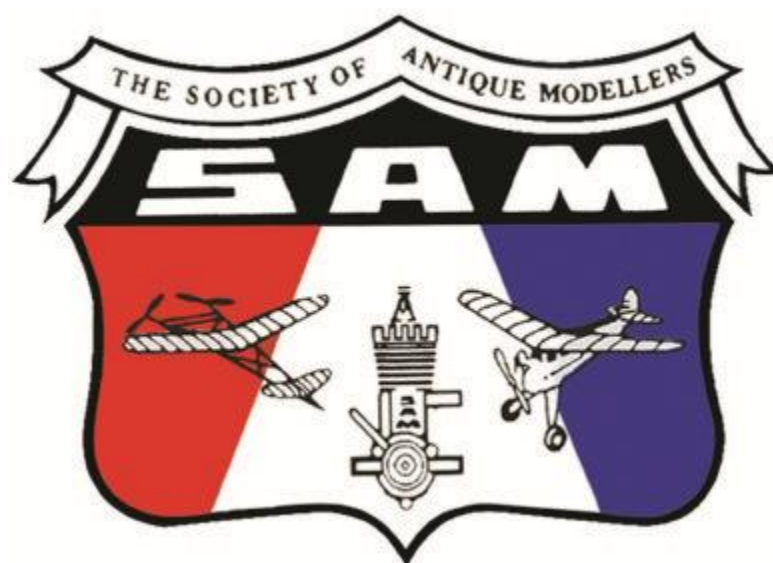


British Model Flying Association

SAM 35/BMFA Radio Assisted Free Flight Guidelines



Radio Assisted Free Flight

Radio Assisted Free Flight is a form of flying which is very suitable for those still interested in free flight, but have limited mobility or indeed wish to take up free flight but are not physically able to retrieve.

The arrival of both 2.4GHz radio and micro equipment at very reasonable prices has provided the possibilities to add radio to any type of model and for it to be flown without the need for traditional flight line control. Vintage enthusiasts were quick to see the opportunity to fit the equipment to free flight models to allow them to be flown on smaller sites and to avoid the long walk to retrieve. The vintage community tend to be at the older end of the general modelling population so this feature is very attractive.

Indeed I'm sure many club sites have a number of such models on their patch flying in circuits along with the 'proper' radio models. However, as vintage modellers like to gather at free flight meetings issues then arise as to what can and can't be done. Clearly, just turning up and flying a radio model in the midst of a group of free flight modellers is not acceptable! Therefore Sam 35 and the BMFA have come up with a set of guidelines applicable for this type of model flying. The normal guidelines for radio flying are not applicable for two main reasons; you must not fly circuits in front of the flight line and the fact that models drift downwind means modellers will cross the flight line. The guidelines address these issues along with the amount of control allowed and organisation.

Radio Assisted Free Flight Guidelines

1. Models must be free flight models in original design and concept with radio fitted solely to assist in trimming and recovery. Models must be operated in a 'free flight' manner with a clear climb to height followed by a glide phase.
2. Radio assist is limited to rudder plus one other function (which must be either elevator or throttle). Additional channels may be used, but only as a motor cut off and/or to activate a dethermaliser.
3. Only legal 2.4GHz radio equipment to be used.
4. Only fly on sites that are clear with adequate open space in compliance with any local rules or conditions and with due consideration for other people and property.
5. When radio assisted free flight is taking place on a multi use site, it is important that one person is nominated to co-ordinate the activity and liaise with other site users.

Note: where a group of flyers wish to fly assisted free flight one would expect their flight line to be adjacent to the free flight line, a precedent set by the FAIR rocket flyers who also fly assisted rocket launched gliders.

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