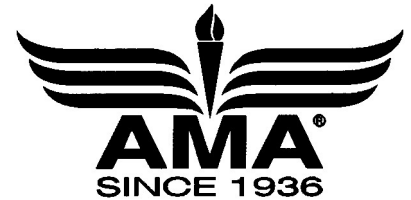


The Seminole Flyer



Charter member of the Academy
of Model Aeronautics since 1969

AMA Charter Club 216



50 Years of Responsible Model Aviation and Community Support

June 2019 Issue

Summertime . . . And It's Busy!



Competitors: Geoff, Theo, Troy, Dan, Ed, Jay, Bill, Marcy and Mike

Summertime is in full swing! We just finished the Memorial Day weekend event and the first official race in the 2019 Pylon Race series. Now, we look forward to the fun and excitement of the Firecracker Fly-In and second official pylon race on Saturday, July 6th starting at 9:00 AM.

The event will feature all of the hot dogs and fixin's you can eat from 11:00 AM 'till 1:00 PM.

The field will be closed for pylon racing for two short periods, at 9:00 AM and again after lunch. Note that the competitors are requested to put their identifying color on the bottom of their aircraft's right wing for easier identification by the judges.

For safety reasons, please use landing gear on your racer so both hands can be on your radio at launch. If landing gear is not feasible, ask another person to

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launch your aircraft.

All of the Firecracker fun will be followed by the President's Barbecue and Night-Fly on Saturday, July 20th. President Jay started this tradition a few years ago and each year the food has been unbelieva-

bly good. This get-together is actually the official July club meeting. It starts late Saturday afternoon. There will be no meeting at Beef O'Brady's on Thursday, July 18th.

Club Meeting News

Jeff Owens, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM on Thursday June 20, 2019 by President Jay Wiggins, the delay being due to the need to resolve technical difficulties with connecting a laptop computer to the large screen TV. Having resolved the difficulties, Jay gave an update on the construction of the new field.

Nearly 270 truckloads of dirt have been delivered and the smoothing and leveling are coming along well. There will be a tour for Club members on Saturday June 22 at 10:00 AM. Everyone should meet at the Landfill Office – drive in the regular Landfill entry and stay to the right. The Office is up a slight incline just past the weigh station.

There were 16 members attending.

Member Recognition – Bill for his ongoing history project in the newsletter; Robin and Randy for helping a fellow member with a medical problem; Geoff for doing the weed trimming.

Memorial Day Warbird event: Seth, Randy, Ed, Benita, Troy, and Faith for setting up for the event; Geoff for training during the event; Rhett for obtaining supplies before the event; Ed for bringing donuts and Marcy for bringing cookies; Ray for cooking.

Pylon Racing event: Troy and Faith for scoring and running the event; Jim Ogorek for cooking the hot dogs (and cleaning the cooker!); Rhett for set-up and supplies; Theo for handling the garbage detail; Dave for supplying the PA system; Jim Bussey for making

a video; Jay for cooking the corn.

There were a lot of items in the list – my apologies if I missed anyone.

Vice-President's Report – The next event is the Firecracker Fly-in on Saturday July 6, 2019. There will be pylon racing starting at 9:00 AM. A second heat will be held around 11:00 AM. The field will be open for flying in between the two heats. Lunch will be hotdogs with all the fixings (including chili) and plenty of drinks to keep everyone hydrated.

Secretary's Report – Bill Ashbaker took the May minutes, as Jeff Owens was out of town. The minutes were posted in the newsletter on the web. The minutes were approved as posted.

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

Field Marshall Report – Gordie Meade was out of town, but he left a request that if any member takes a chair to the flight line, please return it to the pavilion when finished. He doesn't like having to move the chairs back when mowing.

Safety Report – Jim Ogorek – no specific flying issues, but a recent medical event made it clear that it would be helpful to have emergency contact names and phone numbers in our member database. On a voluntary basis, please forward the information to Bill Ashbaker.

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Old Business – Jim Ogorek will have the new shirts by June 22 and he will bring them to the field. Please see him to get your shirt(s) or to make arrangements to pick them up.

Troy Emmett gave a report on the first official pylon racing event of the year. It was pointed out that we need a better set of markings in order to help identify the planes. It was suggested that the bottom of the right wing be painted with the same colors used on the tail – but do not use narrow stripes as they are hard to see. From a safety standpoint all contestants are requested to use landing gear if their planes can be so fitted. Otherwise, an assistant should be used to do a hand launch. Pilots are requested to do a short test flight to check for trim and potential problems before the start of the official racing.

New Business – On August 17, 2019 there will be another pylon racing event. After the conclusion of that it has been suggested to have an Endurance Event. Any plane with any power system is allowed. The rules are simple – be in the air when the start signal is given and last plane to land on the runway in flyable condition wins!

The July meeting will be held AT THE FIELD on Saturday July 20. There will be BBQ as in past years and a very short meeting will be held after dinner. Please sign up with Jay so that he can plan the food for the dinner.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.



Save the Date: Saturday July 6th Firecracker Fly-In

Seminole Radio Control Club History

Last month, I published Chapter Two of our club history in this newsletter. Chapters One and Two covered the first two decades of our club . . . our beginnings and struggles. This month we will continue with Chapter Three and things begin to get better.

We plan to continue to publish our fifty years of history in five chapters, one decade per month.

A special thanks to Jeff Owens, Ed Budzyna and Gordie Meade for their help this month. Enjoy. --- Bill Ashbaker

Chapter Three Triumph 1990—1999

1990 marked the beginning of the third decade of the Seminole Radio Control Club. Despite an enduring love for our hobby, maintaining the club was difficult throughout much of the first twenty years. New club President Charlie Cox, Vice President Rhett Frisbee, Secretary Rodney Senn and Treasurer Bud Bauer faced continuing difficulties after the closing of the Freeland Dairy Farm field. The club relocated to the 4 Roses Sod Farm in eastern Leon County with a monthly rent of \$50. Flying was OK until they cut the sod which left a rough surface.

Club members were desperate for a reasonable flying site. The members organized and appeared in mass at a county commission meeting to gain support for a field somewhere on the Leon County landfill property. The commission was more sympathetic than prior experiences. There were still technical environmental issues with locating the club on top of the recently closed landfill, but a three-acre field was identified on county property adjacent to the landfill on the west side.

Success! The current flying field on the west side of the Leon County landfill opened in May 1990 due to a focused group effort by club members and leaders.

The site was not considered entirely permanent. A

location on top of the landfill was still considered a possibility. So, the club was limited to a year-to-year lease with the county due to several uncertainties. Also, some club members still considered a private flying field the ideal long-term solution. Club members continued to look at options for buying a field.

The new site required a lot of manual labor. The county did not include any improvements or maintenance in the agreement with the club. Although members faced an unimproved field with lots of weeds, they were very happy. Members built a shelter with a dirt floor, cleared undergrowth, tilled and planted the runway, put up fences and installed a gate to limit access to the facilities in the first two years.



New shelter construction in 1991

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New shelter 1991

The club continued to develop the new flying field with an understanding with the county that, eventually, the club would be moved to the top of the landfill. In 1994, the club bought a riding mower and a storage shed and installed a professionally painted sign near the entrance. Members poured a concrete pad under the pavilion in 1997.

But, even with the new field, disagreements still dogged the club. In 1992, President Duane Pickle, Vice President Manny Sussa, Secretary Russell Titus and Treasurer Craig Williamson led the club to vote a one-time \$50 field assessment to fund necessary improvements. Plus, dues were doubled to \$60.00 per year to cover the costs of renting a porta-potty, field maintenance and the newsletter. The dues increase caused a huge split in the club and half of our members - about 60 of 120 - felt they shouldn't have to pay for the privilege of having a nice facility. They formed their own club and generated funds by having a coffee can on display for donations when they flew at a field north of town. They lasted about 6 months before disbanding.

Seminole RC Club community life grew increasingly more enjoyable as the 1990s progressed. Good leadership helped a lot. Rick Sunderland, John Cutrer, David Rutherford and Theo Titus took over in 1994 and Theo Titus, Bob Cannon, Delbert Bellman and Bruce Dana in 1996. Jeff Owens took over the newsletter in 1997. Bud Bauer was named the first treasurer separate from the secretary in 1990. The club constitution was revised in 1993 to reflect a new

dues and membership structure. The club treasury grew from \$8,809 to \$12,651 over the decade.

The internet became the rage in the 1990s and Jeff Owens developed a club site and became the first club webmaster in 1998.

Because the club had a nice, relatively permanent field, community outreach efforts dwindled in the 1990s. Community outreach was recognized as good, but the stress of finding a flying site was off. Members' time was consumed with improving and enjoying the new field. Consequently, club membership did not grow after the 1992 split. Membership remained about 50 members through the rest of the decade.

The site for monthly meetings changed from TalTran to the Florida Baptist Children's Home and back to the TalTran Building. Monthly meetings moved to Dave's RC Hobbies in 1992. Later, monthly meetings moved to the YMCA building until 1998 when monthly meetings were held at the field in warm months and at Grace Lutheran Church during cool months.

Pam and Allen's Hobby Shop closed in 1992.

Pattern flying, helicopters and soaring continued to be popular. Monthly soaring contests were held through 2002.



1993 Glider contests

The club held a series of fun-fly events in 1992. Competition included several classic model contests

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such as limbo, spot landings and bomb drops. The club went crazy with a series of combat events in 1993. Aircraft were constructed from foam board. Several were mass-produced by members in marathon sessions at Ed Budzyna's house.



A few cub members in 1995. See if you can pick out Gordie Meade, Rick Sunderland, Gary Baldwin, Mike Picou, Ed Budzyna

Glow engines were the kings of power for models from the beginnings of RC through the 1990s. However, something new was evolving. Small electric motors were available as early as the 1970, but there was nothing reasonable to power them. New high energy density batteries were being developed in the electronics industry in the 1990s. This development was driven by the desire for smaller, high-capacity batteries for the relatively new home computer and portable electronic device industries. New lithium polymer (LiPo) batteries in the "wallet pack" config-

uration were quickly adopted in the RC model industry. For the first time, something other than nitromethane/alcohol was available to power models. LiPos had a reasonable weight and capacity unlike previous nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd) and nickel metal hydride (NiMH) rechargeable batteries. LiPo batteries were destined to drive the next major change in model aviation.

Because electric models did not involve liquid solvents such as nitromethane, the door was open to developing RC aircraft constructed of various foam materials. This in turn opened the way to ready-to-fly (RTF) models and diminished the need to build balsa/MonoKote models from kits. Club members were quick to embrace the new models that took minimal time from purchase to flying. Members hailed this trend as less work, more fun. However, the new electric models discouraged learning basic skills in model building. Some viewed this as a tragic loss.

The decade ended with Richard Wynn as president, Dave Sellers as vice president, Rick Pepper as secretary and Jeff Owens as treasurer. The club added two new officers in 1999. Craig Dodson became the first club field marshal and Gordie Meade became the first club safety officer.

The club advanced from survival mode to improving the quality of the club experience during the 1990s. Many of the conveniences we take for granted in recent years were put in place in this decade.

Around the Field at Memorial Day Event



Geoff and family



Old friends



Tryin' and flyin'



Marcy up to her elbows in airplane



Who's going to fly it?

Around the Field: First Pylon Races



Audience



Pilots' Meeting



They're Off!



Theo's game face



Jay on roast corn duty



More please



Gathering strength for the next race

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.

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