

October 7, 2015 teleconference meeting of the UAS LTF subcommittee on Hobbyist Endorsements and Retailer Education Requirements:

**Members attending meeting:**

Bob May  
Steve Colligan  
Steve Wackowski  
Ethan Tyler  
Representative Hughes  
John Nevadomsky  
Ginger Blaisdell, task force staff

**Invited Presenters:**

Dave Matthewson, Executive Director AMA  
Richard Hansen, AMA Government Affairs  
Arthur Cunningham, AMA  
Archie, AMA  
Jay Skaggs, FAA Alaska

Meeting called to order by subcommittee chair, Steve Colligan at 10am via webinar presentation and teleconferencee.

**Steve Colligan:** Introduction and remarks

**Richard Hansen:**

**Know Before You Fly** campaign is focused on the consumer

- Manufacturers and distributors are beginning to include the flyers in packaging
- AMA is working with major retailers to provide the KBYF information to educate consumers on pilot safety

The AMA is focusing on the platform (aircraft equipment) that has the capability to go beyond visual line of sight for the next level of hobbyist education.

AMA is reviewing 2 classifications for pilots: rotary and fixed-wing. They are looking at liability insurance offerings to hobbyists, and safety awareness (knowledge and operational skills) endorsement.

Personal (hobby) use would fall under the AMA program while commercial applications are still governed by the FAA.

AMA is developing a computer-based education and endorsement on-line program. A pilot would take an on-line test to assess knowledge and includes questions to assess the individual's self-validation of operational skills. The on-line program will also allow for flight data downloads to manage flight records for hobbyists.

### **AMA Membership fees:**

Annual cost of membership is \$58 adult (being raised to \$75 adult)

Annual cost of subscription for data and test/endorsement \$19.95

Recurring tests in continuing years will include law changes – frequency of testing to be determined

Model Aviation Student Clubs pay a flat fee for a set number of students – typically are universities and schools

Youth membership until age 19 is free (currently 50,000 student memberships nationwide)

Family membership is one adult at full annual fee, additional adult at \$38.00 annually, children free

AMA is looking at sUAS pilot training programs around the US to encourage flight safety but will still require hobbyist to take proficiency and knowledge test through AMA to be endorsed. The United Kingdom requires an operator proficiency skills test – the AMA is looking into this.

An endorsement/ID card would be issued by AMA for qualifying hobby pilots.

AMA offers liability insurance (through an underwriter) after achieving knowledge and proficiency endorsement. Insurance underwriters have offered a discounted premium on those with the endorsement.

There is a grey area transitioning from hobby to business.

- AMA is focusing on the capabilities of the aircraft more than hobby VS business
- Beyond visual line of sight is the critical differentiator in capabilities

AMA will offer to register your aircraft through the membership website.

Is the registration data public information?

- It might be provided to the FAA upon request but not to general public
- Public could go through AMA to identify specific aircraft if requested
- Many platforms require the owner to register with the manufacturer in order to download the firmware – this would require personal ID of the aircraft owner
- How would the manufacturer data become available to law enforcement?

Field examiners offering proficiency tests:

- Are they volunteers or will there be additional costs?
- AMA is not convinced that this level of oversight is necessary for hobby pilots – they are leaning toward self-validation of competency.

Is there a pilot training center in Alaska?

- Steve Colligan is working on this as part of his business.

- UAF trains pilots and certifies them depending on what kind of platform they are operating.

Timeline for AMA endorsement is early January 2016 with the mapping and flight logging coming later in the year.

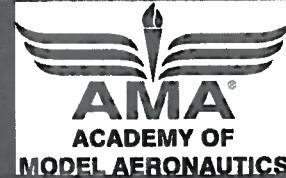
The primary difference between the Know Before You Fly and the AMA membership with endorsement is that KBYF is a “first blush” on safety and the endorsement is more advanced.

Meeting adjourned 11:07am

A followup meeting will be scheduled.

# Academy of Model Aeronautics

October 7, 2015



## sUAS Program For FPV and Semi-Automated Flight For Personal and Purposeful Use

### Individual Elements

- Legitimacy
- Education
- Training
- Safety
- Registration/Endorsement
- Classification
- Insurance
- Program Support/Advocacy
- Media
- Marketing



## Legitimacy

- Current FAA policy precludes the operation of sUAS for anything other than recreational purposes without specific authorization.
- The purposeful use of sUAS is becoming prevalent in the US and growing at an astounding rate.
- AMA believes the safety considerations for the use of sUAS are the same no matter if operated for recreational or purposeful use.
  - Similar to the Academy's existing MA safety program, AMA's sUAS community-based program will provide a safety structure that will allow the purposeful use of sUAS to occur in a safe and responsible manner.
  - AMA will petition the FAA to recognize AMA community-based program as an effective and accepted means of allowing the purposeful use of sUAS in the national airspace.

## Education

- Public access to all safety guidelines.
- Computer based learning management system.
  - Member's Only access to the testing and endorsement system.
- Individual module topics would include.
  - Learning the NAS.
  - Current relevant regulations.
  - Safety.
  - Fly friendly (Ethical, noise, nuisance, privacy, surveillance).
  - Best practices for common applications (i.e. photography).
  - Community involvement (search & rescue, emergency Response, disaster relief, etc.)
  - Other non-regulatory or safety issues.



## Education (continued)

- Online training syllabus for those that choose not to take an authorized training facility course.
  - Flight proficiency.
  - Flight test (fixed wing, single-rotor, multi-rotor).
- Develop University MASC program (UMASC) for universities & colleges.
- Educate clubs and members.

## Training

- Create a nationwide network of AMA Affiliated Training Centers.
  - AMA would put the center on a list of recommended facilities.
  - AMA would review and endorse programs.
  - Center would have to teach to AMA minimum standards. Both written and practical (flying).
  - All participants in Training Center programs must be AMA members.
  - Program completion would be validated through AMA's online system.
  - Members would gain sUAS endorsements by participating in the program.



## Safety Program

- Foundation will be AMA's existing safety guidelines.
- Stand alone (discipline specific) safety program for sUAS.
- Customized for specific use.
  - Personal use (filming family, recreational activities, special events, general photography).
  - Purposeful use (community service, search & rescue, public safety support, survey of personal property, casual journalism, amateur photography).

## Endorsements

- Successful completion of online education program.
- Completion of affiliated training program.
- Review of AMA Safety Program content.
- Participatory based online testing.
- Cost aggregation with tuition at affiliated center.
- Individual endorsements for fixed wing, heli, and multi-rotor.
- Field validation (appointed field examiners).
- Self attestation.

## sUAS Endorsements



## Special sUAS Membership Classification

- Participatory based, annual renewal.
- Supplemental to AMA membership (Adult, Senior, Junior).
- Availability of sUAS endorsements.
- Access to affinity benefits (Insurance).
- Additional sUAS program benefits



## Insurance

- Personal liability coverage for sUAS and MA operations.
  - \$2.5 million coverage for recreational use.
- Individually customized policyholder coverage (liability/comprehensive) for sUAS business use through AMA's affinity partner.
  - AMA rate would be more favorable than might otherwise be achieved.
  - Additional discounts with endorsements and/or endorsements from an affiliated training center.

## Program Support/Advocacy

- Increase advocacy reach to include this community.
- Dedicated staff to manage community.
- Increased involvement in conventions and seminars.
- Partner with AUVSI and other relevant organizations.



## Media

- AMA Today style monthly E-Zine.
  - Auto-populated.
- Continued content in *Model Aviation* magazine.
- Continued content in *Park Pilot* magazine.
- Webinars/Podcasts on relevant topics.
- Instructional videos (potential topics could be terms, definitions, describe platforms, etc.)
- Blogs, videos and other member exclusive content available in the subscriber area.
- Social media / subscriber interaction within the subscriber area.

## Marketing

- Join/Renew Landing Page.
- Join/Renew dedicated page (precursor to a microsite).
- Dedicated sUAS Microsite ([suas.modelaircraft.org](http://suas.modelaircraft.org))
- Wherever you fly; Whatever you fly campaign to the community.
- Engagement of manufacturers.
- Outreach through drone user sites/media.
- Marketing in industry related but non MA publications.
- Possible agreements with AUVSI.
- AMA info in boxes pointing to AMA.
- Establish sUAS events, activities, and competitions.



