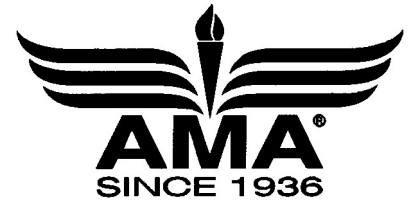


The Seminole Flyer



Charter member of the Academy
of Model Aeronautics since 1969

AMA Charter Club 216



December 2015 Holiday Issue

A Note from Our Outgoing President

Greetings fellow SRCC flyers! I just wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude and appreciation for your support during my two years as SRCC President. We have accomplished much during the past two years including the "Gordie Pavilion" patio extension, "Robin Pass" fence opening, painting of the shed and pavilion, power washing and of course the new fans which have given us hot weather flyers some much needed relief during the dog day summer months. We have excellent relations with the County which is critical to keeping our field (thanks Jim!). Club finances are in very good shape (thanks Bill!) and membership is increasing. I hope everyone has had a good time and appreciated the club



events, including picnics, field openings, auctions, swap meets, fun-flies and the cancer fundraisers we have had. With member support and participation these events will continue into the new year.

In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season and New Year!

Please enjoy this time of year with

your friends and family and reflect on everything we have to be thankful for. Please consider reaching out to friends and family who you may have lost touch with as life is much too short.

Warm Regards and happy flying!

Mike Levine, 2015 SRCC President

A Message from Our New President

I wish you a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" and am hoping Santa brought you lots of new toys to try out at the field. We all need to express our appreciation to last year's elected officers, appointed officers, workers and volunteers. As a result of their efforts we have a strong club and a beautiful place to fly.

A friend of mine, who has been a member of the club for a very long time, gave me some sage advice: "Jay, the only thing the members of this club want to do is fly and have a nice place to fly. Don't change a



thing!" Well, actually, I do want to change some things, but I don't believe my ideas to be contrary to "fly and have a nice place to fly." I would like to share my goals as your club president for the coming year:

1. Increase member participation at the meetings and club events.

I intend to do this by making our meetings more interesting. For example, our next meeting is Thursday, January 21, 7PM, at Beef O'Brady's. At this meeting we will have "Show and Tell." I am asking any

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member who would like to bring anything they want related to the hobby. For example, bring a build in progress, a new to the club plane, a lighting system you would like to share. We'll put it on a table for display. Depending on the number of participants, the member will be asked to make a 1-3 minute presentation about their exhibit. We might even be able to find a door prize to associate with this!

Our bylaws require that many of our club functions be handled by a committee chaired by a club officer. For example, one duty of the vice president is to chair the Events Committee. In the past our events have been put on by the vice president and/or the president with help from their wives. Folks, that's just not right. If we are going to have events, we will have a committee of workers to share the load.

2. Finish the 2016 year with the budget in the black.

This goal is in no way a criticism of the expenditures we made in 2015. We did some really nice and necessary infrastructure projects. I voted for every one of them and I'm delighted that we had the resources. We have a great division of opinion in our club over whether we have too much money and should spend a bunch, or whether we need to maintain a healthy balance for future field issues. If we continue to spend at the 2015 rate, this issue won't matter. We'll be broke!

3. Continue to enhance our relationship with the county.

Jim Ogorek has done an excellent job representing our interests to the county. He will be attending an important pair of meetings on January 6th. We look forward to his report.

Many of us have experienced aggravation the last several months by showing up to fly the day before a scheduled track event only to find the field not flyable because of setup activities for the event. We are already working to improve communication with the county, and within the club, to minimize this irritation.

This missive has gotten way too long. I welcome your ideas and comments, preferably by phone 850-228-8759 or email moonangelb@gmail.com. Remember, when I'm at the field, I like to fly too. And, for those voices that are already saying "been there, done that, didn't work then, ain't gonna work now;" please remember - as your president - I reserve the right to fail.....or not!

Jay Wiggins

Club Meeting News

Matthew Hendrix, Secretary

Call to Order

President Mike Levine called the December 17th, 2015 meeting of the Seminole Radio Control Club to order at 1910 EST (7:10 PM Eastern Time)

Board Members:

Mike Levine – President
Randy Yarborough – Vice President
Matthew Hendrix – Secretary
Bill Ashbaker – Treasurer & Editor (Not Present)

2015 Club Calendar

Museum of Florida History Children's day: Jan 31st 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Perry Swap meet: Friday March 6th and Saturday March 7th.

Annual field opening, picnic and swap meet: Saturday March 14th

Memorial Day weekend warbird meet: Sunday May 24th

*4th of July firecracker fun-fly and contest: Sunday July 5th.
2nd annual "Believe in a Cure" fundraiser and fly-in:
Sunday October 4th*

Veteran's day picnic and fun-fly: Saturday November 14th
Training calendar: Saturdays 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM or by appointment

New Member and Visitor Introductions

- Visitors and new members
 - o The club welcomed new members Mike, William (Bill), and Charles. We're pleased to have you with us!

Secretary Report – Matthew Hendrix
(mhendrix85@gmail.com)

- The November 19, 2015 minutes were approved as posted in the Newsletter.

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Treasurer Report - Bill Ashbaker

(bill.ashbaker@comcast.net) – Not Present

- 2016 dues are due! (\$60)
 - o Please don't forget to pay dues.
- Bank Balance & General Upcoming Expenses
 - o No major expenses are expected.
- The report was read by Secretary Matt Hendrix and approved.

Safety Officer Report – Jim Ogorek

(jim.ogorek@yahoo.com)

- The county meeting with the development committee has been moved to January 6th. Jim, as county liaison, will be present at the meeting. This meeting will discuss the future plans at the Apalachee Regional Park.
- No safety incidents reported.

Field Marshal Report – Gordie Meade

(lmeade@fsu.edu) – Not Present

- The field has been in tip top shape. Thank you Randy for continuing to support Gordie during his time away.
- Randy was interviewed by WXTL for comments and information to the community on the latest FAA UAS registration. The registration has opened as of December 21st.
- Randy reported some minor damage (ruts) near the edge of our field from the delivery of heavy equipment for a non-SRCC event at the track & field area. The area will be sanded in.

Training Coordinator Report – Geoff Lawrence

(4knkc@comcast.net)

- Saturday's 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

- Training equipment update
 - o All planes are in working order, including the Glider.
- Thanks to Geoff for having the trainers going and for helping out the new members.

Old Business

- Nominations were finalized for the election.

New Business

- By majority vote, the new officers for 2016 are:
 - o Jay Wiggins (President)
 - o Mike Levine (Vice President)
 - o Matt Hendrix (Secretary)
 - o Bill Ashbaker (Treasurer)

Congratulations to all and we look forward to the new year of flying!

- There was a lot of discussion of growing events at the field, particularly new and large unannounced events. Jim informed that he would discuss improving communication from Ms. Leigh Davis moving forward.

Next Board meeting

TBD

Next Club meeting

7:00 PM, January 21, 2016, at Beef O'Brady's

Adjournment

The President adjourned the meeting @ 1952 EST (7:52 PM Eastern Time).

Members and Friends News

New Club Members

Please welcome new members Bill Artz, Morris Benton Jr, Mike Picou and Piyush Kumar when you have the opportunity.

2016 Club Dues Are Due

2016 club membership dues should be paid before the end of the year. If you want to mail a check, send it to:

Bill Ashbaker
Seminole Radio Control Club
2509 Napoleon Bonaparte Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

If you prefer to use PayPal, the dues amount may be slightly higher to cover PayPal fees. If you have sufficient funds in your PayPal account, there is no extra fee. If you use your PayPal account to pay from a credit card account, the due are: \$62.10 for general membership, \$77.55 for family membership and \$21.70 for junior membership.

To pay, log on to PayPal, click the Send Money Tab and enter to:
SeminoleRadioControlClub@gmail.com

A Few Notes About Model Registration

Most of our club members are aware that almost all of our models will have to bear an FAA registration number after February 19, 2016, unless there are last minute changes to the FAA's interim rule requiring model RC aircraft registration. There is an online registration process to get your unique number. Registration is accomplished online at www.faa.gov/uas/registration. The interim federal rule states:

- All aircraft that are flown using a ground control system, such as a transmitter, are required to participate. This includes fixed-wing aircraft, not just multirotors or drones.
- Any pilot flying models weighing between 0.55 pounds (250 grams) and 55 lbs is required to register.
- You are not required to register each aircraft individually. You only need to register once and affix your registration number to all your aircraft.
- You must mark all aircraft with your registration number. The number can be inside the aircraft, such as a battery hatch - but should not require tools to access.
- You must be a minimum of 13 years old to register.
- There is a \$5 fee to register, which is waived if you register before January 20th.
- You only need to register once every 3 years.

This interim rule only applies to hobby radio controlled model aircraft. A different process is being developed by the FAA for commercial use and larger aircraft.

What Does the AMA Advise Us To Do?

The AMA does not want AMA members to have to register models; however, the FAA has ignored AMA comments so far. Congress passed a law in 2012 that exempts model aircraft from new regulation. AMA argues that the new registration rule runs counter to Congress' intent in Section 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, otherwise known as the "Special Rule for Model Aircraft."

The AMA is pursuing legal and political remedies to address this issue. The AMA has petitioned the U.S. Court

of Appeals for the District of Columbia to review the FAA's interpretation of the "Special Rule for Model Aircraft." The AMA questions whether the FAA has the authority to expand the definition of aircraft to include model aircraft; thus, allowing the agency to establish new standards and operating criteria to which model aircraft operators have never been subject to in the past. Herein lies the rub. The FAA maintains that their interim rule does not convey new regulation, but authority they have always had. The fallback position for the AMA is that our AMA member numbers would be our registration numbers if, in fact, we have to register.

The AMA is asking all members to delay registration until the court of appeals rules or until February 19th, whichever is earlier. It is very important to note that the AMA is not asking us to defy the interim rule, only delay until the last minute to see if there is a favorable court ruling.

What Is the FAA Position?

OK, let's set aside the word "drone" for a while. It is confusing to the general public and model enthusiasts alike. The FAA calls any unmanned aircraft controlled from the ground an unmanned aircraft system (UAS). This includes all of our RC models.

So, how can the FAA legally require us to register in spite of the "Special Rule for Model Aircraft?" Well, it turns out that the FAA is basing their interim rule on old existing laws, not new ones. Since 1926, the FAA has had authority over the operation of any aircraft capable of sustained flight in national airspace. Federal law and regulations do not distinguish how big or how small an aircraft is or whether it is manned or unmanned. The bottom line is that the FAA has had regulatory authority over our models for decades, but until FPV, has not exercised their authority.

Why Now?

Until the last few years, RC models were the denizens of clubs like ours, parks and back yards. They could not go very far or very high because they had to remain in line of sight to be controlled. Now, recent advances in micro circuitry allow the development of sophisticated, light weight and inexpensive video, stabilization and GPS

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components. And due to their simplicity, have placed multicopters in the hands of anyone regardless of knowledge and training. Now, these “drones” can fly beyond line of sight and into sensitive airspace where full size aircraft fly.

Airspace?

The FAA owns and regulates all airspace in the U.S. under federal law. If you throw a ball into the air in your back yard, you have introduced a projectile into national airspace. Of course, this is a trivial example, but it makes the point.

The FAA’s purpose is to keep all aircraft in the National Airspace System separated so individual aircraft, manned and unmanned, can fly safely without worry of collisions. The National Airspace System is very complicated and the untrained public has no clue what kind of airspace they may fly into.

The structure of airspace is very complicated. There are six airspace classes, Class A through Class G (there is no Class F). Plus, there are four categories of special use airspace. Each class of airspace has a different level of potential aircraft traffic, potential for collisions and requirements for entering it. It is the pilot’s (RC and full scale) responsibility to know what class of airspace the pilot is flying in and what is required for flying in that class. Our club is fortunate. Our club field is in Class G airspace. This means we can fly our models without con-

tacting FAA controllers for permission. We can do whatever we want and fly as high as we want within Class G airspace as long as we stay clear of manned aircraft and clouds. Keep in mind that manned aircraft can fly over our field as low as 500 feet above the ground.

A large portion of the City of Tallahassee of Tallahassee is in Class C airspace from the ground up (within 5 miles of the airport). We cannot fly in Tallahassee without two-way radio communication with air traffic control and permission to enter the airspace. Airspace designations/locations can be determined from an aeronautical chart.

You may have noticed the recommendation in “Know Before You Fly” literature from the FAA and AMA that RC aircraft stay below 400 feet above the ground and outside of 5 miles from an airport. These recommendations are for flyers that do not know what class of airspace they are flying in.

So, Where Does This Leave Us?

Our club must comply with federal law. This is required by our lease with the county. Once again, the AMA is not asking members to defy federal law. They are only asking members to wait until the federal court makes a decision or February 19th whichever comes first. If the federal court does not rule by February 19th. This issue is moot and we must register.

— Bill Ashbaker bill.ashbaker@comcast.net

Seminole Radio Control Club

Tallahassee, Florida

Officers

President	Mike Levine southwoodmike@yahoo.com
Vice President	Randy Yarborough rdyarborough@gmail.com
Secretary	Matthew Hendrix mhendrix85@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bill Ashbaker bill.ashbaker@comcast.net
Field Safety Officer	Jim Ogorek jim.ogorek@yahoo.com
Field Marshal	Gordie Meade lmeade@fsu.edu
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
Mike Levine 860-922-4050	Jim Ogorek 850-766-2477
Jeff Owens 850-644-4765	Matthew Hendrix 954-448-2738
Bill Ashbaker 850-656-5932	

Field Hours

Electrics/Sailplanes	9:00 AM till 9:00 PM
Gassers/Nitros	12 Noon till Dusk
Electric Service	8:30 AM till 9:15 PM

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.

www.seminolerc.com