

FCPA Drones in the Park #2, 13 October 2017, South Run Field House Observations of John Roach, NVRC

Barbra Nugent, Division Director, Fairfax County Park Services, was again the lead speaker. She has oversight of County Rec Centers and Lakefront parks. Barbra is looking for help running summer camps for children at which they will build drones and fly them indoors. Flying indoors lets people fly when the weather is bad and does not violate FAA flight restrictions within the "Flight Restricted Zone, FRZ" that encompasses most of Fairfax County. Her goal is to teach responsible drone ownership in the indoor spaces where we now fly and as a responsible following develops, increase the available flight venues. She advocates use of drones to improve public safety and work efficiency as ways to promote drone uses to the County Board.

Bob Lamond, Jr. introduced himself as a Part 107 certified drone pilot, aircraft controller and pilot, before he launched into a 5 minute version of Drone 101. He was accompanied by **Fernando**, the DC DUG Safety and Training Officer. They fielded some questions from the audience before allowing those attending take turns at flying small multi-rotors provided by DC DUG. One person asked, "Where he could fly?" Bob responded that the definitive source for an answer was an FAA chart. He went on to say that B4UFLY was a good, but imperfect app that could be used to check if it was OK to fly in a given location. I spoke up at this point to announce that NVRC has two airfields in the county where hobbyists may fly if they are willing to join AMA and NVRC. I described the upcoming **NVRC auction** as the cheapest way to get into the hobby and indoor glow in the dark drone racing at **Monster Mini Golf** as insanely fast fun while I placed flyers for both events on the sign-in table. No safety netting separated the spectator area from the flight area, as there had been at the first Drones in the Parks evening, but the crowd respected the demarcation line separating them from the flight area and the only errant drone of the night was stranded on a ledge above the outside door at the far end of the soccer field. It was not long before some attendees brought in their own drones to fly including what I thought was a DJI Phantom 2. I sort of missed the safety netting and decided it was time to go home.

On the way out, I met **Ira Mack**, President of ConcreteQuads professional drone academy and model aeronautics and **Roy Shrout, III**, Deputy Coordinator, Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management. Ira is all about indoor racing in places like parking garages. Roy hopes to encourage use of drones by county staff.