

# Welcome to Valley Aero Modelers

AMA Club Charter #670



Written and intended for use by the Members of Valley Aero Modelers Inc., Last Updated 11/13/2023

To the new Members of Valley Aero Modelers,

We would like to welcome you to our organization. The Valley Aero Modelers are truly blessed with a membership comprised of talented and skilled modelers. We appreciate that you have chosen to become one of us. We are dedicated to the sharing of the Aero modeling experience.

There are designers, builders, and pilots for many forms of aircraft within our club. As you experience these various facets of aero modeling, please make use of our knowledge by asking questions and seeking guidance. There are sure to be members within the club that have the answers you seek. Our only request in return, is that as you progress, you offer the same to others.

Our Membership is quite diverse. As individuals, we excel at the many disciplines of aero modeling and flight. When we bring our individual strengths together, we are a very strong organization. We look forward to your future contributions to aero modeling and to the club.

We'll see you at the field, The Valley  
Aero Modelers

## **MEETINGS**

The club meets once per month throughout the year. See club website for location and time. It is our intention to have a club business meeting immediately followed by modeling content and discussion.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Prospective members may attend two meetings at no obligation. Before joining the club, membership is required in the AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics). The AMA provides its members with secondary insurance coverage for property damage, bodily injury, and a monthly subscription to Model Aviation magazine.

A membership in the Valley Aero Modelers Club is an annual membership that expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Memberships started or renewed after November 1st will expire Dec 31 of the following year.

1. Full Member: Is eighteen (18) years or older.
2. Family Membership: Includes all flying members of the immediate family (spouse and children). Each family member must have a valid AMA membership. Children are included in a Family Membership until their 25th birthday.
3. Youth Member: Is younger than eighteen (18) years old.

VAM recommends that members who bring family members to the field(s) purchase AMA memberships for those members for the minimal added cost of \$1. Without AMA membership, they may not be covered in the event of an accident.

## **WEBSITE**

Upcoming events, club by-laws, election notices, membership information, meeting notices, used equipment for sale or wanted to buy and other club news and resources are available via the internet. The club maintains a website at [www.flyvam.com](http://www.flyvam.com).

## **Social Media**

Upcoming events, meeting notices, used equipment for sale or wanted to buy and other club news, pictures and resources are available via the internet. The club has a facebook page at [facebook.com/flyvam](https://facebook.com/flyvam) and a group named Valley Aero Modelers.

## **CLUB EQUIPMENT**

The club assets are managed by the club vice-president and club officers.

The club owns one riding mower, generators, audio and loudspeaker system, stakes and rope, gates for quad racing, frequency pins and other miscellaneous items.

There is a pavilion at Quarry Field with picnic tables that can be used by visitors.

There is a storage building at Quarry Field for storing maintenance equipment.

The clubhouse at Quarry Field contains fire extinguisher, first aid kit, event supplies, flight simulator and TV, snacks for sale, audio systems and numerous other items for club use and management of the site. Storage of non-club equipment and aircraft in the clubhouse is not permitted unless allowed by Contest Director, Club Officer or Field Marshall.

A porta-potty is typically available for use.

Lock combinations are changed on periodic basis at Quarry Field.

## **FLYING FIELD SITE**

Only members of the club may fly at the club field. An out-of-town guest of a member may fly with that member present, providing the guest pilot is a member of the AMA. A guest pilot may fly for two visits prior to joining the club. The fields are closed to anyone not participating during contests.

The primary flying site (Quarry Field) is located at the closed City of Appleton landfill, in Mackville, WI. It can be found on Quarry Road, just off Hwy. O, from Hwy 47, in Mackville. The field is available for use by VAM Members, daily throughout the year. Due to our City of Appleton lease agreement, there are to be no modifications or land improvements, without specific pre-approval by Club Officials. Banners associated with such an event may be hung on the day of the event only and must be removed by the end of that same day. VAM will at all times operate the site in accordance with the signed and notarized lease with the City of Appleton. If you have questions, please contact a club officer.

The club primarily uses 2.4 GHz radio systems and all new pilots are strongly encouraged to use this type of system.

Narrow band FM transmitters are also allowed. If you will be flying with an FM radio system, you must use the pin box to reserve the frequency you will be using. A club-only frequency pin clip (available at each field) must be clipped to your transmitter antenna while flying. An AMA card with members name is to be placed where the numbered frequency pins have been removed at Quarry Field.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Various club activities are hosted every year. Please see the event [Event Calendar](#) for upcoming events.

Volunteers are needed to help in the following areas: Cut grass at Quarry field, assisting the Contest Directors at fun fly events or contests and also to work at the Club Auction and Model Show.

**Valley Aero Modelers Inc., Grievance Form**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nature of Violation:**

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**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Witness:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Witnesses (not required):**

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## **RULES FOR ALL FLYING SITES**

1. Follow the AMA Safety Code.
2. All Pilots and Guest Pilots must be prepared to show a current AMA membership card to fly. VAM members should also have their VAM Club ID with them.
3. A current VAM member must accompany any Guest Pilot.
4. When flying FM radios, frequency control pins or a radio impound (of FM radios) must be used before flight, preparing for flight or turning on transmitter.
5. VAM reserves the right to flight check any pilot flying at club sites.
6. Smoking is allowed provided the following rules are followed:
  - a. Do not extinguish your cigarette butt on the ground
  - b. Put cigarette butt in a container and remove it from the flying field when you leave.
  - c. No smoking within 10 feet of any open fuel container or fueled aircraft.
7. For the safety of our members and visitors, VAM reserves the right to flight check any pilot or aircraft.
8. When flying a model helicopter, it is the responsibility of the Helicopter Pilot to establish, with the other pilot's present, where the helicopter lift-off, hovering, and landing area will be. If the helicopter is to be flown in the flight pattern with fixed wing aircraft (NOT GENERALLY RECOMMENDED), it is the responsibility of the helicopter pilot to maintain adequate speed and the proper pattern.
9. No littering and food containers should be removed from the field for disposal at home.
10. All members should read annually and abide by AMA Safety Rules.
11. No Firing Guns (includes firearms, air guns, paintball guns)
12. No Hunting or Trapping.
13. No Fireworks or Pyrotechnics.
14. No Archery.

## **FAA Flight Rules (USC 44809)**

1. FAA set the maximum flying altitude for Small UAS at 400' AGL.
2. FAA requires LAANC approval if flying Small UAS in controlled airspace without a signed LOA agreement in place. Quarry Field has approved LOA in place.
3. FAA requires all recreational flyers to complete one time The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) at [modelaircraft.org/trust](http://modelaircraft.org/trust) and carry proof of test passage.
4. Keep aircraft within visual line of sight or use a visual observer.
5. Give way to and do not interfere with manned aircraft.
6. FAA requires Small UAS Certificate of Registration and members should put their FAA and AMA registration numbers on the outside of your aircraft.
7. Do not fly in dangerous manner. Some examples include interfering with emergency response or law enforcement activities and not flying under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. FAA has designated Quarry Field as a FAA-Recognized Identification Area (FRIA-Approved Site).

## **SAFETY**

Any Pilot who witnesses a violation of any AMA or VAM Safety Rule whether accidental or intentional, are encouraged to remind the offender of the infraction. Any pilot who ignores such a reminder may be reported to the Safety Officer, Field Marshall, or any other VAM officer for disciplinary action.

See [ModelAircraft.org](http://ModelAircraft.org) for a current copy of the AMA safety code.

### **Propeller Safety:**

- Treat every propeller as if it may turn at any moment.
- Keep all body parts clear of the propeller arc at all times.
- Remove the propeller from the motor whenever you are doing ESC/motor setup, testing and programming.
- Properly secure your electric aircraft before you attach any power source.
- Be sure to properly secure your model with a tie-down or have a helper hold it before you start its engine or motor.
- Between hand-props, give glow and gas airplanes a firm tug to ensure that the tie-down is holding them securely.
- When tuning your engine, you must stay clear of the propeller arc. Preferably, tune the needles with the engine shut down.
- If it's available on your transmitter, use a throttle lock or a throttle kill function to avoid an unplanned application of throttle until you're ready to fly.
- If it's available on your radio system set the fail-safe so that the throttle is off if the model loses radio signal.
- Always tell spectators not to touch or move your model's propeller.
- Never reuse a damaged propeller.
- When flying wing with pusher motor always hand launch using the wing tip launch method.



## Rules Specific to Quarry Field

**Be respectful of the land, our neighbors, City of Appleton employees and contractors working on the site.**

1. Take-offs and landings must be executed in a direction parallel to the flight line. Hand launches must be executed in a direction away from the flight line, pilot stations, pits, spectator areas, and parking areas.
2. All Pilots must clearly announce their intention to take off (including hand launches), land, or in the event of an emergency, or dead-stick landing.
3. Aircraft set-up (fueling and/or engine run-up and tuning) must be performed in the pit area located about a third of the way between the road and the pilot stations. Please do not perform your set up at the Flight Line.
4. The approved "Flight Box" (over-flight area) is described on the diagram posted on the frequency control board. The diagram is also located on the inside back cover of this book for reference.
5. The first VAM Member to the field may unlock the gate, via the combination lock. The last VAM Member leaving must lock the gate, even if leaving a City of Appleton Employee on site. No guests may be left on the property without escort, and only City of Appleton Employees and city contract workers may be left on the property after locking the gate.
6. During winter months, when snow is present, the main gate must remain closed when possible to prevent snowmobiles entering the land.
7. The neighboring rock quarry is active, and blasts occasionally. Blasting will be preceded by the sound of a siren three times. By the third sound, all aircraft must be down, and all radios turned off (including 2-way radios and walkie-talkies). After the blast, an "all clear" siren will sound indicating that it is safe to resume radio transmission.
8. Tent stakes may be used but limited to 8 inches in length.
9. The speed limit for all vehicles is 15 mph. At all times, vehicles must remain on the gravel covered surface.
10. There should be no unattended LIPO battery charging in the clubhouse or pavilion even with approved charging LIPO bag or box.
11. Should there be any problems with the lock, site, or any accidents involving City of Appleton property, immediately contact a club officer or email the club contact at [flyvam670@flyvam.com](mailto:flyvam670@flyvam.com).

## ETIQUETTE

Like other sports, certain courtesies should be remembered which make it nice for everyone. Some of these are:

1. We are tenants on Private and Government Property. Please be considerate of the land and surrounding neighbors. Be mindful of the Flying Zone. Clean up all of your trash before leaving. Please also, look over the flying area and remove any trash you find, in addition to your own.
2. As you arrive at the field to fly, please inspect the condition of the field. Are the Pilot Station Safety Barriers in place? Is the windsock in place? Does the Frequency Control Board need to be opened? Please correct any of these issues before flying. This is important, even if you are the only pilot at the field.
3. There are at times young children present at the field. At all times, we are guests here. Please do not use profanity or suggestive language at any time.
4. If you are a Member of VAM, you are also our Ambassador. As you see Visitors arrive at the field, give them a bit of an air show. Also, please introduce yourself to them, and answer any questions they may have. They may be looking for a club to join. Be sure to let them know about Quarry Field as well as the Anderson Field, as they may be enthusiasts of either mode of flight.
5. In the sad event of a crash, please stop flying and assist the Pilot with recovering the wreckage. Leaving even a small piece of wreckage behind is not acceptable. Please do not make the Pilot take the "Long Walk" alone.
6. For a sailplane Pilot, it may not be advisable, or even possible, to rapidly descend and land to assist with the recovery of a crashed aircraft. If it is possible and safe to do so, then please assist. If aloft in a strong thermal, then please do not risk damaging your aircraft by descending rapidly to assist the other Pilot. Please convey your condolences at a more opportune time.
7. If a pilot is aware of a conflict of airspace or landing area, the normal FAI rules will apply. This mandates that the slowest or least powerful aircraft will have the right of way. Right of way would normally be given in the following order: sailplanes, electric powered planes, wet fuel planes, pattern planes, speed or racing planes, helicopters.
8. We do make use of a very informal "Borrow and Loan" system between Members. Please help out as possible. Do not expect to "Borrow" if you are not willing to "Loan".

## WAIVER OF LIABILITY

### **All members must agree to the Valley Aero Modelers Waiver of Liability:**

I am aware that operating a radio-controlled model may present a hazard to participants and spectators. By filling out this form I exempt, waive, and relieve the "Valley Aero Modelers, Inc – AMA Charter Club 670", club officers, club members, field site owners and site operators of any current and/or future liability from personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death

There is a strict over-flight area in effect while flying at Quarry Field.

No flying should extend into the areas marked “No Fly Zone” as those lines represent the no-fly boundaries in agreement between VAM and the City of Appleton.

When flying on the primary runway, all flying should be done in line with the runway and to the east. Everyone is allowed to use this runway no matter the aircraft size.

When flying on the west runway, all flying should be done in line with the runway and to the west. This runway restricted to smaller aircraft, park flyers, quads and helicopters.

