



AMA Charter #341



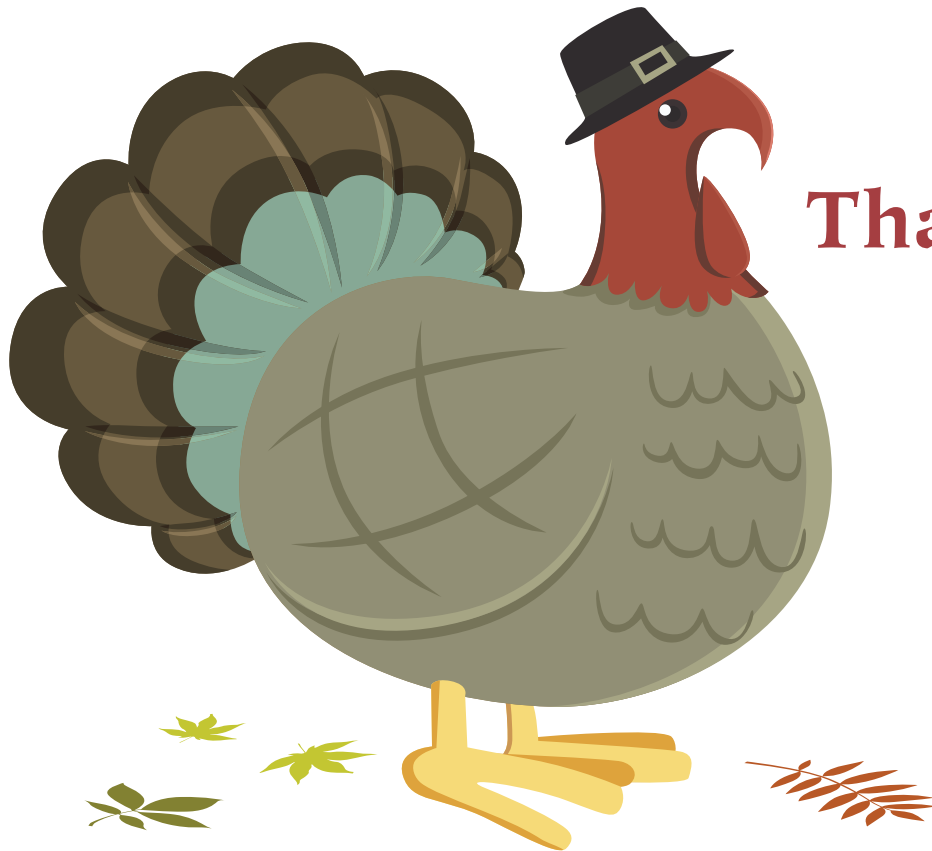
HCRC FLIER

November 2015

AMA Charter #341

www.hampshirecountyrca.org

Newsletter published 10 times per year



Happy Thanksgiving!

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Hampshire County Radio Controllers, Inc.
Business Meeting, October 1, 2015 — MINUTES:

Pres. Mark brought the meeting to order at 7p.m.tonight at the VFW with a request to call the roll. Fourteen members reported present with all club officers in attendance. A motion from the floor was heard to waive the reading of the minutes. M/S/P. Next, the treasurer gave his financial report with all items of expense and income detailed without comment. M/S/P He did comment on low rates being offered by banks in response to a question from a prior meeting regarding interest earnings on our accounts.

Old Business — The new website was discussed briefly. Nothing definite yet but is under construction. The secretary reminded the group that we have maintenance items to take care of before winter in regards to the two Toro mowers. Ron Paul offered to do field prep on both machines after the mowing ends for the season. Suggestions were made to purchase additional sets of blades for each machine to provide backup when needed.

New Business — D. Sherman passed out draft copies of newly created and basic operational rules for the flying of multi-rotor aircraft either as FPV (first person view) or in visual line of sight as are all other model aircraft flown from the HCRC flying site. About twenty-five minutes of discussion followed on this topic with many members voicing a wide range of opinions on this important issue for the club. The general feeling was that the members continue to work towards a finalization of the rule making and develop a strategy to inform everyone in the club as soon as possible.

Mark mentioned two upcoming flying events locally: On Oct 11 the Wintonbury Flying Club is hosting a Swap Fest at the New England Air Museum and there will be a fun fly at the Ellington club on Oct 10.

Ron Paul let everyone know that he is planning an RSVP type mailing for the Christmas party on December 3 and will need a rapid response to get an accurate head count.

New Member — Gerry Roy, of Chicopee, was unanimously voted into the club tonight with a hearty round of applause.

Respectfully submitted,
Gordie Lauder, Secretary



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Attention all members:

We are trying to bring back our Christmas social this year. It will be held at the December meeting at the Florence VFW at our regularly scheduled time of 7 pm. I am asking that all members let me know if they are attending and how many people they will be bringing.

I would like a response before the November meeting so that I can get a feel of how many we will need food for.

I am in the process of putting a menu together and I will contact members who are coming so they can bring the food that we need.

The Broken Prop award will be given out at this time also.

We should have music playing and a good time for all. Hope to see you there.

Let me know by email if you are coming or call me. Thanks. —Ron Paul

RPM3XLM@comcast.net or (413) 374-3212
or my work phone (413) 534-4220

HCRC CLUB NEWS

REPORT ON FLIGHT OPERATIONS

There is much turmoil in the model airplane business these days. New regulations concerning drones. The requirement that we 'report all of our flight operations' to an airport if we are located within 5 miles of the airport. Reports from AMA concerning new FPV operations.

Dave Lampron took the time to visit the Northampton Airport and resolve these issues. Below is a memo that I received from Gordie Lauder:

Dave Lampron called me after a visit to the general manager of the Northampton Airport this morning: they discussed all of the important issues including the reporting requirements ruling by the FAA (5 mile rule), the ceiling we have always observed (400") and the flying of FPV (drone) aircraft. In attendance at the meeting were three instructor pilots who all agreed that they have never had a problem with our model flying in Hadley and don't give it much thought. The airport rep.(Rich) said they would agree to allow us to operate without having to call the airport any time a member was going to fly and would also agree to the forms sent to us by the AMA. There is much more Dave talked with them about but that is for next time we meet. Also, there is no change in our stopping of all FPV flying at the HCRC site.

Gordie L., Sec.

I include this memo because it is very clear and explains the situation very well.

We can give ourselves a pat on the back for abiding by the agreed upon rules in the past and for, obviously being good neighbors with the airport. Considering the amount of flying done at our field and the busy operations of the Northampton Airport, we have done very well. We will make sure that we maintain this rapport in the future including use of FPV drones.

RULES GOVERNING FPV DRONE OPERATION

FPV: An FPV is defined as an aircraft fitted with a camera and capable of being flown out of visual range using a computer screen or visual headset (goggles) to maintain control.

The media reports that there may be well over one million drones sold to consumers this Christmas alone. This could have serious implications to our club and the model airplane hobby in general. The danger is that these drones will be sold to a population that has no training and little understanding of the consequences of their careless operation.

We are within one mile of the Northampton Airport runway. We are even closer to the Coolidge Bridge and very heavy vehicular traffic. We have neighbors who have their right to privacy. One simple careless act by an untrained person using a drone can and will cause us to lose flying privileges at our field.

A list of possible regulations for use of drones and FPV has been submitted to the officers and directors of HCRC for consideration. It was submitted at the October business meeting. The rules will be reviewed and finalized and will be posted at the field. Input by members is encouraged.

Until these rules are finalized and posted all FPV operation of drones has been suspended at the field. Quadcopters, helicopters and airplanes will be operated within the normal flight pattern of the HCRC field and runway.

—Dave S., Ed.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS—NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

THURSDAY, NOV. 5TH @ 7 P.M.
BUSINESS MEETING
at the VFW in Florence

THURSDAY, DEC. 3RD @ 7 P.M.
IT'S OUR HOLIDAY PARTY
at the VFW in Florence

HCRC Flier
c/o Dave Sherman
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NOVEMBER 2015

TO:



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200 New Hartford Road, Winsted, CT 06098
860-738-7534 • www.rchobbiesandmore.com

REMINDER:
November 1st meeting is at
the VFW in Florence.

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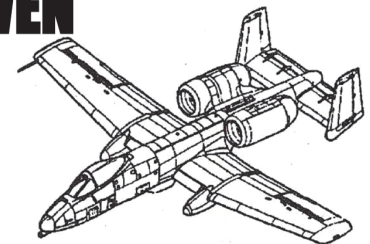
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