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"Good drones—Good idea!" is the subject of a discussion to be led by professor Brian Argrow at the Steamplant Annex, tomorrow, Wednesday February 12 from 1:30 – 3:00pm.

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA), or "drone," are a few of the names for robotic aircraft that operate without an onboard human pilot. Citing their military applications, drones have become a focus of media attention, often portrayed as nefarious tools employed by peeping-toms and Big Brother. This sensationalism has resulted in some outrageous public responses including a proposed drone-hunting license and bounty recently voted upon by the Deer Trail, Colorado town board.





There is an untold story—the story of how drones can, and are, being developed for good and peaceful purposes. The University of Colorado Boulder is a world leader in UAS research with missions that have ranged from surveying ice over the Arctic Ocean, Greenland, and Antarctica, to sampling the atmosphere over Peru, to intercepting tornadic storms—yes, near Deer Trail, Colorado. This discussion will focus on what drones are, what we can do with them, what is keeping them mostly grounded, and why they are a good idea whose time has come! There is no charge and everyone is welcome.

Brian Argrow is a Professor of Aerospace Engineering Sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder. His research ranges from small unmanned aircraft systems design, and their integration into the airspace, to satellite aerodynamics, sonic boom, and engineering education. He was co-chair of the first Symposium for Civilian Applications of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CAUAS), and since 2008 he has chaired workshops and moderated several national panels on research directions for the integration of UAS into the National Airspace System. In 2010 he led the first UAS team to intercept supercell thunderstorms as part of the VORTEX2 field campaign.

There will be a Q&A session after the presentation on possible commercial uses of UAS in Chaffee County and public concerns on privacy or safety.

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