

## LEGISLATION NEWS

South Central Section 99s – Spring 2015

### **Unmanned Aircraft Systems.**

Be alert for various types of unmanned aircraft as you're flying. There are 3 types of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (or UAS): public operations for governmental use (such as for federal or state use); civil/non-governmental use (any craft that does not meet the statutory definition of a public aircraft operation); and, model aircraft (hobby/recreational use only).

Approximately 4,500 comments were received by the FAA related to the proposed regulation of these craft; the FAA must address each comment before proceeding.

See [www.faa.gov/uas/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/) for more information. It provides definitions for each type of operation and the requirements (such as a Special Airworthiness Certificate) to operate. It also has FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) and other information.

### **2016 Federal Budget and User Fees.**

For the first time in several years, President Obama's federal budget proposal does *not* include any user fees. The proposal does include approximately \$16 billion to fund the FAA. The proposal is now working its way through the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

### **Pilot's Bill of Rights 2.**

This continues to work its way through Congress. As mentioned in the Legislation report last fall, some of the proposals include:

- Prohibiting Customs & Border Patrol searches from searching any GA airplane or requesting pilots' airman or medical certificates (and any other license) if the aircraft or pilot was traveling between two points within the 48 contiguous states without having "articulable reasonable suspicion of illegal activity" or "probable cause that illegal activity is occurring". Three types of flight activity that would not qualify as "articulable reasonable suspicion of illegal activities" are: 1) flying without a VFR or IFR flight plan; 2) flying at fringe airports; 3) a flight path that is not straight between two points.
- Exempting pilots from the third class medical certification process if they meet the criteria currently proposed. The FAA would be required to report on the safety consequences of the new rule after five years.
- Expediting updates to the NOTAM program

FMI and to provide feedback: [www.inhofe.senate.gov/feedback/PBOR2](http://www.inhofe.senate.gov/feedback/PBOR2)

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Link to breakdown/explanation of each section:

[www.eaa.org/~media/files/news/20150223-pbor2-section-by-section.pdf](http://www.eaa.org/~media/files/news/20150223-pbor2-section-by-section.pdf)

**Third Class Medicals.**

This is now part of the Pilot's Bill of Rights 2 presently before Congress. The FAA also has a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) out about this.

**Status of Area Forecasts Updates.**

The current status on modernizing and revamping area forecasts is unknown. Does anyone have any current information about this?

**Garmin and Helicopter Pilots.**

Garmin's Pilot aviation app now includes helicopter route charts for the Gulf of Mexico and 8 metro areas (Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, and New York).

Garmin also has released 2 new ADS-B products designed specifically for helicopters.

**Updated Sleep Apnea Guidelines.**

As of early March 2015, the FAA has released update guidelines. The Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) now will use one of 6 categories to quantify an airman's sleep apnea problem.

Link to FAA's flow chart:

[www.faa.gov/about/office\\_org/headquarters\\_offices/avs/offices/aam/ame/guide/media/FAA%20OSA%20Flow%20Chart.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/aam/ame/guide/media/FAA%20OSA%20Flow%20Chart.pdf)

More information from AOPA:

[www.pilot-protection-services.aopa.org/News/2015/March/Background-on-the-new-FAA-policy-on-Obstructive-Sleep-Apnea?PPS=eBrief.31MAR15.Silberman](http://www.pilot-protection-services.aopa.org/News/2015/March/Background-on-the-new-FAA-policy-on-Obstructive-Sleep-Apnea?PPS=eBrief.31MAR15.Silberman)

Respectfully,

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