



January 2016
PRESIDENT'S CORNER
Dave Rothbart



I am pleased to again serve as your Farm Club President for 2016. I would like to thank the 2015 Farm Board & volunteers who donated their time, equipment, sweat and money to insure the successful operation of our club.

No longer shackled by the burden of a daily work schedule, I can now dedicate time to developing a fun and interesting experience for every Farm member. Please remember that the Board of Directors is made up of volunteers from our membership. It should not be their sole responsibility to maintain the operation of Farm Club. Take the initiative to contribute in any capacity. When the call goes out for volunteers please make it your responsibility as a Farm Club member to participate for the betterment of all. Also be sure to let us know what you would like to see happening at the club.

I have a number of goals for 2016 to invigorate the Club:

- As with any organization membership is the backbone that supports everything else. As a Farm member, take on the responsibility to bring in at least one new member this year. This includes pilot and non-pilots as well as junior

members. We now have several excellent instructors, whom can train people dedicated to the goal of learning how to fly RC planes. One member suggested that new members provide a brief bio that will be included in the monthly newsletter. It would be nice to know something about new members and their RC interests in advance of meeting them at the field or club meeting.

- Have a presentation for every meeting. Gene Flynn has volunteered to speak about and demonstrate Quad Copters at our January meeting. I will try to have available, in advance, upcoming speakers willing to give talks in their area of expertise. Once winter has passed and club meetings return to the Farm Field, the main focus will be on flying presentations of winter projects, new acquisitions or anything else you would like to discuss and demonstrate.
- As in the past we will set up several aeronautical related field trips. One of the favorite trips is to the Wright Experience. Another trip will be to the Udvar Hazy Smithsonian facility. Let me know if you have any other field trips that would be of interest to the members.
- Starting next spring Friday's will again become senior's day at the field. It was suggested that once or twice a month lunch would be served. The board will work out details of the lunch logistics.
- I will be speaking with other past and current club presidents to uncover ideas that have not yet been exposed to our members.
- Start a Tricks and Tips section of the newsletter for us. If you discover a new or better way of doing something in the shop email it to Jeff for insertion in the next club newsletter. Here is my January tip: as an alternative to using Lock Tight on screw threads, try plumber Teflon Tape.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jeff Killen

This is your club! I am open to any suggestions that will advance the interests of the club membership. A separate email survey will be sent to each member asking for suggestions that will hopefully enhance your Farm experience.

On a side note please use the @ **the club** signup function on the web site if you plan to fly at Farm. There is a better chance that you will attract fellow members to fly with if you announce your intention to fly that day.

The Washington DC SFRC has temporarily shut down all RC flying fields within a 30-mile radius of Reagan National Airport. As a result club members affected by this problem are looking for alternative flying fields to use until the problem is resolved. If you meet an affected individual at Farm please make sure that they get a field orientation, sign in and post on the frequency clipboard a 2016 AMA card before flying. Since most members have gone to 2.4G the habit of clipping your AMA and Farm membership card has lapsed. Due to the issue mentioned above I am asking all members to post both cards on the frequency clipboard after they have signed in.

Please note that there will be a **Board Meeting** following the January club meeting! I hope to see many of you there!

Happy Flying,

Dave Rothbart

EDITOR'S NOTES – Upcoming Events

Jeff Killen

1. Club Meeting, at Warrenton Community Center, 7:00 PM, 1/26/2016



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Nic Burhans provided the following on the status of the FAA ruling that is affecting our future flying activities:

This short summary is an effort [in addition to the emails I have forwarded to all of you on the FARM Club's email list] to let you all know where we are with regard to the FAA's rule about registration of our RC aircraft and the FAA's 30 mile radius no-fly Special Flight Rules Area (SFRA) around Reagan National Airport.

- The SFRA issue:

Although it does not affect our flying at the FARM field directly, the SFRA does impact any and all of our RC flying within the 30 mile radius zone [my back yard is almost included].

We must remember, for us all, the SFRA is an RC NO FLY ZONE [not just a no drone zone] that is in place now, and has been for a while !

As such, all of the AMA RC flying sites within the zone are, at present, shut down. Our AMA District IV Vice President, Jay Marsh, has put together a D-4 working group to address the AMA flying site shut down issue directly with the FAA. The group has met with the FAA and the discussions are reported to have gone well. However, there are other agencies in the Washington area that have a say in the issue. These agencies include DOT, Capitol Police, Department of Defense, etc. One thing to note is the fact that the SFRA AMA flying site suspensions were not initiated by the FAA, but rather were forced on them by the other agencies the FAA has to answer to.

All indications from the D-4 working group are that initial approval of a flying site proposal by the Interagency Members will probably happen shortly. After that, there will be several weeks of determining how to implement and administer the authorizations and then a gradual opening of fields until all are operating. There will not be a blanket authorization but rather each field will need to apply individually and there will be conditions and limitations [similar to full scale airports] built into each authorization, i.e. security, gates, dawn to dusk operation, etc. There is still a lot of "cross t" and "dot i" work to be done.

However, we all must remember that RC flying within 30 mile SFRA will only be at these approved AMA club fields under their approved requirements or under special event approvals and their specific requirements.

- The Model Aircraft Registration issue:
Yes, the Interim Final Rule on Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) registration went into effect on 21 December 2015.

The FAA's registration website is <http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration/?cid=TW379>.

The pilot/owner registration must be renewed every three (3) years at a fee of \$5.00.

At present, the AMA has not given up challenging this rule and several individual lawsuits have been entered, [*NEW*] but now the AMA is saying that each of us should to go ahead and take advantage of the free registration period ending January 19th.

[*NEW*] NO FAA Registration numbers will be required on RC model planes, only your AMA number must be displayed on each plane. **HOWEVER** AMA members are required to have a hard copy or electronic copy of their federal registration certificate on them while flying [just like full scale pilots].

Therefore, each AMA RC pilot flying 1/2 to 55 pound model aircraft outdoors, not used for commercial purposes, needs to register with the FAA and place their AMA number on all their 1/2 to 55 pound model aircraft [aircraft above the 55 pound limit will have to be registered individually, just like a full-scale aircraft] and have their federal registration certificate with them.

Although the Interim Final Rule is in effect, it is not necessarily in its final form. Interested parties have until 20 January 2016 to submit comments to the FAA at <http://1.usa.gov/1jegj0C>. The AMA has highly recommended that all of us do so.

[*NEW*] AMA MEMBERS will be able to fly above 400 feet AGL. The FAA website will be updated shortly about this rule change for AMA MEMBERS who abide by the AMA Safety Code.

- B4UFly:
If you have a smart phone (iphone or Android) google B4UFly and download the FAA's appropriate app for your phone. Wherever you are in the continental US, it will show you all the airports and restricted flying areas around your immediate location [including the SFRA, if you are located near or inside it].

FAA's PILOT REGISTRATION: Although the FAA's pilot registration Interim Final Rule is in effect, it is not necessarily in its final form. AMA pilots have until February 19 to register in order to avoid violating the

federal rule. AMA recommends that we all register at www.faa.gov/uas/registration or by calling (844) 244-3565 if we are flying 1/2 to 55 pound model aircraft outdoors.

Nic Burhans

SAD NEWS – PASSING OF ED GERBER, JR (Long time FARM club member)



Edgar Herman Gerber Jr.
April 6, 1925 - January 15, 2016
Resided in formerly of Warrenton, VA

Guestbook Photos Services

Obituary

Edgar Herman Gerber Jr., 90, died on Friday, January 15, 2016 at Brookdale Assisted Living in Manassas. He was born in Washington, D.C. on April 6, 1925, a son of Edgar and Eva Gerber.

A veteran of World War II, he served in the United States Air Force.

Mr. Gerber was retired from the Department of Defense where he worked as an electrical engineer for over 30 years. He was a member of Warrenton United Methodist Church and had taught Sunday School. He had been a member of the Ruritan Club, FARM-a local radio controlled model airplane club and a ham radio operator. He and his wife square danced with the Village Squares.

Affectionately known as "Mr. Ed" he loved to spend time with his family and make conversation with everyone he met.

His wife of 62 years, Frances Hitt Gerber, died in 2011, he leaves two children; Lynn Gerber Snyder and Charles Edgar Gerber; a sister, Jane Gerber Samadi; three granddaughters, Jenna Leigh Snyder, Ashleigh Carol Gerber, Mallory Gerber Adams and a great-granddaughter, Lillian Grace Adams.

The family will receive friends on Monday, January 18 from 10 AM until the service at 11 AM at Moser Funeral Home, 233 Broadview Ave, Warrenton. Interment to follow at Warrenton Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Brookdale Senior Living Solutions, 8341 Barrett Dr, Manassas, VA 20109 or to Vitas Hospice, 9625 Surveyor Court, Suite 450 Manassas VA 20110.

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Gene Flynn with one of his nice helos.