

Drone industry awaits government regulations

Entrepreneurs should lay plans now, experts say

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
EO Media Group

Regulations for commercial drones aren't expected until next year but entrepreneurs should prepare for the government to open the floodgates, experts say.

While the Federal Aviation Administration is unlikely to finalize rules for unmanned aircraft by the end of the year, as mandated by Congress, it doesn't make sense for companies to wait to get their business plans in order, according to speakers at the recent Precision Farming Expo in Salem.

"It's not too early to get your skin in the game," said Andrew McCollough, an analyst with SkyWard, a company that makes drone operations software.

Even if the rules take another two years, aspiring

operators can use that time to figure out which aircraft and equipment best fit their plans, he said.

The FAA isn't regulating drones used for recreation, but the agency takes a dim view of hobbyists venturing into territory that it considers to be commercial, said Wendie Kellington, an attorney specializing in unmanned aerial vehicles.

At this point, the FAA is taking a narrow view of "hobby."

For example, the agency said flying a drone to check if crops need irrigation is only considered recreational if they're "grown for personal enjoyment" and not if they're part of a "commercial farming operation."

Farmers and others who hope to legally use drones commercially before the FAA's regulations are complete can apply for a "Sec-

tion 333" exemption, which allows them to fly unmanned aircraft without a pilot's license, Kellington said.

Applicants should be ready to wait, however. Of the 640 applications received by FAA, fewer than 50 have been granted in the past six months, she said.

Drone operators who obtain an exemption must still fly the drone within the "visual line of sight," and the same requirement is proposed in the FAA's planned regulations, Kellington said.

The agency decided the technology isn't mature enough to allow drones to be flown beyond the line of sight, but those proposed regulations are still up for comment, she said.

Kellington said the FAA should at least have "placeholder" regulations authorizing such drone use, since the technology is likely to prog-



EO Media Group

A four-rotor, camera-equipped drone hovers during a demonstration flight at a McMinnville forum. While the Federal Aviation Administration is unlikely to finalize rules for unmanned aircraft by the end of the year, as mandated by Congress, it doesn't make sense for companies to wait to get their business plans in order.

ress rapidly before the rules are final.

In reality, the FAA isn't in the "enforcement business" of ensuring that farmers and other follow its rules for drones, but the agency would likely take action if

an accident or other incident was brought to its attention, said Gretchen West, vice president of business development and government relations with DroneDeploy, which specializes in drone operations.

"We know there are people flying commercially every single day and the FAA is not going after them," she said.

Even in remote rural areas, drone operators must be careful not to interfere with aerial spray applicators, said John Stevens, manager of the Pendleton Unmanned Aerial System Range, where drones are tested.

"Within the industry, we have the responsibility to make sure we're doing it right," he said.

As drones become more advanced, safety parameters will be incorporated into their operational systems and the issue will likely become less of a concern, said McCollough.

For example, McCollough's cell phones relies on radio waves but that doesn't mean he must get a ham radio operator's license to use it.

"The rules are going to, in large part, be built into the technology," he said.

Deaths

March 13, 2015

ROLAND, B. J. "Bob," 78, of Yuma, Ariz., died in Yuma. Yuma Mortuary and Crematory is in charge of the arrangements.

March 18, 2015

DAVIS, Mary Ann, 83, of Astoria, died at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial

Wednesday, April 1

PECK, Howard Rankin — Graveside service with military honors at 10 a.m., Hermiston Cemetery, Hermiston. Peck, 92, of Hammond, died Friday, March 27, 2015, in Longview, Wash.

Thursday, April 2

GOODMAN, Sylvia Beatrice Kallina — Memorial at 3 p.m., Cannon Beach Community Church, 132 E. Washington St., Cannon Beach. Goodman, 94, of Beaverton, formerly of Cannon Beach, died Sunday, March 1, 2015, in Beaverton.

ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Astoria 5-Day Forecast

Tonight
Mostly cloudy with a couple of showers
41°

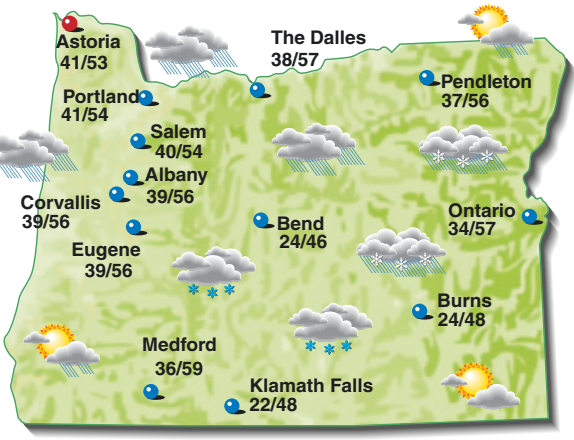
Wednesday
Mostly cloudy with a couple of showers
53° 41°

Friday
Periods of rain
53° 38°

Thursday
Partly sunny
54° 40°

Saturday
Mostly cloudy with a little rain
52° 38°

Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2015

Almanac

Astoria through Monday.

Temperatures

High	58°
Low	48°
Normal high	55°
Normal low	40°

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.05"
Month to date	6.38"
Normal month to date	7.23"
Year to date	21.86"
Normal year to date	24.62"

Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight 7:42 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday 6:56 a.m.
Moonrise today 4:22 p.m.
Moonset today 5:11 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Apr 4	Apr 11	Apr 18	Apr 25

Regional Cities

City	Today	Wed.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Baker City	53 27 sh	47 25 c
Bend	47 24 sh	46 24 c
Brookings	54 40 pc	55 41 pc
Eugene	55 39 t	56 36 sh
Ilwaco	54 42 t	53 42 sh
Klamath Falls	49 22 pc	48 20 pc
Medford	51 36 pc	59 36 pc
Newport	52 41 t	51 41 sh
North Bend	54 42 t	54 40 sh

Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: Waxing gibbous moon near Jupiter.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

Tomorrow's Tides

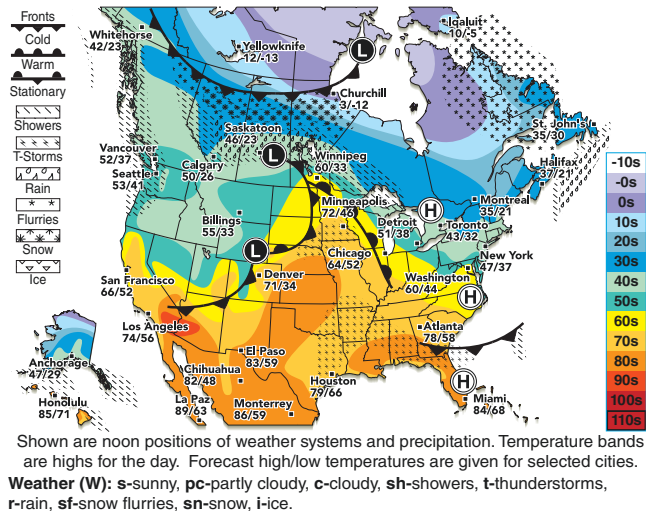
Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
12:29 a.m.	8.0 ft.	6:29 a.m.	1.7 ft.
1:29 p.m.	7.7 ft.	6:50 p.m.	0.7 ft.

National Cities

City	Today	Wed.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	73 57 s	78 58 s
Boston	48 29 s	43 29 pc
Chicago	55 37 s	64 52 s
Denver	78 48 s	71 34 t
Des Moines	75 48 s	79 52 pc
Detroit	48 32 pc	51 38 s
El Paso	81 57 pc	83 59 s
Fairbanks	44 21 c	42 17 c
Honolulu	84 70 sh	85 71 pc
Indianapolis	63 39 s	67 50 s
Kansas City	76 50 s	81 56 pc
Las Vegas	89 60 s	81 56 s
Los Angeles	74 57 pc	74 56 pc
Memphis	77 58 s	78 62 t
Miami	81 64 s	84 68 s
Nashville	78 45 s	75 55 pc
New Orleans	81 63 pc	81 68 c
New York	46 33 r	47 37 pc
Oklahoma City	85 62 t	83 62 s
Philadelphia	52 34 r	52 35 s
St. Louis	75 47 s	75 61 s
Salt Lake City	79 44 pc	55 34 pc
San Francisco	66 51 pc	66 52 s
Seattle	54 43 t	53 41 sh
Washington, DC	67 40 t	60 44 s

Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities. **Weather (W):** s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Milton-Freewater hopes finally to get beyond the hyphen

By **ANTONIA SIERRA**
EO Media Group

MILTON-FREEWATER (AP) — No city in Oregon has been affected more by a piece of punctuation than Milton-Freewater.

While a hyphen joined the towns of Milton and Freewater in 1950, consolidating the cities' downtown areas remains a challenge.

Oregon Highway 11 becomes South Main Street, historically Milton's downtown area, as drivers enter town from the south. It then splits off and heads for Walla Walla, Wash., bypassing Freewater's former downtown which is clustered around North Main Street to the northwest.

This awkward marriage of downtown areas creates an exceptionally long Main Street, with the whole northern part untouched by the city's main thoroughfare. This development, along with other factors including the city's proximity to the more prosperous Walla Walla, has contributed to large swaths of vacant and underutilized storefronts on Milton-Freewater's Main Street.

The most recent effort to revitalize the city's sagging downtown area is the Milton-Freewater Downtown Alliance, a nonprofit established in 2012.

Alliance Director Randy Grant said a plan to improve Main Street has been proposed every decade but never materializes.

"It never goes anywhere because it never pushes through the grassroots," he said.

The alliance hired SERA Architecture of Portland and have had a series of public meetings to gather community input.

The latest meeting was held at a packed Milton-Freewater Community Building March 16, with officials from the Milton-Freewater City Council, the Milton-Freewater Unified School District, Umatilla County and Blue Mountain Community College in attendance.

Instead of a traditional meeting, attendees sat at tables featuring a map of Milton-Freewater in the center.

Audience members were asked to not only mark where they live and their favorite spots in town, but potential sites for downtown improvements.

Popular proposals included a parkway that runs alongside the Little Walla Walla River, the planting of trees along Main Street to unite the disparate downtown areas and a rail line that could transport passengers through town or into surrounding vineyards. With the recent incorporation of The Rocks District viticultural area, expanding Milton-Freewater's wine industry was a frequent topic of discussion.

Although not discussed at the meeting, boosting involvement from Milton-Freewater's Hispanic community has also been a continual talking point. Despite comprising more than 40 percent of the population, Latino involvement in city gov-

ernment and civic life is virtually nil.

Unhappy with the lack of Latino presence at the first community meeting, the alliance held a meeting specifically for Hispanic community leaders to provide input.

Grant said Latino leaders' concerns were in lockstep with many of their Anglo counterparts, with an overall emphasis on expanding the local economy.

"There's more ownership from our Hispanics than we give them credit for," he said.

Using the ideas generated by the community members that attended the meetings, SERA will return to Milton-Freewater May 11 with a basic plan for Main Street improvements.

Grant said creating a comprehensive plan is key to the city's revitalization, as community members will use it to leverage private investment from developers for the needed improvements.

To kick off community efforts, the alliance organized a leadership group to create a project that can be built between July 15 and July 19.

The completed project would be used as an example to Milton-Freewater residents of what a revitalization project could do.

Proposals for the kickoff project include creating a community meeting place in a vacant lot by McLoughlin High School where a Dairy Queen used to stand.

Public meetings

TODAY
Astoria Historic Landmarks Commission, 5:15 p.m., Astoria City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

WEDNESDAY
Sunset Empire Transportation District Budget Committee, 9 to 11 a.m., training workshop for fiscal year 2015-2016, Astoria Transit Center Conference Room, 900 Marine Drive.

THURSDAY
Northwest Oregon Housing Authority Board, 10 a.m., NOHA office, 147 S. Main Ave., Warrenton.

Lotteries

OREGON
Monday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 5-9-4-5
4 p.m.: 9-5-9-2
7 p.m.: 5-7-5-9
10 p.m.: 0-3-3-0
Monday's Megabucks:
03-08-13-19-35-43

Estimated jackpot: \$1.8 million
WASHINGTON
Monday's Daily Game:
7-1-8
Monday's Hit 5: 02-06-13-26-34
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Monday's Keno: 03-07-12-

14-18-20-22-26-33-34-35-36-41-47-52-59-65-67-70-79
Monday's Lotto: 16-17-28-41-45-48
Estimated jackpot: \$6.4 million
Monday's Match 4: 03-04-16-24

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior. Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/obituaryform, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

APPLIANCE PACKAGE DEALS

APPLIANCE AND HOME FURNISHINGS

529 SE MARLIN, WARRENTON

503-861-0929

Mattresses, Furniture & More!

HOURS OPEN: MON-FRI 8-6 • SATURDAY 9-5 • SUNDAY 10-4
We Service What We Sell

The Daily Astorian

Established July 1, 1873
(USPS 035-000)

Published daily, except Saturday and Sunday, by EO Media Group, 949 Exchange St., PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103 Telephone 503-325-3211, 800-781-3211 or Fax 503-325-6573. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Daily Astorian, PO Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103-0210

www.dailyastorian.com

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIBER TO THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

MEMBER CERTIFIED AUDIT OF CIRCULATIONS INC.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES			
Effective March 1, 2014			
HOME DELIVERY		MAIL	
EZpay (per month)	\$9.75	EZpay (per month)	\$14.30
13 weeks in advance	\$35.72	4 weeks in advance	\$20.00
26 weeks in advance	\$68.76	13 weeks in advance	\$50.47
52 weeks in advance	\$131.12	26 weeks in advance	\$99.64
		52 weeks in advance	\$194.08

Circulation phone number: 503-325-3211
Periodicals postage paid at Astoria, OR

ADVERTISING OWNERSHIP

All advertising copy and illustrations prepared by The Daily Astorian become the property of The Daily Astorian and may not be reproduced for any use without explicit prior approval.

COPYRIGHT ©
Entire contents © Copyright, 2015 by The Daily Astorian.

Printed on recycled paper