



2024 Flying Season is Here!



Yes, It's true! We are open for the 2024 season. Ok, OK, I know what you're thinking. But it is time to stop looking back at all the turmoil of last year and start looking ahead to what you need to do to get back in the air this summer. Yes, the rules are very confusing but here is a table that we published in

November 2023 that is worth going over again with some further clarifications of our policies.

Clarification of mRPAS vs RPAS Rules

Since our field is in Controlled Class C airspace, this table explains the difference between flying mRPAS under 250g and regular RPAS between 250g and 25Kg. Updates from November 2023 are noted in yellow highlight.

Rule	mRPAS <250g	RPAS <25Kg
HVRFC Field Login Form	Required	Required
Lock gate on entry and exit	Required	Required
RPAS Registration	Not Required	Required; models must show the Registration No. See page 3 – "How to Register". The Registration No. must be put on your airplane. See a sample label on this page.
Manufacturer's Safety Assurance Declaration	Not Required	Required; either from manufacturer or MAAC using MAAC's MPPD-27 Owner Declaration Template (see page 3).
RPAS Certificate	Not Required	Advanced Certificate required
Student Instruction	Permitted with Buddy Box if instructor has Basic Certificate and is a club approved Instructor	Permitted with Buddy Box if instructor has Advanced Certificate and is a club approved instructor
Site Survey	Not Required	Required for each "mission" but may be shared. Use RPAS Wilco to perform your own survey each fly day. Or according to MAAC NOTAM 2023-04, a current site survey will be posted every 56 days on our web site and you may refer to that. A hard copy will be posted in the field charging station.
Nav Drone Request	Not Required	Required for each "operation" / airplane and date/time (see page 2)

Visual Observer (Spotter)	Not Required	One per flight line required; should be a Basic or Advanced RPAS pilot. This is a MAAC requirement but not strictly required by Transport Canada. We are working on changing this.
Range Check	Required before first flight	Required before first flight
Failsafe	Required and tested before first flight	Required and tested before first flight
Maintenance Log	Not Required	Required

Get Your Advanced Certificate This Spring!

If you plan on flying models over 250g at Humber Valley, you better get working on your RPAS Advanced Certificate. Unless you are satisfied with only flying small <250g models, you will need the Advanced Certificate. Several members have already received their Advanced Certificate and **you can do it too!**

The club is not here to babysit you while you complain about MAAC or Transport Canada and wish we could go back in time. If you don't invest your time and a little money in getting your Advanced Certificate, then you better find somewhere else to fly or leave the hobby.

Step 1: You need to pass the Advanced Exam. The best way to pass is to take the RPAS Center Advanced course. MAAC members can register for the course for free at: <https://forms.gle/QfJApbeRavpC9p3U8>

The course has 8 sections, and each one is at least 1 hour. But if you put some skin in the game, take notes, and study, you can pass the exam. You need to get at least 40 out of 50 questions right (80%) in 60 minutes to pass.

Step 2: Next, you need to take and pass a Flight Review with a certified RPAS Flight Reviewer. If you go to a commercial flight school, this can cost you up to \$250. But we have **GREAT NEWS** for you! Our Chief Instructor, **Randall Thomas** has passed his Flight Reviewer exam and is days away from being approved as a Flight Reviewer affiliated with the RPAS Center Flight School. He will then soon be offering RPAS Advanced Flight Reviews at our field for a reduced fee! Take advantage of this amazing opportunity. We will be sending out a notice when we are ready to book flight reviews for members.

New Aircraft Labels Required

You need to add your Transport Canada RPAS registration number on the outside of your model where it can be easily seen. Make your own label or use labels you can download from our web site in the Library/Club Documents Section like the one below. See page 3 - How to Register Your Model..."

Model Aeronautics Association of Canada (MAAC)
www.maac.ca MAAC Office Phone: 1-855-359-6222

MAAC # _____

Transport Canada Registration: _____

Name _____ Cell Number _____



RPAS WILCO and NAV Drone Apps

There are two apps that you can download to run on your smartphone or run the web versions on your computer at home before you come to the field. Here are some important things to know about these two requirements.



RPAS WILCO is an application developed by The RPAS Centre. It is available for free to MAAC members. You identify **where**, **when** and **what** you plan to fly and the app generates the required Site Survey. The survey tells you

the class of airspace you are in (always Controlled Class C for Humber's field), and what aerodromes are nearby. It also provides you with the Canada Flight Supplement (CFR) tables for each nearby aerodrome with the phone number to call in case of a fly away. Each survey refers to your planned flight as a "Mission".



The NAV Drone application is provided free by NAV Canada. While the Site Survey gives you all the information about **where** you plan to fly, The NAV Drone app gives you the **permission** you need from NAV Canada to enter/use the

airspace at that location. For some reason, NAV Drone refers to your flight as an "**Operation**" rather than a "**Mission**". You just have to get used to these odd words to refer to your flight.

Some pilots find it easier to perform these functions before coming to the field on a computer rather than on a small screen smart phone. Here are the links you can use:

<https://dashboard.rpaswilco.com/#/login>
<https://portal.navdrone.ca>

NOTE: You won't be able to submit a NAV Drone request until after you get your Advanced Certificate. So when you take your Flight Review, you will need to ask your flight reviewer to do it for you.

Field Clean Up Day and BBQ / Fly-In Sat May 25th - 10am (Rain Date Sun May 26th)



Mark your calendars and help the club start the season on Sat May 25th. We need your help to get the field ready for spring and do some flying! Here is a list of some of the work that needs to get done.

1. General Trash clean up; entry-parking lot, field, helipad, runway edges - bring work gloves
2. Geotextile Runway; make sure staples are set along edges, repair any tears.

Advanced RPAS Procedures Demo Saturday May 25, 2024



During our Field Clean Up Day on May 25th, **Randall Thomas** will be providing a step-by-step demonstration of RPAS operations in controlled airspace in compliance with CARS Part IX and our MAAC Site Operations Certificate. This is a great chance to experience for yourself what it takes to fly full size models under 25Kg at our field. You can do this! Don't miss this important chance to watch and learn how to fly in controlled airspace.

Student Instruction is Open for 2024!

We are pleased to report that our Chief Instructor **Randall Thomas** has resumed instruction. Providing that:

- The Instructor has his Advanced RPAS Certification
 - The Instruction is provided through a buddy box,
 - The Instructor can take control at any moment,
 - And all other CARS Part IX rules are followed,
- ... then instruction may proceed in controlled airspace.

Note: This means that students must still:

- Obtain an account with Transport Canada and register their airplane as a MAAC Model Airplane.

Note to Students:

Currently **Randall Thomas** is an RPAS Advanced Certified Pilot and so will be conducting instruction for students with Spektrum radios (or with your own buddy box). Make sure you connect with Randall on the Student WhatsApp group to confirm arrangements.

Hopefully other instructors will be getting their Advanced RPAS certificate soon to allow for more flexibility and more instruction options.



Voting on Changes to our Constitution



Subsequent to the Annual General Meeting that was held on February 7th, 2024, two motions were discussed and then proposed to be put to a vote. As required by our constitution, these motions were published in the March Flyer so that proper notice would be given to all members prior to taking a vote to accept the proposed changes.

The **first motion** deals with the fact that our current constitution requires the club to be affiliated with MAAC and carry MAAC insurance. The proposed changes involve removing specific references to MAAC so that

it will be possible to change our affiliation at a later date, if the membership chooses to do so, without violating our constitution.

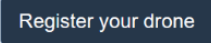

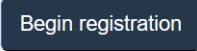
The **second motion** deals with what would happen to the club's assets if the club was dissolved. Currently the constitution dictates that all monies be given to MAAC to be held in trust for 5 years. This is not very practical and does not serve the best interests of the membership. Instead the change proposed would allow the executive and the membership to decide on how all assets of the club would be dealt with upon dissolution.

Current 2024 members will be contacted by email on Thursday April 25, 2024 to submit their votes online. Details of the motions will be repeated in the online vote but you can re-read the March Flyer to refresh your memory. You can download the March Flyer from our web site.



How to Register Your Model With TC

Google "Transport Canada RPAS Registration" and click on the "Overview" link or go directly to: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/aviation/drone-safety/registering-your-drone-overview>

- 1) Scroll down to the bottom and click on: 
- 2) Scroll down again and click on: 
- 3) You will have to sign in to Transport Canada either with a CGKEY (Government of Canada Key) or with a secure online banking partner. If you do any online banking with a standard Canadian bank, it is easier to sign on with your existing Client Card/UserName and Password. Otherwise, you will need to register and obtain a new CGKEY by following the instructions.
- 4) After you sign on, you will be directed to the Transport Canada Drone Management Portal. Scroll down to the bottom and click on: 
- 5) Here is the tricky part. You must select the option: "The drone was **purchased** new or used..." even if you built it from scratch or from a kit. Only this option lets you select the MAAC airplane make and model later.

Register a drone

Please provide the following information about your drone. All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory

The drone was **purchased** new or used, or has an associated safety assurance declaration.

* Date of purchase (YYYY-MM-DD):
If you're not sure of the exact date, provide your best guess.

If there is an existing Transport Canada registration number on the drone (e.g. C-999999999), please enter it.

The drone was **built** using either a kit, off-the-shelf or custom-built parts.

- 6) Enter any date and click "Continue". Then search for MAAC in the "Make and Model" dropdown. Then select "MAAC Model Airplane".

Register a drone

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.

* What is the make and model?

<<< Select >>>

MAAC

MAAC Hybrid Aircraft

MAAC Model Airplane

MAAC Model Rotorcraft

- 7) You can enter an optional nickname for your airplane.
Do you have a nickname or other brief description of this drone (optional)?
A nickname or description (such as where the drone is kept) may help you identify this drone more easily in your account.

- 8) After you "Continue" you will be asked to pay the \$5.00 registration fee and you will receive your registration certificate. If you did it right, you will receive a Certificate of

Registration like the one below. It must have the "Controlled airspace" field checked off.



Your new certificate of registration states your RPAS has a safety assurance declaration - this allows your RPAS to operate in controlled airspace (provided you have airspace permission from NAV Drone), but you don't really have a safety assurance declaration yet! The way MAAC got around this requirement (and made Transport Canada happy) is to provide a template that we can fill in to self-declare that our models are safe – and they seem to be willing to take our word for it – which is a good thing. This was a real obstacle with CARS Part IX because our fixed wing RC models do not have certificates like the DJI drones do, for example.

Make Your Own Safety Assurance Declaration

All you have to do is fill out a one page "Owner Declaration". The very detailed MPPD-27 Owner Declaration Template issued by MAAC, and one very simple declaration filled out for a Super Chipmunk are attached. Use the KISS principle here – "Keep It Simple Stupid"!!

Technically you need a Transport Canada Certificate of Registration and an MPPD-27 Owner Declaration for each airplane you plan to fly in controlled airspace.

Editor's Note: I know all these rules are crazy, but my attitude is just do it once and forget about it. You can keep all the required documents on your smartphone but at least initially, I plan of making up a 3-ring binder with tabs to keep all these forms organized and just leave it in my car at all times so I will have it at the field if needed. It will include my RPAS Advanced Certificate, all my checklists and procedures, all the RPAS Registrations and Owner Declarations, and of course the required Site Survey. When I get that done, I will publish an index of all the things you will need to be 100% CARS Part IX compliant when you come to our field to fly at Thackeray Park.

Keep the faith! You can do this!

... Tom Gottlieb, Past President and Editor

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