

Sun Valley Fliers 400 Foot Rule

At the December 8th, 2014 SVF Board Meeting a policy decision has been made by the SVF Board of Directors as it relates to the model aircraft flight ceiling at the SVF Cave Buttes Flying Field. The matter was given extensive review by the SVF Rules Compliance Committee looking at three different options identifying the pros and cons of the most restrictive to the most lenient policies considered and after the board reviewed the findings it choose the following policy that is to go into to effect immediately.

“Sun Valley Flyers utilizes a 400ft ceiling for flying model aircraft allowing for only momentary breaks caused by non-sustaining maneuvers. All pilots must utilize a spotter at all times and abide by AMA Rule 540d (see and avoid procedures) ”

The above rule policy will be posted at each flight station and at the front Jomax gate entrance. Any member or guest pilot willfully violating this rule will be subject to disciplinary action and possible loss of flight privileges.

The SVF board’s intention for adopting a moderate policy is hopefully to relieve fellow members from making subjective interpretation or guessing at other members altitudes and therefore should provide for a friendlier and fun flying environment. The board does recognize this policy may eliminate certain types of flying that has occurred in the past but due to changes in our regulatory environment the intent must default on safety and protecting the long term use of our excellent flying facility.

As it relates to the terminology used in the policy: here is some guidance as it relates to the word momentary, in this context it means if a model aircraft for whatever reason appears to be going higher than 400ft it will be assumed that the pilot is completing a turnaround maneuver and will be coming back down immediately. Pilots, spotters and bystanders should be reasonable in their interpretation. You might consider that a break should be no longer than what it might take to spell the word momentary.

Guidance relating to the words non-sustaining maneuvers: that would be a break that continues well above 400ft with no intention of a momentary maneuver. Such a maneuver may be commonly seen made by gliders, scale aerobatic and/or pattern routines that typically would last for a longer period of time. These maneuvers or type of flying is no longer allowed at the Cave Buttes Flying Field.