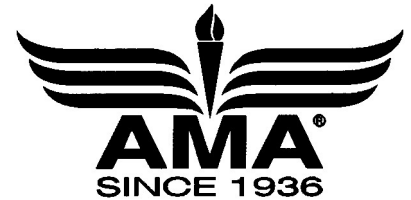


The Seminole Flyer



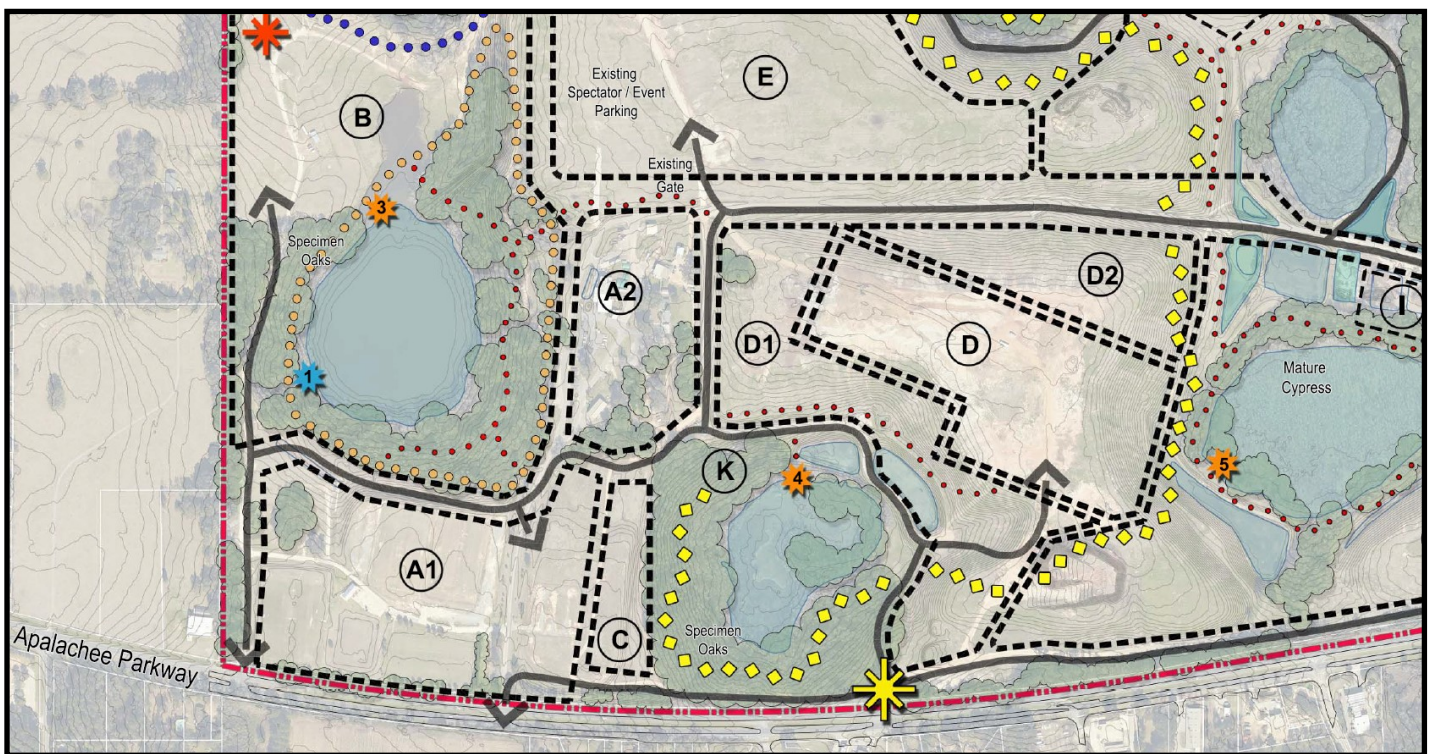
Charter member of the Academy
of Model Aeronautics since 1969

AMA Charter Club 216



April 2017 Issue

Looking Toward Our New Home



An excerpt from the Apalachee Regional Park Preliminary Master Plan

Our members showed strong support for our interests in the new Leon County Parks and Recreation preliminary master plan for Apalachee Regional Park. Our club members far outnumbered representatives of other interests, such as disc golf, soccer and track and field, who attended the March 28, 2017 meeting to review the plan. County officials were impressed by our presence.

Our new field will be located in the area designated as "D" in the picture, above. We will have ample space. This area consists of 21 acres compared to our current 3 acres. Our current field is located at the north end of the pod near the "B" in the picture. Plus, our field area will be surrounded by undeveloped conservation areas designated "D1" and "D2."

Club Meeting News

Jeff Owens, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM on Thursday April 20, 2017 by President Jay Wiggins.

Visitors: Former member Fred Schmidt attended. Now retired, he is looking to get back into flying again.

President's Announcements – Jay thanked various members for their contributions of goods and services over the past few months. These included Geoff Lawrence for his training activities and organizing the SouthWoodstock demonstration, Gordie Meade for his work on field mowing and maintenance, Charles Montford for his field maintenance activities, and Jim Ogorek and Bill Ashbaker for their quick work in securing insurance for the SouthWoodstock demo. Jay also thanked those members who came to the public presentation of the new park plans. 18 members were present and we outnumbered all the representatives of other activities.

Vice-President's Report – Randy Yarborough - The next Fly-in will be the Memorial Day Warbird event on Saturday May 25. As was the case last year, memorabilia from WWI, WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War will be displayed. So, bring anything you may have for the display.

Secretary's Report – Jeff Owens – The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the

Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Ashbaker – The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Safety Officer's Report – Jim Ogorek – It is nice to offer to help members carry their planes or transmitters, but please ask them before doing so! Also. One of the oscillating fans needs a shoulder bolt replaced so that it will oscillate properly.

Flight Training Report – Geoff Lawrence – There are three complete models ready to use for training. The SouthWoodstock festival had lower attendance again this year. We will evaluate whether to continue participating if, indeed, the festival is held next year.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Program – Charles Montford gave a presentation on prop unloading in flight for electric models. The moral of the story – don't do full power run-ups on the bench as you may pull more current than the system can safely deliver. In the air this is OK because the current drain is less for a given throttle setting than when it is at rest on the ground. In-flight data were recorded and then plotted to show the effects of flight conditions and prop choices.

Members and Friends News

New Members

We have one new member and one returning member. Please welcome new member Henry Cummings and returning member Fred Schmidt when you have the opportunity.

You will recall that Fred originally joined our club in 2007 and was editor/publisher of our newsletter for several years until his daytime job took up too much of his time. We still question his priorities.

Spectrum DXe Transmitter

I recently enjoyed a learning experience while assisting Geoff Lawrence with setting up one of our club training aircraft. The challenge was to program our new Spektrum DXe transmitters. The exercise revealed some surprises . . . Bill Ashbaker

At first glance, the Spektrum DXe transmitter appears to be a basic, non-programmable transmitter. It has no windows or dials for programming. The first surprise is that it is a multiple function computer radio capable of storing a large number of models roughly similar to a DX6. It has wireless trainer link, five switches and two buttons in addition to the normal two control levers. It can be programmed for up to nine channels. Functions include dual rate, expo, sub-trim, multiple wing types and helicopter.

The second surprise is that it is priced at \$60 compared to \$200 for the DX6. The low cost is achieved by eliminating all of the display and model programming hardware from the transmitter. Instead, models are set up through the use of an external personal computer (PC) and a smart phone.

So, we have a fairly powerful programmable radio at a very low cost. What's the catch? The catch is that Spektrum has done a very poor job of designing, producing and documenting the computer applications (apps) that make their radios work. They are notorious for claiming



the programming apps will be available in a month or two and it takes six months to a year to publish them on their website. There is very little technical information published on the transmitter programming. What is published is vague and online programming instructions are misleading.

The PC programming app was published almost a year ago, but still has a notice on the website that it is not fully functional. Customers are directed to use the smartphone app for programming. However, the PC Programmer app must be used to update the transmitter operating system called AirWare by Spektrum. Customers are directed to use another PC app called the Spektrum Updater to update the operating system. It doesn't work.

Successful programming appears to vary with Apple or Android smartphones and the smartphone manufacturer. In any case, it is a struggle. The smartphone app will not work correctly unless the radio is connected to the smartphone in a rigid sequence of actions. We were able to successfully program the DXe, but we would not recommend it unless you are comfortable with PCs and smartphones and like adventure.

It is not known if using external computers to augment programmable radios is a new trend or merely an experiment by Spektrum to see if there is a market for this kind of arrangement. We shall see.

Seminole Radio Control Club

Tallahassee, Florida

Officers

President	Jay Wiggins moonangelb@gmail.com
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Training Coordinator	Geoff Lawrence k4nkc@comcast.net

Media Managers

Web Master	Jeff Owens jfolso@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor & Publisher	Bill Ashbaker bill.ashbaker@comcast.net

Flight Training

Primary flight training is available by appointment on Saturdays from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm when the weather is nice and not too breezy. Contact the Training Coordinator or one of the instructors to make an appointment:

Geoff Lawrence 850-591-6879	Randy Yarborough 850-523-0020
Jeff Owens 850-545-7482	Jim Ogorek 850-766-2477
Bill Ashbaker 850-656-5932	Troy Emmett 770-546-6199

Field Hours

Electrics/Sailplanes	30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset 7 days/week
Gassers/Nitros	10:00 AM until 30 minutes after sunset except Sunday. Sunday gasser/nitro flying begins at 12:00 PM. All gassers and nitros must have a suitable muffler.

The Seminole Flyer is a publication of the Seminole Radio Control Club of Tallahassee, Florida. We welcome and encourage items for publishing in *The Seminole Flyer*. Please submit your suggestions to SeminoleRadioControlClub@gmail.com in Word format. Thank You.

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