



The FAA and You

Tom Svircev

February 22, 2021

It's surprised me in the past how many new members were either unaware or misinformed about the FAA SUAS Registration requirements and how they pertain to us. Some have somehow never heard of it. Others thought it only pertains to 'drones', i.e. multirotors.

In fact, it affects all of us in the club. Regardless if it's a multirotor, fixed wing, or helicopter, the FAA requirement is "You need to register your aircraft if it weighs between 0.55 lbs. (250 grams) and up to 55 lbs. (25 kg)".

You can register online at
URL: <https://registermyuas.faa.gov/>

Be sure only to register there, as there are scrupulous organizations out there who may charge you extra for this, or even charge you and do nothing. They popped up faster than the actual FAA site when they announced plans to do this!

The registration costs only \$5 and is good for 3 years. The one registration covers all your aircraft. It's more like you are registering, then you must mark all your models with your registration number. I highly recommend clicking on

the LEARN MORE button on their page, or scroll down to the bottom and click on the FAQ's link. There is lots more info there.

When you register, you must print the Registration Certificate and have it with you when flying, or you can keep a digital copy on your phone or other electronic device with you. From the FAQ's: "Federal law requires UAS operators to show the certificate of registration to any Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer if asked. You can show it electronically or show the printed certificate."



There's no need to register each model. You'll have the UAS certificate number assigned to you, then you just have to put that number on your model anywhere on the outside. They don't dictate size or location. (Yet!)

FAA SUAS registration is not a responsibility of the club to monitor or enforce, but it's best for everyone to be fully informed. If you are caught for some reason operating an unregistered model, "Failure to register an unmanned aircraft may result in regulatory and criminal penalties. The FAA may assess civil penalties up to \$27,500. Criminal penalties include fines of up to \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for up to three years." They have already dropped in at the SeaWorld club to check on them, so be sure you are up to date.