

A.M.A. vs. F.A.A.

Common Sense and Some Good News

I think it goes without saying that all of us involved in this hobby are aware of the challenges we face from the FAA's upcoming ruling and its potential effects on every aspect of model aviation. If common sense can rule, I think we will be ok. This is not the first storm we have weathered. We have some very accomplished and influential people who love this sport and are working quietly to get this challenge to our hobby resolved. However, now more than ever, we need to do our part to support their efforts. In doing so, I believe that each of us should:

- (1) Actively and visibly participate in our hobby to the fullest extent.
- (2) Communicate directly with our respective representatives in Washington D.C. the value of this hobby to our society and to our future.

The flying of model aircraft is much more than a pastime enjoyed by people of all ages. Practically every aviation pioneer in our history was once a modeler. Our engineering programs in local schools, colleges and universities rely on modeling to engage, excite and train our future aircraft designers. Virtually every aircraft that takes to the air began life as a model. Many of our nation's military pilots and astronauts first became interested in flying because of models and many continue that hobby today. Their contributions protect us and help maintain our country's dominance in this vital area of technology. We all know these things to be true – it's time to make sure our representatives have the same understanding. Each of us needs to be actively engaged in enlightening them to these facts. If our representatives are armed with the facts, they can make certain that any proposed modification of the federal rules that govern the flying of model aircraft do not diminish its contribution to our society, our aviation legacy and our personal freedom. As this process moves forward, please understand that it will take time and there will be some bumps in the road ahead. At the end of the day, my life's experiences and the history of America encourages me to believe that common sense and our freedom will prevail.

In the meantime, please absorb the "Required Reading" posted below and then enjoy flying your jets safely!

See <http://www.modelaircraft.org/files/PR-Senate-2-2011.pdf> for some good news!

At "Florida Jets", I will be available to discuss these matters with concerned jet pilots after each day's flying is complete and the models are properly stored.