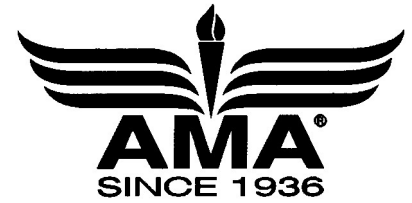


The Seminole Flyer



Charter member of the Academy
of Model Aeronautics since 1969

AMA Charter Club 216



50 Years of Responsible Model Aviation and Community Support

July 2019 Issue

A Call for Help



Topsoil is spread on our new runway . . . Photo by Geoff

Our new runway needs your help! Saturday, August 3, we will have a "work day" to pick up the rocks and sticks on the runway. Actually the "day" will only be from 8 AM to 10 AM. Wear outdoor shoes, bring a pail or bucket, and gloves if you wish. Rich is providing buckets and pickup sticks for those who want to use them. Drinks will be provided. This is

your field. The rock you pick up may just be the one that is waiting to trip up and crash your nice new ARF. I am asking that every club member who is not OOT on vacation to stop by for a while. Even if you only stay 5 minutes and pick up one rock, your should "vest" your interest in your new field.

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The final truck load count for the runway is 360! That's 6,480 cubic yards of dirt. More will be brought in when work starts for the grade of the new pavilion etc. As you know, the day after the runway was seeded started two days of gully washer rain. Because of this, the seed germination has been quite varied throughout the runway. There does get to be more and more Bermuda all over the area from sprigs. Tere is prepared to re-seed the areas that have not come up. It's not quite time yet, but Rich is

ready to fertilize. Rich also has the water truck ready and will water if we should enter into another period of drought.

OK folks, the county has done all this for us and we have not lifted a shovel. You should be there to help Saturday the 3rd, even if you only stay a few minutes and pick up a few rocks.

Come, be a part of it all,

— Jay Wiggins

Club Meeting News

Jeff Owens, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 PM on Saturday July 20, 2019 by President Jay Wiggins. This meeting was held at the field as part of the annual July BBQ and night-fly event.

Member Recognition – Jeff Owens, Mike Picou, and Gordie Meade for placing 1st, 4th, and 7th in the Intermediate Class at the AMA Pattern Contest at Hodges Field on June 1-2, 2019; Board of Directors for work pertaining to the new field; Jim Ogorek – for obtaining and distributing the new Club tee-shirts; Rhett Boudreaux for obtaining supplies for the BBQ event; Troy and Faith for scoring and pylon racing organization; Bill Ashbaker for his ongoing work on documenting the history of the Club and writing the Newsletter; Gordie Meade for mowing and field maintenance and aerial photos of the new field site; Ed Budzyna for supplying Krispy Kremes for the pylon racing event and ice for the BBQ event; Randy Yarborough for emptying the Club trash cans; and last but certainly not least, Jay and Benita Wiggins for preparing and bringing the food for the BBQ event!

Secretary's Report – Jeff Owens – The minutes of the June meeting were posted on the web in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved as posted.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Bill Ashbaker gave the Treasurer's report. The report was approved.

Safety Report – Jim Ogorek reminded the Club members that when flying an electric plane DO NOT lean over the plane with a transmitter attached on a neck lanyard. You may inadvertently bump the throttle control and the prop could hit hit you – and this may cause severe injury!

Old Business – none

New Business – There will be a field “work day” at the new flying site on Saturday August 3, 2019 from 8AM to 10AM in order to police the area of rocks, twigs, and other debris. The idea is to do this while the grass is still short and the offending FOD may be easily seen and picked up.

The abbreviated meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM in order to enjoy the BBQ dinner prepared by Jay and Benita!

Around the New Field

Jay, Jeff, Bill, Jim, Geoff and Gordie plan the location of our pavilion at the new field:



Around the Field: President's BBQ & Night Fly



Troy, Jay Ed and Benita serve up the BBQ and fixin's



Everyone got their fill



Relaxing during a beautiful afternoon

Correction:



In last month's newsletter, this picture was captioned "Geoff and Family." It should have read "Geoff and Mike's Family"

In memory of late club member Mike Kinsey, Geoff flew his much loved P-47, *Tallahassee Lassie*, at the Memorial Day Fly-In. The original was flown by Major Ralph Jenkins who trained at Dale Mabry Field in Tallahassee and married a Tallahassee lady prior to deploying to the European Theater and getting six enemy kills.

The nose art was created for this model by airplane-noseart.com based on photos of the full scale replica flying in Washington State.

In the photograph is Mike's wife Sherri Kinsey and his son Michael. Michael got some stick time on his late father's favorite plane.

Seminole Radio Control Club History

Last month, I published Chapter Three of our club history in this newsletter. Chapters One through Three covered the first three decades of our club . . . our beginnings, struggles and our new field. This month we discover that our members have almost everything they dreamed of for

over three decades.

We plan to continue to publish our fifty years of history in five chapters, one decade per month. Next month, we will see the final chapter.

--- Bill Ashbaker

Chapter Four Life is Good 2000—2009

The decade from 2000 to 2009 included some of the best years ever for the Seminole Radio Control Club. We had a beautiful field, new radio technology was reasonably priced, new “almost ready-to-fly (ARF)” airplanes were introduced almost weekly and more sophisticated and reliable helicopters were available. In 2007, we marveled at the future of radio control with the proliferation of computer radios and spread spectrum technology that did not require impounding or frequency pins at the field. We saw many new models like the Align T-Rex 600 Nitro and 500 helicopters come out of testing and go into production. Young people were interested in radio control and we had strong county support.

At the beginning of the new decade, the club was evolving. At the Apalachee Regional Park on the west side of the Leon County Solid Waste Management Facility, club members worked hard to improve our flying field. After nine years at the new field, the field and facilities were so nice compared to prior decades that it was hard to envision anything better.

However, discussions with Leon County officials on moving to the top of the closed landfill that began in the 1970s continued. Leon County was thinking

long-range for the planned new regional park when the landfill was scheduled to close around 2015. In 2004, Judd Curtis, Landfill Superintendent, presented President Richard Wynn a report and map recommending that our RC field be relocated to the 92-acre capped portion of the landfill. Mike Atkinson was selected to be the club liaison with the county. He and President Richard Wynn had extensive meetings with county officials over the next two years. They developed maps of proposed facilities for our club within the park. The county promised to pay for our move. Construction of multi-purpose sports fields near the entrance to the park began late in 2004.

Mike Atkinson and John Hall served on the Citizens’ Advisory Committee for Apalachee Regional Park in 2006. The following year, the Park Use Committee met with a new consulting firm hired to design the park. The firm, Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan (PBS&J), had an impressive track record of converting closed landfills into beautiful parks, almost all of which included radio control facilities. The firm’s experience with integrating RC activities with other park activities, along with input from club members on the committee, helped to ensure that our future location and facilities would be top notch.

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Leon County executed a new multiyear lease with the club in 2005. This was a pleasant and reassuring change from the year-to-year leases that hung over our heads for ten years. The lease expanded club flying hours from noon to 9 AM to for gliders and electrics, but included provisions for five or six collegiate and high school track events per year. There were concerns over conflicts between our flying activities and large groups of athletic event competitors and spectators.

Unfortunately, county budget cutbacks announced in 2007 put field relocation on hold for five to eight years. This was a minor concern to club members who really enjoyed the existing field and facilities.

Leon County officially opened the landfill area as a park in Oct 2009 and named it the Apalachee Regional Park. The new park is anticipated to be a beautiful site for many recreational activities. The Gulf Wind Running Club began significant development just northwest of our field. The county installed fences and gates and the flying field had to be closed for major running events.

Our club thrived during the 2000s. Our hobby grew more appealing to a broad group of people and club membership grew because our facilities were attractive and radio control was easier than it was in earlier years. Membership recovered from the 1992 club split to and grew to 89 members by 2005. Membership continued to hover close to 100 members throughout the remainder of the decade and into the 2010s.

Members decided to change the club fiscal year in 2000. The fiscal year spanned January to December. This required that both Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) membership and club membership be paid by the end of the calendar year and adding to holiday expanses. The club fiscal year was moved to July through June to move away from the AMA fiscal year and reduce costs for members at year-end.

Email was almost universal by the middle of the decade. John Clark took advantage of this technology and began distributing the club newsletter, *Bernoulli's Rag*, by email in 2004. John made a minimal number of printed copies for members without internet service. This was a substantial cost saving to the club.

Club life was not perfect. The club storage shed was vandalized and the club lawn mower, trainer aircraft and other equipment were stolen in 2004. The club paid for lawn service for a few months. However, the service was expensive, over \$3,000 per year for minimal service. So, the club purchased a new mower. Richard Wynn, Mike Kinsey and Mike Atkinson spent a considerable amount of time and travel to search out a reasonably priced steel freight container to protect the new mower. Mike Atkinson located one in decent shape in Tallahassee for \$1,750. Mike Kinsey and helpers painted it and sealed the roof. It has served the club well since then.

Richard Feezel and Steve Warmath took over the club newsletter in October 2005 and renamed it from *Bernoulli's Rag* to *The Seminole Flyer*. The revised newsletter included expanded graphic and educational content under Steve and Richard. Steve Warmath and his son designed our current club logo in June 2006.

John Hall, Jay Leudecke and Tristan Seeley designed and built the long table in the center of the pavilion in 2006. All the other tables were still old fashion wooden picnic tables.

By the middle of the decade, electric aircraft became very popular. On a typical afternoon, several cars could be seen in the parking area with their hoods up with model battery chargers connected to the car batteries. John Hall installed a solar charging system on the roof of the pavilion for charging batteries in 2007 to mitigate the situation.

The Seminole Radio Control Club became an AMA gold leader club late 2009. A well-deserved distinction thanks to the efforts of Jeff Owens.

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In a broad sense, **daily club life** was not very different than it is now. Monthly club meetings were held at Grace Lutheran Church in the cool months through most of the decade. The club experimented with meeting at Tallahassee Regional Airport for a couple of months. Frank Bastos opened HobbyTown USA on Lafayette Street in 2005. A couple of meetings were held there.

HobbyTown USA moved from Lafayette Street to Thomasville road in April 2009. Monthly meetings



Frank cooking at 2006 Fun Fly

were held at the field in warm months and at HobbyTown USA during cool months. Grilled hot dogs and hamburgers became a regular feature at our club meetings at the field. When the weather turned cool in the fall, Frank hosted our monthly meetings at the HobbyTown store. He set up a grill behind the store for our meeting food.

Frank Bastos was a very generous benefactor for our club. He promoted and participated in club events. He cooked and donated valuable prizes for club events. Frank was responsible for our events making money for the club rather than costing money. The club treasury exceeded \$30,000 late in the decade due to several fund-raising events.

Some responsibility issues accompanied the significant number of new members in the 2000s. Some members would neglect to renew their club and

AMA memberships, but continue to enjoy flying. This became the decade of the *No Fly List* posted at the field. Also, gates had to be locked to restrict field access outside of flying hours. Failing to lock the gates in the evening was an on-going issue.

Of course, there is always some social friction. Club officers had to remind members about field etiquette. One such proclamation was, "Be safe, have fun and don't piss off our landlord." Although, Gordie Meade summed it up quite succinctly, "Don't do anything stupid!"

Sadly, long time member Gerald Meyers passed away in June 2008. He was cremated and his ashes were spread at the field in a small memorial service. It was suggested the club recognize all our members who pass on with a memorial plaque. Sam Varn was asked to investigate options that would allow names to be added as members leave us. Sam donated a memorial plaque to be mounted in the pavilion in 2008. The plaque included several members worthy of recognition including AMA Hall of Fame member Bill Seidler, who passed in 2002, James Cutrer, one of the founding members, who passed in 2005 and Brian Campbell in 2008. Brian's ashes were also scattered at the field.



2006 Flying for a Cure

The Seminole Radio Control Club was very active both in the community and within the club throughout the 2000s. Members are most proud of the charitable events the club pursued. The club held an an-

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nual *Flying for a Cure* event each May. Initially, the beneficiary was the American Cancer Society. The club participated in our first annual Toys for Tots event in December 2009. Members enjoyed the project and it was a huge success as were the events in the following years.

Members participated in several demo flights and displays at schools, social functions and community events each year to encourage interest in our hobby and our club. The club rented a booth at the North Florida Fair in 2004 in partnership with HobbyTown USA with an exhibit featuring our club .



2006 Airfest at TLH

The club participated in the Experimental Aircraft Association Fly-In at the Tallahassee Municipal Airport each year during the mid-2000s. Eventually, safety concerns required the airport to discontinue the event.

In addition, we held club events to raise money for the anticipated club relocation in the county park. We held an annual open house. Cub scouts cooked hot dogs and hamburgers and kept their profit, so food was not an expense to the club.

Soaring was popular on Sunday mornings in the early 2000's and we held annual soaring competitions.

Helis became very popular. Helicopters became so popular that there were days when everyone at the field was flying helis. Despite growing interest in electric models, helis were almost exclusively powered with glow engines during this time period. Gordie Meade, John Hall, Jay Luedecke, Paul Lawrence and Tristan Seeley were superior heli pilots.

Gordie Meade started a series of annual heli clinics in 2002. The 2003 heli clinic event netted a profit of \$417 for the club. The club sponsored a 3D heli clinic featuring Eric Larson in 2005. Eric was a well-known expert who competed in national events.

Of course, members were always ready for fun. A very good time was had when members fashioned airplanes out of pizza boxes in 2004. Contestants spent the day competing in various contests of skill including combat, limbo and freestyle.

Also, members enjoyed an annual Float Fly-In for several years. In 2008, we held the Seminole Radio Control Club and HobbyTown USA Regional Float Fly at a lake near Calvary, GA. Frank Bastos was the contest director. The favorite for the annual event, Lake Surovec, was sold in 2009 and the annual fun came to an end.

One of the fun occasions involved the major swap meet in Perry, Georgia, each spring. The club purchased several tables for members to display items for sale or swap each year. As you can imagine, members returned with more items than they took to the event each year. It was all part of the fun and companionship.

The Seminole Radio Control Club ended the decade of the 2000s happy and healthy.



January 2005 Float Fly



Spectators at 2005 Fall Fun-Fly



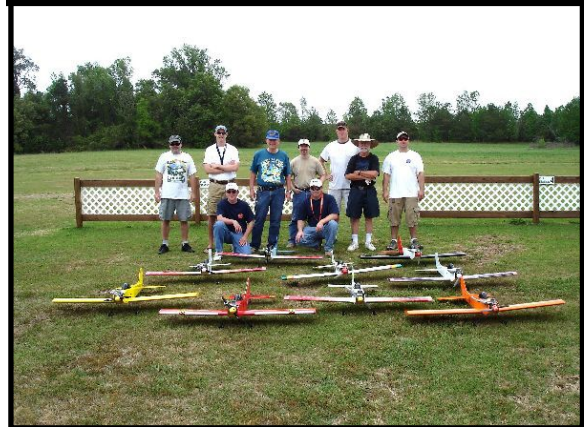
Brad, Frank, Joe & Bob at Perry Show



Field aerial in 2008 by Geoff



2005 Float Plane Fly-In



2005 Fall Fly-In



Putting in a fence in 2008



2009 Flying for a Cure

Appendix

2000 – 2009 Honor Roll of Seminole Radio Control Club Officers

| Year | President | Vice President | Secretary | Treasurer |
|------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 2000 | Richard Wynn | Bob Dee | Steve Mangum | Jeff Owens |
| 2001 | Richard Wynn | Bob Dee | Sebastian Verrier | Jeff Owens |
| 2002 | Richard Wynn | Sebastian Verrier | Bob Dee | Sam Varn |
| 2003 | Bob Dee | Mike Atkinson | John Clark | Sam Varn |
| 2004 | Richard Wynn | Mike Atkinson | John Clark | Sam Varn |
| 2005 | Richard Wynn | Mike Atkinson | John Clark | Sam Varn |
| 2006 | Mike Atkinson | Geoff Lawrence | Steve Warmath | Sam Varn |
| 2007 | John Hall | Brad Sharp | Steve Warmath | Sam Varn |
| 2008 | Shannon Black | Mike Atkinson | Steve Warmath | Sam Varn |
| 2009 | Mike Atkinson | Mike Kinsey | Geoff Lawrence | Theo Titus |

| Year | Field Marshall | Safety Officer | Newsletter Editor | Training Coordinator | Web Master |
|------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------|
| 2000 | Craig Dodson | Gordie Meade | Jeff Owens | *** | Jeff Owens |
| 2001 | Craig Dodson | Gordie Meade | Jeff Owens | *** | Jeff Owens |
| 2002 | Craig Dodson | Gordie Meade | Jeff Owens | *** | Jeff Owens |
| 2003 | Bob Burke | Marvin McRae | John Clark | Mike Atkinson | Jeff Owens |
| 2004 | Bob Burke | Marvin McRae | John Clark | Mike Atkinson | Jeff Owens |
| 2005 | Mike Kinsey | Gordie Meade | Steve Warmath | Mike Atkinson | Jeff Owens |
| 2006 | Mike Kinsey | Gordie Meade | Steve Warmath | Mike Atkinson | Jeff Owens |
| 2007 | Chris Bailey | Shannon Black | Steve Warmath | Mike Atkinson | Jeff Owens |
| 2008 | Chris Bailey | Shannon Black | Steve Warmath | Mike Atkinson | Jeff Owens |
| 2009 | Joe Satterwhite | Gordie Meade | Michael Hupp | Mike Atkinson | Jeff Owens |

NOTE: Richard Feezel was Co-Editor of the newsletter 2005 – 2008.

Seminole Radio Control Club

Tallahassee, Florida

Officers

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| President | Jay Wiggins moonangelb@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Rhett Boudreaux geobatch@aol.com |
| Secretary | Jeff Owens jfolso@comcast.net |
| 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
Jeff Owens 850-545-7482
Bill Ashbaker 850-656-5932

Jim Ogorek 850-766-2477
Mike Atkinson (Tuesday Only) 850-251-2694
Troy Emmett (Large Aircraft) 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.

www.seminolerc.com