

The Seminole Flyer



AMA Chartered Club 216, Founded in 1969



A Gold Leader Club for over ten years

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Next Club Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 2026
The Wine House
1355 Market Street

Firecracker Independence Fun Fly

Jeff Owens

This year's Firecracker Independence Fun Fly was held on Saturday July 11. The weather was beautiful, if a bit on the warm side. Numerous aircraft were present and a number of training flights were conducted with the club trainers. One focus of the event was the auctioning of Rick Sunderland's building supplies, equipment, and models. Previously, various club members had helped bring all the items from Rick's house and there were quite a few items displayed by the container as well as in the east parking lot. Just over \$1000 was raised and the funds will be equally split between the club and the Children's Miracle Network. Sam Varn and his crew did their usual fine job of providing lunch. Some pictures of the event are shown below.



Two of Ray Murtha's WW I era models



Two of Sandy Jaffe's scale helicopters



Troy examining some of the auction items



Taking a break



These two pictures show some of Rick's planes that were auctioned off. Others included an FMS Tigercat and a ready to fly electric glider, neither of which had been flown.



Above and right - two students who received flight instruction during the event.



Left - Dennis McCurdy won the FMS 800 mm Beaver donated by Frank Bastos.

New Weather Widget on our Web Page

Jeff Owens

I was contacted by Ernie Falco of the Knox County Radio Control Club in Knoxville, Tennessee. He is a long time RC flyer and full scale pilot (he flies a Cirrus.) He also likes to develop computer apps. He has designed one that will report field weather conditions based on information from the nearest airport - KTLH in this case. The app reports winds (including crosswind components), temperature, visibility, etc. You can access this from the web site menu - it is listed as Field Weather Widget. Once on that page you can click on View Extended Forecast for a more detailed weather forecast. This page also includes various facts about our club and our field. Much of this information is also available at the Local Weather link, but Ernie's app is tailored specifically to our field. On the widget page at the bottom right is a link to get field weather alerts via the Telegram app. Click on the link and follow the directions to access the alert app. You can set weather limits (gusts, winds, etc.) and the app will alert you when the weather is good enough for flying and will advise you of the best time window for your stated conditions.

HobbyTown Returns to Tallahassee- Steve Warmath

For something a little different this month, I report on HobbyTown's return to Tallahassee at Governor's Square.

HobbyTown has returned to Tallahassee with a new location under new ownership. The previous Thomasville Road store closed in 2024, but a new HobbyTown franchise has now opened in the Governors Crossing shopping center at 1614 Governors Square Blvd.



The new store currently carries:

- RC airplanes, cars, and parts
- Archery Equipment and supplies
- Model kits
- Paints
- Games and collectibles

They are waiting for additional inventory shipments and deciding on their future inventory strategy, so check back occasionally.

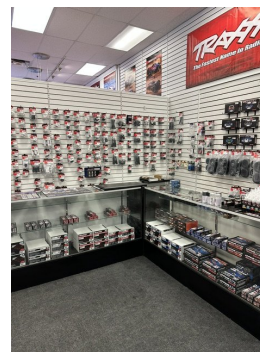
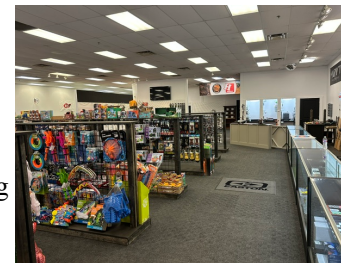
I met with Steve Smith to talk about the new store and their mission to bring back this national brand to our area. Steve, his wife Janice and son Mason have owned the Columbus HobbyTown store for eight years and decided to open a new store in Tallahassee. Their primary background has been in archery and RC cars. They also want to expand their RC aircraft presence here. They have a long history in Columbus with Frank Bastos and David Ortiz at FMS. I gave Steve information about our club including Ground School flyers, our training program, TAG events, meeting dates and our efforts to bring new members into the hobby.

Steve is very knowledgeable about all facets of the retail hobby industry and looks forward to a successful venture in Tallahassee.

Joe Satterwhite stopped in while I was there to ask a few questions about products and talk about the club.

Welcome to Steve, Janice and Mason to Tallahassee. Stop by, say hello and check out the store.

Support your local hobby shop.



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 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.
