

# The Marion Eagle Newsletter



<http://marionrcflyers.info>

**MRCF**

**PO Box 9202**

**Rochester, MN 55903**

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Editor: Wayne Brown

## **Club Officers 2020**

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**Treasurer:** Judi Snyder (507) 990-8470

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**Sec. /Newsletter:** Wayne Brown (507) 319-4406

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**Safety Officer:** Jim Payne (507) 993-1962

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**Field Maintenance:** Jeff Sorenson

[Rc13469@hotmail.com](mailto:Rc13469@hotmail.com)

**Flight Instructors:** Ray Dray (507) 261-0930 cell

[ridmid56@gmail.com](mailto:ridmid56@gmail.com) ; Skip Gram (507) 273-2748

[Skip Gram <klgram@charter.net>](mailto:klgram@charter.net)

**Program Chairman:** Open volunteer position

**Club Dues accepted at the Club meetings or send your dues to:**

**Marion RC Flyers  
PO Box 9202  
Rochester, Mn 55903**

**Adult Membership \$75.00 per year**

**Family (Spouse) Membership \$75.00 per year**

**Student (19 years of age or under) \$1.00 per year**

**No Initiation Fee for New Members**

**\*\*\*\*\*Summer Meeting Schedule\*\*\*\*\***

**Summer club meetings will resume on June 10, 2020.**

**We will meet at the club field starting at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month....**

**July 8th; August 12th; September 9th;**

**Oct 14th (depending on weather)**

## **Electric Indoor Flying at the National Guard Armory**

**Wednesday's starting at 9:00 am.**

Indoor flying is suspended at the Armory due to the COVID-19. We will inform you when it is open for us to use.

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## **Wayne's Corner....**

Our first Fun Fly was held June 27, 2020 and was a great success!

We couldn't have asked for a better day for flying. I really appreciated and enjoyed how everyone was happy, friendly and took into consideration social distancing. This was one of the best weekends for our Fun Fly's that we have had in a few years. Lots of planes in the air all day.

We will be planning another Club Fun Fly for this September, pandemic permitting.

Since we cannot get back into the Armory now for indoor flying because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be meeting Wednesday mornings around 11 am for flying (weather permitting) and to enjoy a brown bag lunch at the club field. This will afford us the time to talk and visit.

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**Program Chairman:** Open volunteer position

**The Student Flight Instruction Program will resume June 2020 weather permitting. We recommend students make reservations with the Flight Instructors.**

**Beginner's Night:** Wednesday afternoons/evenings. Contact our qualified Flight Instructors for free flight instruction. It is recommended that you make an appointment with Ray Dray or Skip Gram for flight instruction.

**Call Ray Dray at (cell) 261-0930 or (home) 775-6933.**

**Call Skip Gram at (507) 273-2748**

### **Student Flight Instruction Program**

Student flight instruction is provided free of charge during the flying season, June through September, by one of our qualified flight instructors.

- Please call Ray Dray at 261-0930 (cell) or 775-6933 (home) or Skip Gram at 273-2748 to set up an

appointment for flight instruction. They can answer any questions you might have.

- You should read and understand the club rules that are posted online and at the field. If you have any questions have your instructor clarify them during the first flight lesson.  
[http://www.marionrcflyers.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=20&Itemid=16](http://www.marionrcflyers.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20&Itemid=16)
- Please call our club instructor to make an appointment for flight training. This will assure that there will be somebody at the field to assist you.
- After completing your lessons, you will need to join the AMA and our club to be allowed to fly at our club field. Join the AMA at <https://www.modelaircraft.org/joinrenew.aspx>. To join our club, contact Wayne Brown at 319-4406. Our membership forms can be found in the New Pilot Info link to the left.

The available instructors are listed below:

Instructor	Phone Number	Special Information
Ray Dray	261-0930 cell	Airplane Instruction
	775-6933 Home	
Skip Gram	273-2748	Airplane Instruction

- If using your own airplane for flight lessons you should make sure your radio equipment has been charged and the switches are in the off position before you arrive at the field. If you do not own your own airplane you can use the club training aircraft at no charge to you.
- When you arrive at the field ask for your instructor. He will provide direction on where and how to set up the airplane for instruction.
- Pay attention to what your instructor has to say and show you. He will show you proper flying field procedures and etiquette. You can learn by observing how pilots set up and fly their aircraft.
- Relax and take your time. If you feel tired or worn out call it a day and schedule a lesson for another day. When learning to fly it may take more lessons than expected.
- When your instructor says you are ready you will complete a check flight, where you will be asked to do three takeoffs and landings, demonstrate the correct pattern and flying field etiquette. After successful completion you will then be considered a qualified R/C Pilot and allowed to fly solo without an instructor.
- You can request additional lessons at any time. These can include aerobatic maneuvers.

### ***MRCF Club Meeting Minutes***

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Officers in attendance: Wayne Brown; Judi Snyder; Jim Payne

Treasures Report: Accounts in good order.

New Business:

Fun Fly June 27, 2020. Food will not be served. Attendees encouraged to bring their own food and beverages because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, social distancing will be encouraged along with masks.

The Nation Guard Armory is still closed for us on Wednesday morning due to the COVID-19 pandemic until further notice.

Adjourn: 7:12 pm

### **Don't Fall Victim to Scams**

*Written by Rachelle Haughn*

*In the Air Column*

*As seen in the November 2018 issue of Model Aviation.*

Email, internet, and telephone scams are nothing new to Americans. News stories about identity theft and people overseas convincing others to wire them money are commonplace today. You might not expect these scammers to infiltrate the hobby that you love, but they have. And it has been going on for some time.

AMA wants you to be aware that some emails appearing to come from AMA, its officials, or members of your club, in fact, are not legitimate. Often, these messages ask for money to be wired or have a link to click on. These are scams or phishing schemes.

Be cautious when visiting websites that appear to be for the FAA's UAS registration. Only one of these websites is legitimate; the rest were devised to steal your money and could cost you at least 10 times what it should cost to register your aircraft with the FAA.

When a club or member is scammed, the AMA Headquarters is often one of the first places that they call. AMA has received some reports this year from club members who believe that they received emails from fellow members. These messages instruct someone to wire money to a bank account or to a company. The email address appears to be legitimate, but it is not. This year alone, AMA has received reports of AMA clubs losing thousands of dollars in such schemes and the clubs were unable to recoup it.

Some individuals received an email in September that appeared to have come from AMA and asked for money for a sick child who needed an operation. The message, which includes the AMA and Go Fund Me logos, asks for donations to help a child named "Jason." This email also is a scam and did not come from AMA. If you received this email, please delete it immediately.

A scammer has also been writing emails to individuals asking for their phone numbers. The emails appear to come from Chad Budreau, AMA's interim executive director. These are fake.

Keith Sessions, AMA's chief financial officer, and Chad have some advice for members. Keith urges members to never click on a link in an email because that could lead to a security breach. Also, personal or confidential information, such as Social Security

numbers, birthdates, addresses, etc., should not be provided through email or over the telephone.

“Always be cautious when an email asks for personal information or money,” Chad stated. “Even if the email appears legitimate, please investigate. Sometimes scammers will use email addresses that are identical to someone else or very similar (perhaps as a minor spelling change). This doesn’t necessarily mean someone’s identity is stolen. It is easy to mimic an email to appear as from someone else.”

The FAA also released some advice this year for how to avoid UAS registration scams. “There are a number of entities that offer to help drone owners and operators file an application for a registration number. Some attempt to mimic the look of the FAA’s website with similar graphic design and even the FAA logo, or suggest they are somehow ‘approved’ by the agency. They aren’t—and you could be wasting your money.

“The FAA neither regulates these entities nor will speculate on their legitimacy. However, we have recently received reports of vendors charging exorbitant fees up to \$150 for this service. The actual FAA registration fee is \$5. For that charge, hobbyists receive one identification number for all the drones they own. All others pay the registration fee for each drone they intend to operate.

“We strongly advise you to avoid registering your unmanned aircraft anywhere but at the FAA Drone Zone. It’s the only way to make sure your drone is legally registered and that you’ve gotten your money’s worth.”

According to Angie Martin, AMA Government Affairs and Public Relations assistant, the FAA registration scam websites began appearing when drone registration was first introduced in December 2015. Since that time, AMA has received hundreds of calls (if not more) from unsuspecting members who were duped into paying a hefty registration fee.

“If they are on any website besides [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov), they are in the wrong place,” Angie stated. “The fee for recreational users flying under Section 336 is \$5 for all of your aircraft and there is not an option to buy labels or impose any additional fees. When a member calls in, my advice is to dispute the larger charge through their credit card company.”

For more information about how to protect yourself or your club from scams and phishing schemes, read Keith’s column in the October 2018 issue of Model Aviation, stay current with news reports and social media posts about scams, or visit AMA’s Government Affairs and Public Relations page at [www.modelaircraft.org/about-ama/advocacy](http://www.modelaircraft.org/about-ama/advocacy).

If you or your club fall victim to a scam, report it to local law enforcement.

—Rachelle Haughn

[rachelleh@modelaircraft.org](mailto:rachelleh@modelaircraft.org)

***Fly straight or crooked as-long-as you fly!***