

MODEL AERONAUTICAL
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
N e w s l e t t e r
N O . 7 / 2 0 0 5

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Manual of Procedures

The Manual of Procedures is a “live” document and is continually being updated. Please check the M.A.A.A. web site from time to time to ensure that you are aware of the latest editions of the documents.

When using forms from the Manual please ensure that you download the actual form from the end sections and not use the example in the procedure.

Non Coverage at non M.A.A.A. Organised events

The 2005 M.A.A.A. Council Conference unanimously endorsed the current M.A.A.A. policy on the limitations of the cover provided by M.A.A.A. insurance policy. This is that: -

The M.A.A.A. Third Party and Directors and Officers Insurance cannot be used to underwrite insurance cover, for example where local authorities require proof of insurance for hire of faculties, if non affiliated members of the M.A.A.A. will be flying at the facility unless they are covered by the M.A.A.A. Visitor Policy

Clubs shall not allow non M.A.A.A. affiliated members to fly at their fields unless they are covered by the M.A.A.A. Visitor Policy.

The M.A.A.A. individual third party insurance cover is not extended to Affiliated Members flying at organised events and sites with non affiliated members of the M.A.A.A. unless they are covered by the M.A.A.A. Visitor Policy.

Request for photos for new Brochure

The M.A.A.A. is currently working on a new brochure. We are therefore seeking photos of model aircraft suitable for a brochure. We are seeking photos of all types of models so that the brochure can show the wide diversity of model aircraft that are in use today.

If you have photos that you consider would be suitable please send them to the M.A.A.A. Secretary. The address is at the start of this Newsletter. Please note that we will not be able to return any photos sent.

Only send photos that you are in agreement for the M.A.A.A. to use, free of charge, for the purpose of producing a model aircraft promotional brochure. Electronic format is OK.

Wings Ratings on New Membership Cards

I have had quite a few members contact me complaining that their wings ratings are not printed on their M.A.A.A. membership cards. State Secretaries and/or Registrars are not mind readers they require the Clubs to pass their members ratings onto them so that they can be recorded.

To clarify the system. State Associations are responsible for the administration of the M.A.A.A. Flight Proficiency scheme. It is their responsibility to record the ratings of members so that the ratings are printed on the M.A.A.A. membership card. It is also their responsibility to pass this information onto the M.A.A.A. Secretary so that the main M.A.A.A. database is updated with the member's ratings. The recording of this information in the M.A.A.A. database is vital especially for members that move interstate.

It is the responsibility of Clubs/Instructors/Members to have systems in place that ensures that their members' ratings are passed onto the State Association. State Secretaries and/or Registrars are reminded to forward ratings to the M.A.A.A. Secretary so that the national database can be updated.

If you pass a rating make sure your club has a procedure in place to advise it up the line otherwise it will not be recorded in the State and National databases.

Inspector, and FAI Observer Rating/Appointments.

As has been previously advised in M.A.A.A. Newsletters, all Inspector and FAI Observer ratings/appointment are as printed on your new M.A.A.A. Membership card. The old separate cards that were issued to FAI Observers and Inspectors no longer have any status and can be destroyed. If your new (2005/06) M.A.A.A. membership card does not have an Inspector or FAI Observer rating printed on it then you do not have a Rating/Appointment.

It should be noted that the FAI Observer status is only maintained with continuous M.A.A.A. membership. If you did not affiliate for one or more years your status as FAI Observer was “lost”. If you wish to be an FAI Observer again you must re-apply.

As for the case of Inspectors, early in 2005 all Inspectors were written to and asked to send back a form advising if they wished to be considered for re-appointment for a term commencing on July 1st 2005. The letter advised that all Inspector terms of

appointment finished on June 30th 2005 and they needed to advise if they wished to be considered for re-appointed. The letter advised that any Inspector that did not return the form was assumed to be NOT re-applying for the appointment.

There were many Inspectors who were current in 2004/05 and did not reply to the letter sent. Therefore their Inspector appointment/status was not renewed. As such these people were not re-appointed for a further three-year term commencing on July 1st 2005 are therefore no longer M.A.A.A. Inspectors. If they wish to become inspectors again they will have to reapply.

Federal Secretary

It should be noted that the current three term of the Federal Secretary concludes at the 2007 Council Conference. Nominations for this position will be sort in early 2007. It is appreciated that there is still about one and a half years left in the current term however it is considered appropriate that a large lead-time notice for this position is given as it is a full time paid position and those considering nominating for the position may require additional time to decide if they wish to nominate. Currently the position has the same nominating requirements as the M.A.A.A. President position.

The Federal Secretary is expected to provide a "home office" at their expense. The position requires very good and extensive computer and management skills as all business with the Executive and President are done via computers and the Internet. The Secretary is the main contact point of the M.A.A.A. from the public and Affiliate Members and is expected to handle the day-to-day running of the Association under the direction of the President and Council. The Secretary's current salary is \$51,200 plus compulsory superannuation.

Concessional (half year) Membership

We are coming up to the time of the year, after January 1, when we get people joining and asking about paying half fees for the period until June 30. A person that has not been an M.A.A.A. Affiliate Member the previous year is entitled to half fees if joining after January 1st. Current M.A.A.A. Rules require that any person who was a member in the previous year shall pay a full years fee when joining after January 1st of the membership year.

Clubs should note that they will be charged a full M.A.A.A. fee for members who were affiliated in the previous year even if they have not collected it from the member.

Safety – Lithium Batteries

How many times have you said or heard 'if all else fails read the instructions'. The instructions often contain very important safety information, which could be vital to your safety and that of others. You should never assume that you know it all, particularly for new or evolving technology. For example, Lithium batteries are very different from the NiCad and NiMH batteries that we are more used to using. If the manufacturers safety warnings are not followed they can catch fire in a very serious way. Always read the safety information on all products.

Visitor Policy

The M.A.A.A. Manual of Procedures has a "Visitor Policy", MOP042, which defines how many flying instructional days a visitor is allowed and be covered by the M.A.A.A. Public Liability policy. The maximum number of visits to a Club is four. Clubs are entitled to set a lesser number at their field, but the number of visits cannot be more than four. However, whatever the flying standard of the visitor they must be under the direct supervision of an experienced member whilst they are flying in order to control the insurance risk

The M.A.A.A. Council has clarified the situation for a "prospective" member with respect to insurance coverage. A "prospective" member being a person who has submitted a properly completed application form to the club and is awaiting ratification of their membership application by the club/committee. The Council decided that a "prospective" member is, for the purpose of insurance, considered an Affiliate Member of the M.A.A.A. as soon as the Club receives the application to join the club until a decision is made by the club/committee whether to allow the person to join the club.

The Visitor Policy is in the Manual of Procedures section of the M.A.A.A. web site. Please read the Policy to ensure that its requirements are followed.

Australian Records

Three new Australian records have been set recently. These being;
Australian Speed Class – 1 14.32 secs / 251.39kph by Robin Hiern, and

F1N – Category 1 (ceiling less than 8 m) (indoor hand launched glider) - 43.8 seconds by Leonard Surtees

F2C - Rob Fitzgerald & Mark Ellins 6m 44.9s

We congratulate all the modellers on their splendid achievements.

World Champion.

Chris Callow (pilot) and Kevin Callow (caller) (Qld) have again won the World F3D world championship and set a new world record in the process. This is an outstanding achievement as it is their third world F3D championship in a row. What a fantastic effort. Just to put their stamp on things, they have also set a new world record at each of the three world championships. Their Australian record is still better than their world record so maybe they is saving themselves for the world champs in 2007. I am sure all members will join with the M.A.A.A. Executive in congratulating Chris and Kevin on their splendid achievement.

2006 Nationals

The 2006 Nationals will be held in SA over the period April 18 to 26th. See the M.A.A.A. web site for latest information.