aerohawks

## General Meeting

### March 2nd, 2021

General meeting brought to order at 7:03 PM via zoom by President Tom Peters

Mary Curtis brought forth the financial report

Motion to accept – Rich VeDepo

2nd – Roger Schultz...Passed

Secretary Bill Kiesel supplied meeting minutes for July

Motion to accept – Marc Niehus

2nd – Gary Bernabe...Passed



## OLD BUSINESS

The race track committee met. They have determined at this time to not invest any money or time into this until there have been some determinations on the future of the airfield. We discussed the tree sites and the damage that was done. We will be cleaning up the area during the ditch cleaning day.

We discussed the website and several changes that we will be needing to do. Shiloh Jennings will no longer be hosting the site. Lonnie Louvar spoke with Dave Petsel, in regards to updating the website. Dave said that if people forward the necessary information to him, he will be happy to update the site with it.

With Shiloh no longer hosting the site for us, we will need to pay for one. Roger is going to get ahold of Dave and we will get one set up.

## NEW BUSINESS

The trunk swap meet will be happening this year on June 6th. Rich will be taking the lead on this. It will be \$5 per person to get in. This includes selling also.

Gary Kleinmeyer will be getting in touch with the Airshow committee. We will be keeping it on the schedule for this year. We will trim it back as necessary. Members felt it is necessary to have this year for everyone.

We discussed the possibility of the flying field having to relocate. We will be setting up a committee to look at relocation options. We will also be speaking with the AMA and see what options that might have for us also.

Motion to adjourn

Motion – Roger Schultz

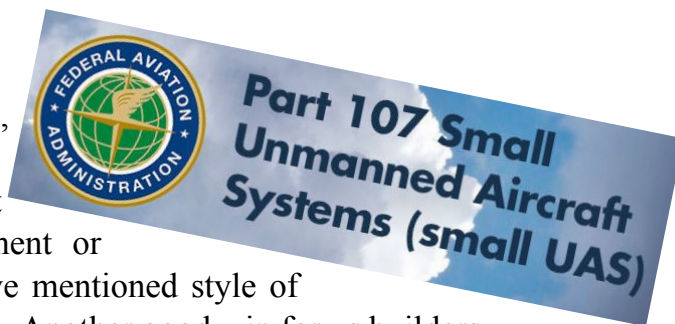
2nd – Rich VeDepo...Passed

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM

"Is everyone here?"  
Alex: "YES!"

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kit-bash or make something outside the box, well away from any manufactures directions... keep doing it! The FAA's original draft required some type of manufacture requirement or some type of special "inspection" for the above mentioned style of building aircraft. That pretty much got dropped. Another good win for us builders.



Approximately 97% of our Aerohawk Club Members only fly from AMA sanctioned fields that will most likely convert into the FAA's designation as FRIA's, but for the other 3% of you who enjoy flying around places that are likely not going to be listed as FRIA's... like parks/neighborhoods/farms/driveways/backyards... there will be an additional piece of equipment you will need to have on your aircraft in order to operate it legally...an Remote ID Broadcast Module (RID). Don't forget, the FAA regulations do not go into effect until September 2023...so your good until then. Since we are on the subject of RID's, the original FAA draft wanted each individual aircraft to have they're own registered RID, but now a recreation pilot can take any single RID Module registered to them and use it on anyone of their aircraft. This was also a big win for the average RC pilot.

The RID is only going to be needed for the 3% that fly somewhere other than a sanctioned site. Your Aerohawk Board Members are planing (when the applications come available in late 2022) to not just apply for our main flying site but also apply for our Float Fly locations to be listed as FRIA's. Remember when I said "The simple answer, for the average Aerohawk..."? This is true for the average 97% of us that comes out to the Aerohawk field. Just like it is true today, it will also be true after September 2023, all you need to fly at our club site is;

- 1. A current AMA Membership Card**
- 2. A current FAA, UAS Registration Card**  
(which you should have already...if not, do it now at [faadronezone.faa.gov](https://faadronezone.faa.gov))
- 3. Your aircraft with your UAS Certificate Number in plain sight.**  
(Side Note: Don't forget to pay your dues).

Editors Final Thoughts...After talking a couple times with Chrystal at the AMA headquarters in Muncie IN, I developed the opinion that these new rules are more like loitering or trespassing laws. Nobody cares if you hang out at your local Casey's or Hy-vee drinking a pop and keeping to yourself, its when you start bothering others, now they have something in place to kick you out or cite you. With the cost of quadcopters and aerial photography platforms coming down in cost and ease of use, there are those individuals that have now caused the FAA to create these regulations to "kick you out or cite you".

With that being said, for all of those of you that wrote in opposing the FAA's initial draft (approx. 53,000 public comments received), go ahead and pat yourself on the back. We all knew that there was going to be some type of regulatory action taken but in part, of those public comments, the lobbying from the AMA and many other organizations, this turned out better than hoped. We still need to wait to see how and what happens with the FRIA application process so I wouldn't uncross our fingers yet !!!



# 1ST DITCH CLEAN-UP

The word is out at the club that everyone is excited about the first Ditch Clean-Up...Saturday, April 10th! For me, it's a way to catch up on what everyone has been working on over the winter months while tromping through the ditches.

The Ditch Clean-Up's that we do during the year keeps your dues down considerably. Therefor we ALL need to help out. We understand that there are some club members that might not be able to get down in the ditches...but we still need your help, giving rides out to the ditches or running extra bags out to guys or picking up doughnuts in the morning or helping out calling club members to remind them...anything would be gratefully welcomed!

In the past, when we get around 30 club members (including friends and family) to show up, we can be in and out of the ditches in about 45 min...that makes for some quick work for everyone! Unfortunately, if we only get half...well, you get the idea! **WE TRULY NEED YOUR HELP!**

We will start to gather around 8:30 AM and start the pick-up at 9AM.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 10th - 1st Ditch Clean-Up

May 9th - Club Kickoff Day

June 6th - Tailgate Swap Meet

June 19th - 1st Float Fly

July 18th - Fun Fly

Aug 7th - 2nd Float Fly

Aug 26th-29th - Night Fly

Sep12th - Airshow

Oct 16th - 3rd Float Fly

Nov 6th - 2nd Ditch Clean-up

Dec 8th - Holiday Party

Hoping to be out of the ditches by 10:00 AM...and in the past, we tend to have a group that get their plans out and get some flying in!

