

2016 FLYING DRONES AT CRE



During a past weekend in May 2016, one of our resident pilots standing on the ground observed a “drone” (unmanned air vehicle or model aircraft) flying over the CRE airport while an airplane was in the landing pattern. The drone flew near the airplane and the pilots in the airplane probably never saw it. The pilot on the ground followed the drone to a CRE residence on a side street near the airport. He talked to the individual who claimed ignorance of any rules for flying drones in CRE and the FAA requirements for flying the drone.

The CRE Rules and Regulations prohibit any radio controlled airplanes from flying over the CRE airport (Paragraph Q). Not only did this individual break the CRE Rules and Regulations, but he was causing a safety issue that might have resulted in an airplane accident and/or injury to the pilots! Additionally, CRE resides with the Pax River controlled and restricted airspace and they need to be notified when any drone flying takes place.

The following information was copied from the FAA web site on flying model aircraft (http://www.faa.gov/uas/model_aircraft):

Model Aircraft Operations

Model aircraft operations are for hobby or recreational purposes only. Individuals who fly within the scope of these parameters do not require permission to operate their Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS); any flight outside these parameters (including any non-hobby, non-recreational operation) requires [FAA authorization](#). For example, using a UAS to take photos for your personal use is recreational; using the same device to take photographs or videos for compensation or sale to another individual would be considered a non-recreational operation.

Anyone who owns a small unmanned aircraft that weighs more than 0.55 lbs. (250g) and less than 55 lbs. (25kg) **must register** with the Federal Aviation Administration's UAS registry before they fly outdoors. People who do not register could face civil and criminal penalties.

The FAA has partnered with several industry associations to promote [Know Before You Fly](#), a campaign to educate the public about using unmanned aircraft safely and responsibly. Individuals flying for hobby or recreation are required to follow safety guidelines, which include:

- Fly below 400 feet and remain clear of surrounding obstacles
- Keep the aircraft within visual line of sight at all times
- Remain well clear of and do not interfere with manned aircraft operations
- Don't fly within 5 miles of an airport unless you contact the airport (CRE Airport Manager) and control tower (Pax Tower at (301)342-3836) before flying
- Don't fly near people or stadiums
- Don't fly an aircraft that weighs more than 55 lbs

- Don't be careless or reckless with your unmanned aircraft – you could be fined for endangering people or other aircraft

The bottom line is that residents of CRE can fly model aircraft anywhere in CRE except at or over the CRE airport because the CRE rules and regulations prohibit such flights. Flying drones (or UAS) in CRE requires following the FAA rules. If there are questions or need for additional information, please contact the CRE airport manager via the airport web page at <http://md50airport.com>