

FAA registration is due by February 19

As a reminder, the FAA UAS registration deadline is February 19. All model pilots who use a ground-control system with a communications link such as an RC transmitter, that is over 0.55 pounds (or 250 grams) and less than 55 pounds, are required to register. This includes operators who fly fixed-wing RC aircraft and helicopters, not just multirotors or drones. Please make sure to visit www.faa.gov/uas/registration to register. Several fake registration websites have been set up online to attempt to steal personal and credit card information. Many of these fake sites look credible or appear to belong to the FAA. The FAA has warned pilots to avoid sites that offer paid services assisting model pilots in the registration process.

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Frequently asked questions about UAS registration

We are continuing our work with legal counsel, the FAA, and Congress to find a solution for our members on the registration rule, but these conversations take time and a definitive solution is unlikely before the deadline Friday, February 19. After February 19, the FAA mandates that no model airplane can become airborne without an FAA Registration number. Any pilot flying an uncertified aircraft could face criminal or civil penalties. Watch a video to learn more and read members' most frequently asked questions.

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2016 Nats registration now open

Registration for the 2016 Indoor and Outdoor Nats is now open. This year's Indoor competition has changed locations and will be held at the Rantoul National Aviation Center, in the village of Rantoul Hangar #3, in Rantoul, IL July 20-24. The Outdoor Nats will be held at the International Aeromodeling Center in Muncie, IN, June 24-August 4.

[check it out >](#)

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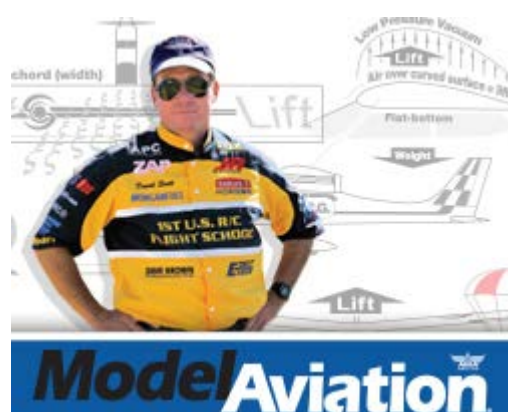
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AMA member victory-model flying resumes in Washington, D.C. metro area

We are pleased to announce that AMA members in the Washington, D.C. metro area can now resume model aircraft activities inside the D.C. Special Flights Rule Area (SFRA). After weeks of working closely with the FAA to find a resolution, the 14 AMA-charted clubs in the DC metro were able to return to safe operations starting on February 10.

[read more >](#)



Matching the best airplane to your flying skills

In the March 2016 edition of *Model Aviation*, author Dave Scott provides guidance on selecting the right airplane and setup for model pilots. The piece condenses flight dynamics into simple rules of thumb that an average pilot can easily understand and use to make better airplane choices that will improve his or her opportunities for success. Click below for your sneak peek at the article.

[check it out >](#)



FAA warning highlights importance of battery safety

Last week, the FAA issued a safety alert to U.S. and foreign commercial passenger and cargo airlines, urging them to conduct a safety-risk assessment to manage the risks associated with transporting lithium batteries as cargo. The FAA also is issuing guidance to its own inspectors to help them determine whether the airlines have adequately assessed the risk of handling and carrying lithium batteries as cargo. Although LiPo batteries continue to grow in popularity as a means for powering our model aircraft, the FAA's warning highlights the importance of properly using LiPo batteries. *Model Aviation* recently published a series of articles and videos titled, "Battery Basics," to educate our readers about the proper use of LiPo batteries. The entire series is now online.

[check it out >](#)



NAA names 2015 Robert J. Collier Trophy nominees

The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) has selected nine aerospace projects and accomplishments as nominees to compete for the 2015 Robert J. Collier Trophy. Each year, the trophy is awarded for the greatest achievement in aeronautics or astronautics in America. This year's nominees include Airbus A350 XWB, Blue Origin's New Shepard Team, C-5M Super Galaxy, Dawn Project Team, HA-420 HondaJet, ICON A5, New Horizons Project Team, Two Eagles Balloon Team, and UCAS-D Autonomous Aerial Refueling Demonstration. The winner will be announced on Tuesday, March 8, in Arlington, Virginia at the NAA Spring Awards Dinner held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott.

[learn more >](#)



Successful Model Aviation Day event featured during AMA Expo

Thank you to Joel Wilton of the Ottumwa Radio Control Flyers for attending AMA Expo to share his Model Aviation Day experience. Joel and members of his club wanted to promote the hobby and give back to veterans. Working closely with AMA leadership and staff, National Model Aviation Day was established and has now been celebrated for three years. Watch the presentation to learn more about the club's efforts and how together its members raised more than \$8,000 for Wounded Warrior Project.

[watch now >](#)

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AMA ID labels available in the AMA online store

AMA encourages all members to include pilot information on model aircraft. For many years, an ID label has been available for this purpose. If you are looking to add contact information to your models, adhesive-backed label has space on the bottom for your name and address. A clear plastic flap protects the label. Adding one of these stickers on or in your model complies with the AMA Safety Code requirements for identification and will help recover the model if it is lost. Each pack includes 10 labels.

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New crash T-shirt on sale

This newly introduced T-shirt will be turn some heads. Our new shirt is made of 100% preshrunk cotton and is available in Vegas gold or white. The print on the back of the shirt reads "Crash Test Don't Blink." The front left crest image on the T-shirt reads "Crash Test." Get yours while they are on sale for only \$8.99 through February.

[buy now >](#)