



Whirlwind



Newsletter of the Beltzville Flying Machine Society

May 2018

COCKPIT CORNER – by Brian Sherman, did4ways@aol.com

Late Breaking News Flash! The U.S. House of Representatives passed the 2018 FAA Reauthorization, including Section 336, at the end of April by an overwhelming majority of 393 to 13. Your club officers thank you for your support to write your Congressman in support of Section 336.

The bill, however, includes two seemingly contradictory amendments. Because the Senate still has to pass its own version of the Bill and then go through a reconciliation process with the House version to finalize the Bill there are likely to be additional amendments and changes to the Bill. The Sanford Amendment addresses the concerns raised in the April issue of Cockpit Corner. You should be encouraged by the fact that Section 336 and the Sanford Amendment are included in the Bill. It shows that our collective voices do matter. The AMA will continue to monitor the progress and let us know when/if our collective voices are required. Below is a quick summary of the two amendments.

The [Sanford Amendment](#) states *“Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to the incorporation of unmanned aircraft systems into Federal Aviation Administration plans and policies, including this subtitle, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may not promulgate any rule or regulation regarding a model aircraft or an aircraft being developed as a model aircraft; except for”* certain exclusions available at the link above. The exceptions mainly deal with unmanned aircraft designed with advanced capabilities that *allow active, sustained and controlled navigation beyond line of sight of the operator*. The amendment specially excludes from the exceptions aircraft flown for hobby and recreational use.

The amendment goes to state that *“When issuing rules or regulations for the operation of UAS under this section, the Administrator shall not—*

- (1) require the pilot or operator of the UAS to obtain or hold an airman certificate;*
- (2) require a practical flight examination, medical examination, or the completion of a flight training program;*
- (3) limit such UAS operations to pre-designated fixed locations or uncontrolled airspace; or*
- (4) require airworthiness certification of any UAS operated pursuant to this section.*

The [DeFazio Amendment](#), on the other hand, would give the FAA unfettered authority to regulate “model aircraft” which includes drones. The amendment includes the following requirement: *The operator has passed an aeronautical knowledge and safety test described in subsection (g) and administered by the Federal Aviation Administration online for the operation of unmanned aircraft systems and maintains proof of test passage to be made available to the Administrator or law enforcement upon request*. The amendment includes other provisions that, likewise, would be disadvantageous to the recreational and hobbyist model aircraft industry and user base.

This amendment was strongly supported by the Commercial Drone Alliance and, as was mentioned in the April newsletter, being decried by the AMA. It is a clear effort by the deep pocket companies to dictate the terms of the recreational use of drones to the benefit of commercial drone package delivery services and other future commercial drone uses. If included in the final Bill it would mean a significant change to the way recreational drone operators fly today, and could well spell the demise of the recreational drone industry.

On a positive note it is my pleasure to inform you that thanks to Bob Beers the field has been rolled and mowed and is in great condition for the 2018 flying season. This year Bob made an extraordinary effort to get this done by himself. Let's be sure to let him know how much his efforts are appreciated.

See you at Saturday's meeting.

Until next time keep the cockpit up and be safe.

Note:

A BFMS member is interested in selling some of their gear.
The items for sale include:

- Carbon Z Cessna
- Stinson
- Large flying wing
- Tx/Rx
- Possibly some Lipo packs

Please contact Scott King, if interested, for email address of seller

Any questions or comments
should be directed to
Scott King at:
skyking@ptd.net

The next meeting of the
BFMS will be at :
The BFMS Flying Field
on Saturday, May 12, 2018
at Noon