

THE CLIPPINGS

FEBRUARY, 2017



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From the President

A couple weekends ago I attended two classes. One was to prepare to take the FAA's test, called Part 107, to legally fly drones for commercial purposes. The class was taught locally and it was accompanied by an online curriculum, which I went through twice, taking another 15 hours or so.

When a person is ready to take the test, they contact one of the two official testing agencies and sign up to take it. It's \$150 to take the test. If you don't pass it, you may take it again after 14 or more days. It's still another \$150. Thankfully, I passed the test with just \$150 being spent.

Before the class, I attended some free FAA webinars regarding drone safety. It is clear that the FAA wants to safely integrate the many drones that all the newbies have purchased into their airspace. (Yes, they own it ALL.) We will see how that goes. The number of people acquiring drones relative to the number of folks at the FAA that are assigned to manage them is getting more lopsided every day. I believe going through the classes has made me a better R/C pilot.

The fun part (as always), is flying. I purchased a DJI Mavic (www.dji.com/mavic) and have about a dozen flights so far. The crazy part about flying this in GPS mode, is if you get confused, disoriented or just want to take a break, you simply take your hands off of the sticks! Don't touch them and the Mavic will just sit there, waiting for you to tell it to do something. That is one weird feeling after thirty-seven years flying planes.

From the President (Continued)

The big thrill for me is the viewpoint this can provide. For me, a drone without a camera just isn't that interesting. But then, I've always loved photography. The video and photos one is able to get with this flying camera platform are simply amazing! While watching the "big game" on TV this weekend, an overabundance of commercials had drone photography in them. Nearly all of them did. Even Lady Gaga used over 300 drones in her show to create the American flag in the sky. This technology was provided by a German company, Ascend, that was purchased by Intel a couple of years ago. One of the big wows was seeing how sophisticated the in-flight telemetry is. Way too much to more than mention here, but I will present this at the meeting on Friday. What we call a transmitter, is referred to as the controller, because it's both a transmitter and a receiver. When we start to use this technology in our model planes, it will give us a ton more information, and much of it we can use to crash less often. The Jeti radio system is starting to just scratch the surface of this technology. What that means for the future of my beloved fixed-wing aircraft is exciting to say the least. It will transform our radios, our flying, our airplanes and us. I'll touch on this Friday. See you at the meeting!

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New Weekly Video Series “AMA Drone Report” Launches with Aero-News Network

The Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) today announced a new partnership with Aero-News Network’s (ANN) Airborne Unlimited Daily News to produce the “AMA Drone Report,” a video series that will cover the latest news and educational opportunities in the recreational drone and model aircraft community. The fast-paced, mobile-friendly program will debut in early 2017 and will be available through AMA, ANN, YouTube, Vimeo and dozens of other ANN syndication outlets. The series will begin with weekly broadcasts and increase frequency in the months ahead.

“We are excited to work with ANN to highlight news and stories from the recreational community for the broader UAS industry. For eight decades we have represented enthusiasts and we look forward to sharing our hobby and expertise through the AMA Drone Report in the years to come,” said Dave Mathewson, executive director of AMA.

ANN is the first 24/7, 365, real-time online news service, and is now entering its third decade of daily news production. ANN has produced over 300,000 news stories, 7,000 podcasts, 3,000 Aero-TV features, and just shy of 1,000 episodes of Airborne Unlimited.

Educators, companies or personnel operating in the recreational drone community are encouraged to reach out to AMA and ANN and share what is happening in their local communities around model aircraft and drones. To find out more about the AMA Drone Report

or AMA’s other programs and educational opportunities, email media@modelaircraft.org.



Reginald Denny, actor, modeler, designer

Born Reginald Leigh Daymore on November 20, 1891, Denny grew up in England. Working with a stage group, he toured parts of the world in his early 20s. But he was also an avid flier and airplane designer. He was an aviator with the Royal Air Force during WWI, and though he started back into his acting career when the war ended, he also kept up with his airplane passion.

He moved to Hollywood for the film industry, and while there opened a model store, “Reginald Denny’s Hobby Shop.” In the 1930s, his model kit, the Denny Jr., fashioned by his company, Reginald Denny Industries, was a hit. His Dennymite engines were used frequently by modelers. His company also produced Jimmie Allen kits and other kits for kids.

During WWII, his company made RC target drones for the military, called Radioplanes. Norma Jeane Mortenson (Marilyn Monroe) worked on building these planes in the shop, where she was “discovered.” After the War, Denny moved to England and passed away in 1967.

For more information on Mr. Denny, see his biography online:

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/files/DennyReginald.pdf>.

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