Registering with the FAA and Becoming Compliant with UAV Rules and Federal Law.

1. Background

a. What this is about

The FAA requires registration of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), i.e., RC aircraft and drones for several key reasons:

1. **Safety**: Registering UAVs helps ensure that operators are aware of the safety guidelines and regulations necessary to operate these devices responsibly. It promotes accountability and encourages operators to fly safely, reducing the risk of accidents and collisions.
2. **Identification**: Registration allows the FAA to identify and track UAVs. This is crucial for investigating incidents, enforcing regulations, and managing the increasing number of drones in the airspace.
3. **Airspace Management**: With the growing popularity of drones, effective airspace management is essential. Registration helps the FAA maintain an organized airspace and prevents interference with manned aircraft operations.
4. **Education**: Through the registration process, operators are informed about the rules and best practices for flying drones. This educational component is vital in promoting safe and responsible drone use.
5. **Security**: Registration helps in addressing national security concerns. It ensures that there is a record of all drone operators, which can be useful in the event of illegal or harmful activities involving drones.

These measures collectively aim to safely integrate drones into the national airspace system while protecting public safety and security.

The FAA has and will continue to make occasional random site visits to verify compliance. To protect our SPARKS club and its members, we must make every effort to become and remain compliant with the FAA rules and the law.

b. What must I do?

The FAA Requires each of us to:

1. Create an account with the FAA
2. Register ourselves
3. Register our planes
4. Take a basic knowledge (TRUST) exam
5. Label each of our planes with our FAA and AMA numbers.

This procedure walks you through the process to become compliant with FAA Rules.

2. Procedures

Before you begin your registration process we suggest you review the "How To" instructions at the following link: How to Register Your Drone | Federal Aviation Administration (faa.gov) As you review the instructions please remember that unless you are going to make a business of drone flying or provide any other pay-for-service use of your drone, you will be registering under the Exception for Limited Recreational Operations rules.

If you will be flying exclusively at SPARKS field or any other field designated as a FRIA site operating under the purview of a community-based organization (the AMA), you will not be required to comply with Remote ID rules. If you will be flying any place other than a FRIA site, you must comply with Remote ID rules.

Step 1. Create an Account with the FAA

Go to the FAADroneZone Access - Home and "Create an Account".

Step 2. Print your registration certificate

Once you register an Access Account, launch the Drone Owners and Pilots Dashboard. There you will see your Recreational Flyer Dashboard. You should Print the registration certificate and keep it or a digital copy on your person. We prefer to take a photo of the certificate and keep it on our phones. You must have your registration certificate (either a paper copy or digital copy) in your possession when you fly should any local or government official ask you to do so.

Step 3. Register each aircraft

a. From the Recreational Flyer Dashboard, click on "Manage Device Inventory" just below your registration certificate. The "Your Inventory" screen will appear.

b. Click the "ADD DEVICE" button to create a record of each of your airplanes/drones. You will also use this screen to create a record of each Remote ID module if you have one and will be flying outside a designated FRIA site.

Step 4. Take the Trust Exam

The law requires that all recreational flyers pass an aeronautical knowledge and safety test and provide proof of passage if asked by law enforcement or FAA personnel. The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) was developed to meet this requirement.

TRUST Exam HELP can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jfRMNwy0JA
TRUST Information and Web Link, including testing link options can be found at:
https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_flyers/knowledge_test_updates

- Review the test questions (see exam help link above)
- Take the 10-15 min test
- Print the TRUST certificate and keep a photo of it on your phone.

Step 5. Label each aircraft

Both the AMA and the FAA require each aircraft to be marked with your registration numbers. While these can be incorporated into a Tail Number or other form of graphic, most of our members choose to have these numbers printed on a sticker placed between the landing gear on the belly of each aircraft. Labels must be visible from the EXTERIOR. They CANNOT be placed inside electronic compartments, canopies, hoods, nose cones, engine areas, etc. The FAA Dashboard page illustrates a place to include the markings on a multirotor drone.

There are any number of mail-order companies that print custom stickers in the form of return address labels. We have found those to be perfectly adequate. A typical example could be as follows:

AMA 237796
FAA YB61H9BBQ
Reward if Found
281-555-1221

Below are links to several companies that print return address labels. Most of these companies offer options to setup and print "CLEAR" or colored labels of your choosing. Members find clear or transparent labels to be the friendliest and are the least likely to clash with your UAV's color scheme. A roll of 250 labels will last you for years and can usually be had for under $20.00 with shipping.

Current Labels: https://www.currentlabels.com/
Vista Print: www.vistaprint.com
Amazon.com: www.amazon.com
Zazzle.com: https://www.zazzle.com/