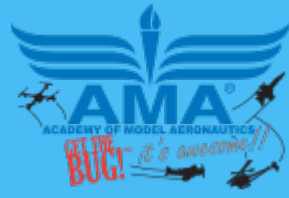


# AMA TODAY

Academy of Model Aeronautics Newsletter



Tuesday, June 14, 2016

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## An Analysis of the FAA's March 2016 UAS Sightings

While drone sales are soaring, sightings appear to be on the decline. New data continues to show very few near misses, objects other than drones and people possibly flying responsibly.

**Executive Summary**

On March 25, 2016, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released a new list of 582 "drone sightings" covering the period August 21, 2015 through January 31, 2016 ("March 2016 data"). This new data follows the release of 784 records in August 2015 covering the period from November 13, 2014 to August 20, 2015 ("August 2015 data").

The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) is pleased to see the FAA more accurately characterize its recent drone data as "sightings" and "reports" rather than the more inflammatory terminology that was used last summer. When the agency previously released this data in August 2015, AMA completed a detailed analysis of these reports. We found a more complex picture of U.S. drone activity than the agency and news reports initially suggested. Only a small number of sightings were legitimately reported as "near misses," the most serious reports involved government-sponsored military drones and some reports appeared to involve people flying responsibly. Meanwhile, the FAA's drone data last August contained reports of many things in the air that were not drones, including balloons, bats, model rockets, ministrings, something that "resembled a dog" and even a UFO.

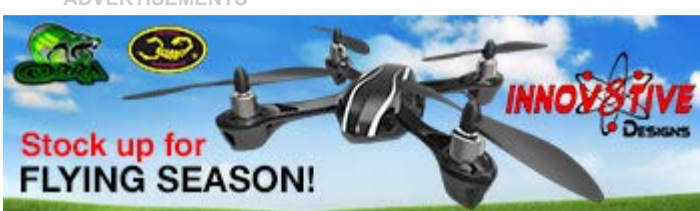
In a continued effort to better understand what's occurring, and what role AMA could play to help advance safe flying, AMA analyzed the 582 new records released by the FAA on March 25, 2016. In addition, we looked at trends in all of the 1,364 reports made between November 2014 and January 2016.

## FAA drone data shows a decline in UAS sightings

AMA has released an analysis of FAA's latest drone sightings. We highlight some of this analysis in a video and detail our complete findings in a full report. We are finding positive trends indicating that education is successfully increasing safe and responsible flying. The decline in the number of UAS sightings shows that the focus on education is working, and will help our efforts to protect our members' rights.

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## Celebrate National Model Aviation Day with new merchandise

Show your support for National Model Aviation Day, the AMA, and model flying with our new merchandise for the 2016 celebration. Club orders are encouraged, with special savings built in for T-shirt orders of 11 or more. Any proceeds collected from the sale of these items will be donated directly to [Disabled American Veterans](#). Thank you to our sponsors for making it possible to provide these items at a significantly reduced price. The deadline to order merchandise and to register for the 2016 event is June 28.

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## Bring Your RC Aircraft and Fly at EAA AirVenture.

Going to EAA AirVenture? Be sure to bring your RC aircraft to fly at the Pioneer Airport Model Flying Field evenings Monday - Saturday at 7 p.m. Parking is available for you in the EAA Museum lot. No credentials are required. Look for the AMA tent. AMA membership required. And don't miss EAA's World War I Aviation Centennial Celebration in the Vintage Aircraft area featuring World War I full scale and RC aircraft on display and flying together. Watch the Model Flying at AirVenture video and get a map of AMA activities. Save \$7 on AirVenture tickets use promo code "AMA". [www.EAA.org/tickets](http://www.EAA.org/tickets)

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## AMA applauds its Leader Clubs

Congratulations and thank you to each club that has qualified as an AMA Leader Club. Your dedication and continued support of modeling and your community is commended! AMA established the AMA Leader Club program to recognize the leadership of the best aeromodeling organizations. These awards can be earned by any AMA club, by meeting certain standards of community service and activity. There are three levels of AMA Leader Clubs: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. After a club meets the minimum criteria, it qualifies for different levels based on performance.

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## Election nominations due June 16

Nominations for the office of AMA president and vice presidents in Districts I, V, and IX are due at AMA Headquarters by June 16, 2016. Any AMA Adult member may submit a nomination. To be eligible to discharge the duties of AMA vice president, a nominee must be a Leader Member of the AMA and must reside in the district. To be eligible to discharge the duties of AMA president, a nominee must be a Leader Member of the AMA and must previously have served as a member of the Executive Council, as an Associate Vice President, or as a Contest Board member for at least one year.

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## Special rental car discounts for AMA members

AMA has partnered with vehicle rental companies, Enterprise and National Car Rental, to give you lower rates and an opportunity to earn free car rental days. By being an AMA member and using a special account code and password, you can save up to 5% on car rentals at Enterprise and receive special rates with National.

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## NatsNews reporters wanted

Are you attending the 2016 Outdoor Nats? Do you want to immerse yourself in the action while having the opportunity to make between \$50 and \$100 per day? Consider joining the NatsNews staff as an event reporter! Open positions available include Control Line Navy Carrier (July 19-21), several events in RC Soaring (July 23-July 30), and Outdoor Free Flight (July 25-29). If you are interested or would like more information, please email [natsnews@modelaircraft.org](mailto:natsnews@modelaircraft.org).

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## Enter to win a Freewing T-45 Goshawk from Motion RC

Learn more about this growing reseller and enter to win one of the best-looking foam jets you've ever seen from the latest in *Model Aviation's* "About Us" series.

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## AMA fleece vest now on sale

When you're at the flying field and need a little protection from the elements but don't want a heavy coat, the Inner Harbor Outdoor® vest is exactly what you need. Made of 100%, 9.9-ounce anti-pill polyester microfleece the vest is lightweight, warm, and machine washable. It has reinforced pockets and elastic cuffs. It's available in navy blue with a white embroidered Bringing Modelers Together logo in sizes S to 4X. Please specify size when ordering. **Regular price starts at \$25.99, and it's on sale this month starting at \$21.99.**

[buy now >](#)