

Guidelines for the Use of Drones in Hide-A-Way Hills

As of October 20, 2015

The number of people using remote control aircraft is expected to continue to grow significantly in the next few years. As a result, the Federal Aviation Administration is devising regulations to control the flight of remote control aircraft.

In anticipation, the HAH Board of Trustees approved guidelines for the operation of remote control aircraft within Hide-A-Way Hills at its October 20, 2015 Board Meeting. At present these are not rules but only guidelines.

The operation of remote control aircraft is not currently a problem in Hide-A-Way Hills, and only a few pilots are involved in the sport. However, many novice pilots do not realize that a remote control aircraft is not a toy and can be very dangerous in the event of an accident. These guidelines were taken directly from the Aeronautical Modelers Association (AMA) Safety Code.

If you operate a remote control aircraft please follow these guidelines.

- All pilots shall avoid flying directly over unprotected people, vessels, vehicles or structures and shall avoid endangerment of life and property of others.
- Model aircraft must be flown at or below 400 feet AGL (above ground level) when within 3 miles of an airport as stated in the AMA (Aeronautical Modelers Association) Safety Code.
- The use of imaging technology for aerial surveillance with radio control model aircraft having the capability of obtaining high-resolution photographs and/or video, or using any types of sensors, for the collection, retention, or dissemination of surveillance data or information on individuals, homes, businesses, or property at locations where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy is strictly prohibited by the AMA unless written expressed permission is obtained from the individual property owners or managers.
- All FPV (first person view – special goggles are worn that sees only what the drone sees – as if the pilot were actually in the drone) flights require an AMA FPV pilot to have an AMA FPV spotter next to him/her maintaining VLOS (visual line of sight) with the FPV aircraft throughout its flight.
- An inexperienced pilot is assisted by an experienced pilot.
- With the exception of events flown under official AMA Competition Regulations, excluding takeoff and landing, no powered model may be flown outdoors closer than 25 feet to any individual, except for the pilot and the pilot's helper(s) located at the flightline.

- Visual Line of Sight is required by the Safety Code. This means that visual contact with the aircraft must be maintained without enhancement other than by corrective lenses prescribed for the model aircraft pilot. All RC (remote control) flying must remain clear **of clouds, smoke, or any other obstruction to the line of sight.**