

To All ASF Members and Prospective Members:

ASF was founded by a group of flyers whose primary purpose is to expand the sport, share ideas, build friendships, but most of all...fly and have fun, and to utilize the excellent soaring field made available to us by the Travis County Parks Department in a safe and effective manner. The founding members have been flying at the soaring field at Travis County Northeast Metropolitan Regional Park (NEM) for several months. Most of the founding members have literally decades of flying experience in all types of aircraft as well as national contest experience. Many have also participated in other much larger clubs where frequency conflicts were more common and often resulted in the loss of valuable equipment or even damage to personal property. Safe operations, protection of valuable equipment, and reducing liability, are paramount to our club and its membership.

After much deliberation and consideration - it was decided that a new frequency control system would be adopted by ASF. That system would allow all ASF members to "reserve" an available frequency as their primary channel -- maximizing members access to flight times while at the same time minimizing the chances of frequency conflicts. Although considered somewhat innovative (we only know of one other soaring club that has implemented a similar policy), this method was intended to be an "asset" to all members, not a "deterrent."

This DOES NOT prevent new AMA/ASF members from joining the club or flying at the field! The intent of the ASF frequency policy is to promote flight safety, avoid frequency conflicts, and extend available flight times for all ASF members.

However, new members can reserve an available, unreserved frequency, and fly with almost certain assurance that there will be no frequency conflicts. Prospective members, guests, and competitors can fly up to 3 times on a previously reserved frequency with the agreement of the member who initially reserved that frequency. Standard frequency control rules including use of a pin board still prevail; i.e.: as long as the frequency pin is available and not in immediate use by the primary user - members should be able to fly on that channel without conflict. Whenever the club holds contests, fly-ins, etc., open to AMA members from other clubs, ASF will set up frequency control procedures - such as transmitter impounds - which will enable non-ASF members who are using frequencies which otherwise are "reserved," to participate in the ASF events without changing their frequencies. However, by reserving an open frequency, ASF members can maximize their flight times at the ASF field.

To date: this "reserve" frequency system is being used very successfully with no complaints and virtually no radio conflicts by existing members.

ASF's policy for frequency control was adopted by the founding members and board of directors and set-forth in the bylaws of the ASF club; this policy does not require a membership vote or ratification. Additional procedures for implementation of the policy will be incorporated in the Club's Field Rules. It is recognized that such procedures may need to be revised as we gain experience with the implementation of the procedures, and the Board is committed to making those procedures fair and effective, to improve safety, and enhance flight operations. The frequency control policy is presently in force. Any ASF member who has a recommendation for improving frequency control procedures is welcome to present those ideas in writing to the Board for its consideration.

To assist in monitoring the frequency control procedures, we require that each member flying at the NEM field (whenever a frequency clip board is present) provide a personal frequency clip with the member's name (and reserved frequency) whenever the member takes one of the club's frequency clips from the clip board. Blank clips will be available at the field for this purpose.

If any current or potential member feels that ASF's frequency policy does not suite their style of flying, or that \$30 dues for a world-class flying site (with a reserved channel) is excessive...then perhaps this club is not for you!

Again, Austin Silent Flyers primary goal is to expand the sport, share flying experiences with others, have fun and enjoy the friendships made along the way. Although Austin Silent Flyers has accomplished a great deal in such a short amount of time, with a great future on the horizon...it is still only one month old! Before we overly criticize a new system and procedures that perhaps we have not yet flown or even experienced...why don't we all give it a chance!

Sincerely,  
ASF President and Board of Directors