Plane PAP



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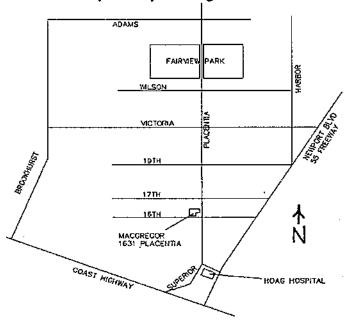
AMA Charter #128

The Western Soaring Capital

Next Meeting—Temporary Location

Our usual meeting location is being re-carpeted, so for the next meeting Roger MacGregor has graciously offered the use of his facility at the MacGregor Yacht's Sailboat factory. Located at 1631 Placentia, Costa Mesa. It has a 65' sailboat on the roof, so you can't miss it. (Day phone 949 642 6830). The date is Tuesday, May 1st., 7:30 pm.

Map to May Meeting Location



Next Contest

The May club contest will be on May 6 at our usual field, Fairview Park. Contest starts at 9 am (later if it's foggy).

Last Meeting

Our recent police helicopter/FAA problems were discussed. This is the situation: Orange county airport is Class C airspace. This space extends 5 miles from airport, and we're 3.8 miles. The Police helicopter pilot also doesn't want us interfering with his flyovers of the area. Class C requires anything in that airspace must be in radio contact with the tower. The helicopter guys have pressed this and the city attorney wrote that the city does not enforce FAA regulations; the police will no longer try to enforce a no-fly restriction. Thanks to Roger MacGregor for his efforts in contacting the AMA staff, which found an FAA document declaring that models flying within 3 miles of an airport should not fly over 400 ft without tower permission. They're over 100 AMA clubs nationwide flying at airports. Being over 3 miles, we should be OK. Rodger then contacted the tower manager, who was very understanding and referred him to the FAA office in Long Beach. They are forwarding all of the letters and info to the FAA legal department for an opinion. The AMA and their legal people are also working with the FAA, since over 100 clubs actually fly at airport sites in the U.S. Hopefully this will be resolved in a few weeks.

Until we hear from the FAA, we have no flight restrictions imposed on our field. Please use a spotter when flying. If a general aviation aircraft approaches, drop your altitude and stay well clear of them. If the police helicopter is in the area – land immediately – giving them no reason to be upset with us. Use common sense.

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