
The Seminole Flyer



AMA Chartered Club 216, Founded in 1969



A Gold Leader Club for over ten years

In This Issue

- Unauthorized use of our field - Jay Wiggins
- Report from the Southeastern Model Show
- Upcoming Events
- Propellers - Steve Warmath
- January Financial Report
- Club Meeting News

Next Club Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2026
The Wine House
1355 Market Street

UNAUTHORIZED USERS OF OUR FIELD

Jay Wiggins

In my last email to club members, I detailed three incidents where unauthorized people were using our facilities. I also described the excellent support we received from county employees. Additionally, I pointed out that policing our field is not the responsibility of the county. The responsibility belongs to all members. Let me share a couple of ideas on how you can help with this situation. Maybe you have some ideas that you would like to share.

Let's start out with our own, club adopted, Operational Rules. Rule #2, "Members shall always display SRCC badges....." We all know, that as a club, we are not very good at consistent badge display. We need to tighten up on this. Our club is large enough that

no one knows everyone else in the club. I think the implication of this as it relates to the problem is pretty obvious.

Rule #3, "Visitors are always welcome." During our special events I have always been super impressed with the warm, outgoing, welcome that members give to visitors. It's fantastic! But special events are not when unauthorized use is going to happen. During daily flying, I would say that we are somewhat inconsistent with our welcome to visitors. It's everyone's responsibility as a club member. Chat up the visitor; tell them about the training program and website. The rest will fall in place. If their intentions were not in line with our club's values and rules, they will get the message.

Scenario(s): you arrive at the field, you are the only member there, and bad stuff is going on. Certainly, stay within your comfort zone and use your instincts. OK, you get to the field and there are two guys sitting on the tables drinking beer. Give them a hearty welcome to the SRCC. Then "see my badge, I'm a member. We love it that you are here but the alcohol etc., etc." Recruit them for training, show them the sign on the back of the notice board. Since you did not start out by ordering them to leave, there has been no confrontation, no challenge to authority. That will probably be the end of it. The next time you get to the field, mom is out there with preteen son tearing up the runway with his new RC rock crawler trucks. It's basically the same approach as the beer drinkers. Throw in a nod to the RC truck course at Tom Brown Park. If you get a little lip about public property, show her the sign and point out that it is co-authored by Leon County. Unfortunately, your third trip to the field you find some idiot with his truck parked crosswise in the handicapped zone and his green jet is flying over the grinding station. Go to the pilot and immediately offer to help. "Wow, you are way out of the safety zone. Let me help. Get some altitude and turn left etc., etc." Try to get him safely on the runway. Then go into the spiel as previously described.

Last scenario: You start hearing the music as you pass the scale house. You arrive at the pavilion and there are 100 people, 5 kegs, and folks dancing naked on the tables. Either join the party or call the cops! If you join the party, please do not wear your badge.

Let's try to maintain the integrity of our facility by simply tightening up and being proactive. It has been suggested to me that we padlock the gate at our driveway. Think about it. That is a pain in the rear and opens a whole 'nother can of worms.

Report from the Southeastern Model Show

Jeff Owens

The Southeast Model Show, aka the Perry Swap Meet, was held on February 27-28, 2026 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, Georgia. Three buildings were packed with a wide variety of RC models and equipment ranging from the spectacular to the overly used - there was something for everyone. I was there representing the Senior Pattern Association, Frank Bastos and his staff were selling FMS models as fast as they could - their many tables were a hub of activity just two rows over from where I was. Steve Warmath, assisted by his brother Russ, was in one of the buildings next door and reportedly had a successful time thinning out his hangar. One of the SPA members there was thinning out his collection of sport model kits and club member Rhett Boudreaux purchased two of them. The photo below shows the SPA table with a Phoenix 7 (sold), a Dirty Birdy fuselage that I bought to go with a wing that I have, another Dirty Birdy (red) and a Miss Norway. If you look closely you can see Frank Bastos in the background near a pile of FMS kits.

The action started at 8:00 AM on Friday and there was a good crowd early on. Lots of models could be seen being carried out to the parking lot. Things quieted down by late afternoon and then it was time to head to a local restaurant to refuel. The crowd on Saturday was somewhat smaller and the activity died down by about noon as vendors started packing up. If you haven't been to this event, you really should consider going some year. It is quite a scene and you might just find your next model or perhaps that useful tool that you never knew you needed!



Upcoming Events

Jeff Owens

Our traditional opening Day Fun Fly will be held on Saturday March 21, 2026. This is a perfect opportunity to get started with flying in the new year. And just maybe you can find a buyer for the stuff you bought at Perry but now no longer want!



**Seminole RC Club
Spring Field Opening**


Fun Fly March 21, 2026

Flying from 8:00am until dusk
Public Invited. Flight Training 10:00am-1:00pm
Lunch served from 11:30am- 1:00pm while supplies last
\$10 per adult, \$5 per child 10 and under.
Apalachee Regional Park, Tallahassee, FL
Directions and map can be found at www.seminolerc.com



All fliers must have current AMA membership
Normal AMA and SRCC safety rules apply



Props- 2 Blade vs. 3 Blade-

Steve Warmath

Ever wonder why some planes have 2 bladed props and others have 3? Here is a summary and breakdown of the differences between them and how to decide what's best for your type aircraft and flying style.

Choose 2-blades if:

Maximum efficiency matters (fuel or battery).

You prioritize top speed and simple mechanics.

Choose 3-blades if:

You want better low-speed thrust or climb/acceleration.

You want smoother, quieter operation.

You operate in tight spaces or want a smaller diameter.

Blade *pitch* and *diameter* are equally, if not more, important than blade count. A poorly matched 3-blade can under perform a well-matched 2-blade.

RC Planes

2-Blade

Pros

Best efficiency → longer flight times

Higher top speed

Less load on motor & ESC

Lighter weight

Cheaper

Cons:

Slightly less static thrust (takeoff & vertical climb)

Can be noisier at high RPM



Best For:

Trainers
Sport planes
Gliders
EDF-style prop conversions
Long flight duration setups
High-speed planes

3-Blade

✓ Pros

More static thrust (better takeoff & vertical climb)
Shorter takeoff roll
Smaller diameter possible for same thrust
Often smoother sounding

✗ Cons

Slightly lower efficiency
Shorter flight time
Higher amp draw (watch your ESC!)

Best For:

Scale warbirds (looks realistic)
STOL/bush planes
Short runways
Aerobatic planes needing punch
When ground clearance is limited

Important: Motor & Battery Matter More

Adding a blade increases load on the motor.

When switching:

A 3-blade of same diameter/pitch will pull **more amps**.
Often you need to drop diameter or pitch slightly

Example: 2-blade 10x6 → try 3-blade 9x6 or 10x5



Quick Rule of Thumb

If you want:

- **Speed + flight time → 2-blade**
 - **Thrust + climb + realism → 3-blade**
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A Reminder about FMS Models

Jeff Owens

While I was at the Perry Swap Meet I had the opportunity to speak with Frank Bastos about FMS models. They had multiple tables piled high with kits. He pointed out that most of these were returned items. Some had never even been taken out of the box! A typical scenario is that someone orders a kit online, then sees that it needs to be assembled, radio equipment purchased, etc. This seems to be daunting a task, so the kit is returned. Frank then sells it at a discounted price. Others have been assembled but not flown and still others have been flown and may be damaged. So, these kits range from pristine condition to those that are good for parts only. Frank has these at the warehouse and he urged club members to go there for some really good deals. He is there most days from the morning until about 2:00 PM. If he is not there, then his staff can help. Check it out for some great bargains!

Club Meeting News - Jeff Owens

The February meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Jay Wiggins on February 19, 2026 with 8 members present.

Member recognition - Ken Kushner for handling the garbage detail; Gordie for overseeing the mower maintenance and for mowing.

President's comments - rules for glider operations were discussed. Basically, winch operations will be aligned with the flight line (east or west depending on wind.) Otherwise, normal operating rules apply. That includes the rule that unpowered models have the right of way over powered models. Unauthorized use of the field was discussed. Jay will provide an article for the newsletter (see the lead article in this issue.)

Treasurer's Report - Jay for Marcy - the December financial report was approved as published.

Secretary's Report - Jeff Owens - the minutes of the January meeting were approved as published. The 2026 Gold Leader Club renewal has been received by AMA. At a recent Leader Member meeting with AMA Staff two items were discussed. One has to do with a recent announcement making all foreign supplied UAS parts illegal. No one is really sure what this means as there is no unique definition of a UAS part as opposed to, say, a part for a "toy." AMA Staff are following up on this. The other item has to do with an announcement of TFRs (temporary flight restrictions) that would be within 3000 feet of mobile law enforcement operations (e.g. ICE actions.) These would not be announced, so it is not clear how anyone would actually know about them. The policy is likely to be unworkable. Again, AMA Staff is following up on this.

Training Report - Steve Warmath - four TAG events are planned for this year. Dates will be posted on the web site as they become available.

Field Report - Gordie Meade - the mower is working well. Mowing will be done as needed as the grass is dormant now (but not the weeds.) The runway cones will be moved past the end of the mowed runway area.

Safety Report - Jay for Mike - no issues noted.

There were no items for old or new business. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

The Seminole R/C Club Tallahassee, FL

Officers

President	Jay Wiggins (moonangelb@gmail.com)
Vice-President	Sam Varn (sgvarn@yahoo.com)
Secretary	Jeff Owens (jfolso@comcast.net)
Treasurer	Marcy Driscoll (mdriscoll@fsu.edu)
Field Safety Officer	Mike Atkinson (nexnbax1@comcast.net)
Field Marshall	Gordie Meade (lmeade@fsu.edu)
Training Coordinator	Steve Warmath (sswarmath@comcast.net)

Media Managers

Webmaster	Jeff Owens (jfolso@comcast.net)
Newsletter Editor	Jeff Owens (jfolso@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

Steve Warmath 850- 509-0672

Jeff Owens 850-545-7482

Mike Atkinson (Thursday only) 850-251-2694

Gordie Meade (helicopter) 850-528-8063

Troy Emmett (Large Aircraft) 770-546-6199

Field Hours

All Aircraft: 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset 7 days/week

Please note: Although restrictions have been removed on flying hours for fueled planes, this is on a trial basis until further notice from Leon County. All gassers and nitros must have a suitable muffler.
