



Aero Radio Club of Syracuse

ARCS News

April 20, 2016

Urgent Issue!

An important issue has arisen regarding aircraft noise. I received the following email Monday:

Hello Mr. Ziegler,

I have lived below the airport in Marcellus on the lower part of Falls Road for the past 17 years. The airport has always been a good neighbor. However, for the past two years there has been a very loud remote control aircraft flying virtually every Sunday afternoon and Thursday evening for 2-3 hours at a time. I am not positive if it is the same aircraft every time, but it sounds like it is.

This noise has negatively affected the outdoor enjoyment of my property as well as several of my neighbors for whom I am also writing on behalf of. I have video recordings of the noise, but I am sure you know what it sounds like. You may not be aware of how loud and annoying this is to neighbors of the airport, especially on Sunday afternoons. When we have family over, or are trying to relax in the yard with a book, the constant revving and whining of the plane's engine becomes very annoying.

It is my hope in contacting you that steps can be taken to reduce the noise level. Perhaps there is a better muffler available or they can find a better time to operate such loud aircraft.

I appreciate your time and anything you can do to lessen the noise.

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It is disturbing to get this kind of message but I am thrilled that he contacted me instead of going to the town and making a formal complaint. He lives just under a mile away. In the interest of saving our flying site we must deal with this situation immediately and completely. The club by-laws have had a noise limit in place for 20 years. It reads:

Article XV. Sound and Field Hours

A. Only aircraft whose maximum decibel level at full throttle, tested on the ground at a distance of 3 meters (9 feet, 10 inches) does not exceed 93 decibels shall be allowed to fly at the club field. Any and all aircraft shall be subject to testing at any time. Waivers may be granted by any club officer or director for the purpose of demonstrations during special club events, or for the purpose of testing new engines and/or aircraft.

We haven't been checking sound levels very often in the last few years but now we must start doing so again. Here is what we need to do immediately:

- 1. If you know you have a loud airplane, do not fly it.**
- 2. I will have a sound meter available to check any aircraft. If you need your aircraft checked, contact me.**
- 3. I will be checking noise any time I am at the field.**
- 4. There are always things that can be done to reduce sound. Other club members are an excellent source of help.**
- 5. Anyone who feels they can not comply will be entitled to a full refund of your dues.**

I'm sorry for the short notice on this but the situation demands quick action. Thanks to all of you in advance for your compliance!

Herb.

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