Houston Hawks Radio Control Soaring Club AMA# 1698

Basic Pilot and Aircraft Safety Guidelines

Before you get to the field.

1. Verify that the CG for your model is in agreement with the manufacturer's recommendations and other reliable sources. An incorrect Center of Gravity (CG) for your aircraft will make for a short day at the flying field.
2. Verify that your batteries are fully charged for the transmitter and receiver/motor
3. Verify direction of movement of all surfaces and magnitude of throws
4. Familiarize yourself with your radio system programming
5. Ensure your AMA license is up to date
6. Register with the FAA UA registry and display your FAA number on the outside of your aircraft.
7. Contact the Hawks Yahoo Group to see if an experienced club member will be available to assist you at the field on your first day with the Houston Hawks
8. The club member will walk you through field and club rules as well as a flight precheck.

At the field

1. Find the club's safety officer, or ask for a "Buddy" to walk you through a flight pre-check.
2. Learn what areas are "out of bounds" at the field, and only fly within the designated area.
3. Flight pre-check
    a. Check range of transmitter/receiver connection. All radio systems have a specific methodology to accomplish this. Typically, it requires diminishing the output of the receiver and distancing the model from the receiver until connection falters. If the range check fails, do not fly until the issue is corrected.
    b. Double-Check surfaces direction of travel and magnitude. Dual rates should be set up and available when needed.
    c. Double-Check if the CG seems to be in a reasonable range.
    d. For an electric model, Double-Check the rotation of the propeller.
4. Your aircraft must remain within your sight at all times. Winch launched sailplanes have the right of way over electric powered aircraft.
5. Watch for other aircraft in the air and announce launch, landing, or special maneuver plans to the other pilots before execution. Land in the specified landing zones.