

# **Screaming Eagles R/C Club Flight Proficiency Levels Program**

## **GENERAL**

For the purposes of safety, protection of the Club's flying field privileges, and insurance consideration, the club adopted a flight proficiency levels program in starting in 1983. Even though our club and its members have liability insurance through AMA requiring model operations to be in accordance with its Official AMA Safety Code, it is important that our flyers, spectators, and equipment be protected from injury or damage resulting from poor model operation by unsupervised, non-proficient flyers. Moreover, operation of aircraft in violation of AMA and club codes and rules could result in the limitation of our insurance protection and, worse yet, the possible loss of our flying facility altogether. Therefore, the levels program was established, not to be punitive or overly restrictive, but to ensure that all reasonable precautions have been taken to help new flyers to progress as rapidly as possible to full proficiency flying skills and radio control hobby enjoyment.

## **DESCRIPTION**

**BEGINNER** ..... New member wanting to learn to fly radio control aircraft.

- a. Restrictions**                      May not fly alone, all model operations must be under the direct supervision of an authorized club instructor.
  
- b. Minimum Skill**                    None required, only a strong desire to learn is needed by the beginner.

**R/C PILOT** ..... A member who flies safely and is fully proficient in model aircraft operation and flying.

- a. Restrictions**                      None.
  
- b. Minimum Skill**                    An R/C pilot must be able to perform a reasonable variety of aircraft maneuvers and operations to demonstrate safety practices and flying proficiency.

**INSTRUCTOR** ..... A member who has demonstrated the ability, experience, desire, and willingness to instruct others in radio control aircraft flying operations.

- a. Restrictions**                      Must stay within authorized category (fixed or rotor wing), unless instructor in both categories.
  
- b. Minimum Skill**                    An instructor must continually demonstrate excellent flying skills with a variety of aircraft, compliance with AMA safety codes, adherence to club rules, and a willingness to help others to become safe proficient radio control aircraft flyers.

# **Screaming Eagles R/C Club Flight Proficiency Levels Program**

## **PROCEDURES**

1. **PILOT RATINGS ASSIGNMENT** New members and guests are in two categories; i.e., *NO R/C* flying experience, or *WITH R/C* flying experience. Folks in the former category who admit to being beginners will enter into flight training as a *BEGINNER* and follow normal flight training procedures. Folks in the latter category are governed by the following procedures;
  - (a.) An ACI (Authorized Club Instructor) shall satisfy himself that a new "experienced" flyer *knows and understands* the Club's rules and regulations. Although a new flyer's host or sponsor should have explained them, an ACI needs to determine the level of understanding for safety and field protection purposes by administering an oral exam.
  - (b.) The ACI shall satisfy himself that the aircraft is airworthy, that all safety checks are made before the first flight, and that proper frequency control methods are used.
  - (c.) The ACI shall have the flyer conduct a solo flight while observing the pilot's ability in preflight, startup, taxiing, take-off, in-flight, and landing operations. If flight operations during this flight warrant, the ACI shall be prepared to take over control of member's aircraft. The in-flight operation should consist of right and left hand landing patterns with actual touch down being up-wind. Particular attention should be paid to the pilot's ability to maintain aircraft headings and control during take-off and landings.
  - (d.) If the pilot is unable to safely perform all ground and flight phases of the flight operation and/or the instructor is required to take physical control of the airplane, a *BEGINNER* rating must be assigned. If the person is confident, in full control of the situation and aircraft at all times, and demonstrates safe flight maneuvering; then a *R/C PILOT* rating is recommended. If the person is obviously a skilled R/C pilot, and is equal to, or better than the ACI conducting the test; recommend the person for review and potential rating as an ACI.
  - (e.) Understanding that the personalities and instructing abilities vary widely within the club, a flyer not satisfied with a rating, may appeal to the Safety and Instruction Committee Chairman. If still not satisfied, then they may appeal to the club's Executive Committee for final hearing. In the event that two ACI's agree that the level assignment is warranted, then that level *will* stand until such time as the pilot may wish to make a test flight. An Executive Committee decision will be final and enforced.

**Screaming Eagles R/C Club**  
**Flight Proficiency Levels Program**

**2. PILOT PROMOTIONS** Pilot level promotions are made as follows:

- (a.) Promotion from **BEGINNER** to **R/C PILOT** is made by an ACI. This promotion is considered a "Solo" and a certificate shall be issued by the club. Additionally, a newly soloed pilot must understand that the solo is for trainer aircraft of the same type and size, and it is recommended that for flight of more advanced trainers or complex aircraft assistance should be requested from a qualified club member.
- (b.) Promotion from **R/C Pilot** to **Authorized Club Instructor (ACI)** is a significant honor. It requires the endorsement/approval of at least two (2) current and active ACI's.
- (c.) Certificates for **R/C Pilot** and **Authorized Club Instructor (ACI)** will be awarded at a regular scheduled club meeting.

- 3. DEMOTIONS** Recommendation for a demotion of the proficiency level of a member must be made to the Safety & Instruction Chairman by an ACI who has the support of at least one other ACI. This recommendation will be brought to the Executive Committee for final decision. This action is only for repeated demonstrations of unsafe ground or flight operations that endangers people, property, or prison security.

*(Revised October 2011 and executed under the authority of the Executive Committee.)*