



Humber is Open for mRPAS Operations!

We are pleased to inform you that Field Officer, **Walter Lam** has been able to obtain a Site Operations Certificate (SOC) from MAAC that now allows us to fly microRPAS (mRPAS) models. mRPAS models are those that are under 250 grams at our field. Many thanks go out to **Walter** for navigating the complicated application process to get this approved by MAAC.



mRPAS flight operations will be fully insured by MAAC while flying at our field. Note that you will also have to renew your MAAC for 2023 if you haven't already done so if you want to fly.

The following documents were sent out by email to all members and are posted on our web site in the Club Documents section of the Library.

- 1) The Site Operations Certificate from MAAC
- 2) Our approved and updated mRPAS rules

Please read these documents before coming to the field. Unfortunately, things are much more complicated than before but in essence, here are the main things you need to know and what you have to do to be compliant and be covered by MAAC insurance at our field:

- a) You do not need to have a Basic or Advanced RPAS Certificate to fly your mRPAS at the field.
- b) You should be a paid up 2023 member with Pilot status or fly with an instructor if you are a Student.
- c) As always, you should log on to the club web site in the Members Section and fill out the Field Login Form before you fly.
- d) We have added a "Sub250" checkbox to the Field Login Form. By checking this box, you are certifying that you are flying a sub250g model.. This is considered "registering" according to new MAAC rules. We have the right to challenge and weigh any model that appears to be over the 250g limit.
- e) The CN access road gate is designed to prevent hikers from walking North of the field on the CN roads. While we cannot prevent this, at least people going around, over or through the CN gate are doing so at their own risk and ignoring our warning signs on the road. Nevertheless, please avoid flying over, and stay away from, any hikers or bikers you see on the road.

2023 Memberships Are Good Thru 2024

If you have been waiting to renew your 2022 membership, we remind you that if you renew for 2023 your Humber Valley membership will automatically be extended to include all of 2024. If you decide to renew, you can do so on our club website.

President's Message – What more can you do?

If you are unhappy with the current situation and our inability to return to normal flight operations for our larger models, you should know that Transport Canada is still modifying its regulations and has provided one last chance for citizens to provide input to the proposed changes. The future amendment to the RPAS regulations is published in the "Canada Gazette" and there is a public consultation period that ends on September 22, 2023.



Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 157, Number 25: Regulations Amending the Canadian Aviation Regulations (RPAS - Beyond Visual Line-of-Sight and Other Operations)

90-day consultation (until September 22, 2023 11:59pm EST)

Until it is approved, Transport Canada has invited citizens to provide feedback or comments online. Remember that we tried in the spring to get their attention through a letter campaign to the Transportation Minister and our MPs but that seems to have mostly fallen of deaf ears. I think from all the letters that were sent out, only one Humber Valley member got an acknowledgement that the letter was even received. However, now Transport Canada is actually asking for feedback, so we know they will at least read the responses. This gives us a rare opportunity to talk directly to the people drafting RPAS regulations. Therefore, I strongly suggest everyone post a comment online in the Gazette on these new Transport Canada regulations, and explain that:

"We urgently request Transport Canada recognize Radio Controlled fixed wing models as a separate category not in the same class as commercial drones, differentiate them in RPAS regulations, and remove the restrictions posed on these toy-like airplanes, as these do not pose any danger to Civil Aviation. There are over ten thousand citizens in Canada practicing safe and respectful RC airplane modelling, building, flying and enjoying the challenging hobby of RC Flying. These citizens are practicing a hobby which is safe and unregulated in most places around the world and pose no danger to civil aviation. Transport Canada however decided against acknowledging the existence of this segment as a hobby/sport activity and implemented regulators that grouped them with the general commercial drone aviation rules. These models are not drones! These are balsa or foam-built aircrafts that are enjoyed by men and boys across Canada in a safe outdoor activity that supports an entire industry of manufactures and retailers. This safe and healthy activity has now been ripped away by Transport Canada. It is nearly impossible for most recreational modelers (many of which are senior citizens) to obtain an Advanced RPAS Certificate designed for commercial drone operators. Please restore the previous exemption for recreational RC flying at specific locations for under 25Kg and under 400 feet in controlled airspace."



You can cut and paste the above comment and I suggest you add your own edits to explain how you feel. Just be careful not to insult or disparage any person or organization. Be respectful so that your message will actually be considered and not dismissed.

The link to post the message is the following:
<https://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2023/2023-06-24/html/reg6-eng.html>

Just scroll down a bit to the first "General Comment" section and click on "Add a comment for the General Comment section" to open it up. Then you can paste your comment there. Now you will have to scroll down to the bottom of the page and submit your comments, which a 3-4 step process, you need to fill in your first name, email address, and first three letters of your postal code to submit your comments.

The more comments we send in this regard, the better. The regulators need to see that we are out there and hopefully our voices will be heard.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please feel free to contact any one of the club executives.

Thanks!

... Zoltan Pittner, President

Field is in great shape for Fall Event!

We understand the frustration that you have felt over the summer without access to our main field. This isn't really what we need for the long term, but it is a start. We cannot say when or if standard flight operations will return to Humber Valley for models up to 25 Kg because as you well know, we are located inside Controlled Airspace – less than 7 nautical miles from Pearson airport. In spite of all this uncertainty, we renewed our 2023 permit for Thackeray Park from the City and we have been maintaining the field and cutting the grass. So we are ready for mRPAS operations and for the upcoming Fall BBQ, Swap Meet and mRPAS Fun Fly.



Hope to see you there...
John Kita, Program Director



Announcing Humber Valley 's Traditional Free Outdoor

Fall RC Swap Meet mRPAS Fun Fly & BBQ

Saturday Sept 23, 2023
10:00am – 2:00pm

Open to all GTA RC Clubs and Friends

- Bring all your good new and used RC airplanes and equipment, display all your "For Sale" items and get ready to make a deal.
- Come out to swap, buy, and save and to enjoy our free BBQ lunch.
- Want to clear out your surplus workshop items? Bring them to the FREE GIVEAWAY TABLE.
- Pick up whatever you can use from the FREE GIVEAWAY TABLE.
- Bring out your sub 250g mRPAS and go flying.
- Free BBQ Lunch Combo (all beef hot dog or hamburger & soft drink).

Timeline:

09:30 Arrive and Setup Your Stuff
 10:00 Swap Meet Starts, Free Giveaway Table Opens, Open mRPAS flying
 12:00 BBQ Lunch



NOTE: This is MAAC Sanctioned event.