

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 will be held on Saturday July 11. This year we have moved it by one week so as to avoid interfering with the July 4 holiday. Come early and fly often. It is likely to be hot, so the luncheon time has been moved slightly earlier. See Steve Warmath's colorful flyer posted on the next page.

No July Meeting

Jeff Owens

As in past years, there will be no July meeting. It is expected that there will be lots of family and vacation events, so we will skip the meeting for July. Have fun out there!

Happy Fourth of July!



Seminole RC Club

Firecracker Independence Fun Fly

★ ★ ★ July 11, 2026 ★ ★ ★

Flying from 8:00am until dusk

Public Invited. Flight Training 10:00am-1:00pm

This is an AMA TAG (Take Off and Grow) event. Club instructors will be on hand to provide flight training to all visitors in attendance.

**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

Ruko Tracking Device

Jeff Owens

I was recently in Knoxville for a Senior Pattern Association contest and was practicing on Friday before the event. One of our members lost orientation and crashed in a heavily forested area bounded by a river. The terrain down to the river was steep and densely wooded. Those of us who saw the crash figured that one was lost. But Norm was using a FrSky radio that showed received signal strength. He started down hill toward the suspected crash site and saw the signal strength increasing. After a bit it started to decrease, so he backtracked and headed in a new direction. Again, the signal strength increased for a bit and then decreased. He kept this up until he walked right up to the wreckage - located about 6 feet from the shore of the river!

For those of us with transmitters that do not show received signal strength there is the Ruko R111 gps tracker. Originally designed for drones flying at non-FRIA sites, it is small enough and light enough to fit in most of our models. And in the event of a crash you can use your iPhone to locate the plane! I know that many of you probably think I mistyped Roku (the TV streaming device) but this really is Ruko - confusing. However you can check it out at Ruko.net. Look for the Remote ID tracker. It is on sale for \$33.99. It is battery powered and can be velcroed in the plane to enable easy switching between models.

Ray Murtha's T-28 Story

Ray Murtha posted an interesting story on our Facebook page about a T-28 model he was involved with. Check it out!



Ground Handling & Gyro Killer- Steve Warmath

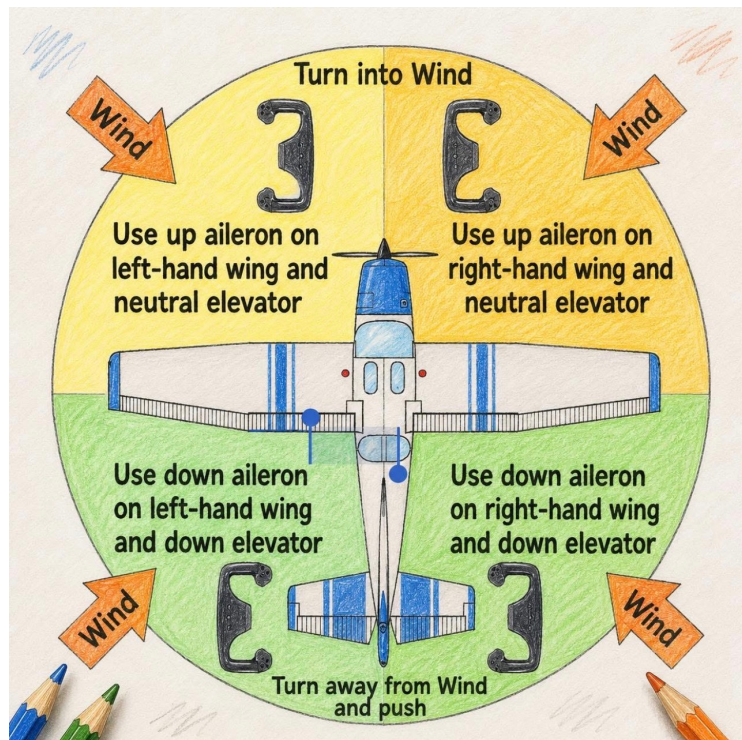
You have a bit of cross wind at the field as you taxi out to the runway for takeoff and suddenly the plane tips over onto one wing or completely overturns, possibly striking the prop on the ground. This can happen to both tail draggers as well as tricycle gear planes. The light weight aircraft are particularly susceptible to crosswind conditions. Taking a lesson from full scale aircraft and using a little forethought, you can improve your ground handling to overcome this problem. The illustration shows corrective control inputs for different wind conditions.

For taxiing tail draggers, use full up elevator to keep the tail wheel in full contact with the ground to help with steering. As you start your takeoff roll, take out elevator and allow the tail to rise and begin steering with rudder. Lifting off the ground with full up elevator is a recipe for disaster. Don't do it.

Gyro Killer

There are tons of used things for sale in our hobby such as planes, helicopters, engines, motors and electronics, etc. One item that caught my eye for the more advanced fliers is the **AS3X/SAFE** receivers. If you pick up one of these receivers, used, and install it in that new bird you just bought, **BEWARE**. **Steffanrc** on YouTube explains what can go wrong with this scenario if you don't take some corrective actions first. Good advice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phvkd6W2S7I>



Club Meeting News - Jeff Owens

The June meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Jay Wiggins on June 18, 2026 with 14 members present.

Member recognition - Steve Warmath for event flyers, setup, TAG events, and newsletter articles; Jeff Owens for the newsletter, event pics, event breakdown; Sam Varn for organization, food, and cooking at the Memorial Day event; Ray Murtha for setup, cooking, and breakdown; Marcy for collecting lunch funds; Noble Carter for donating an airplane; Sandy Jaffe for weed eating; Geoff Lawrence for training and sign retrieval; Dr. Mike for training; Gordie Meade for field prep; Joel Nelson for cooking and breakdown; Ed Budzyna for donuts; Ken Kushner for garbage detail; Jeff and Jay for safety sign retrieval; Dennis McCurdy for setting up flags at the pilot stations.

President's Report - Jay Wiggins - Aeration has been completed and the mowing of the runway has been done. The runway was rolled as part of the aeration process. Fire ant treatment has been completed. Top dressing is on the schedule. We will be notified when the sand arrives.

Vice President's Report - Sam Varn - everything is being prepared for the July 11 Firecracker Independence Fun Fly.

Treasurer's Report - Marcy Driscoll - the April financial report was approved as published.

Secretary's Report - Jeff Owens - the minutes of the May meeting were approved as published.

Training Report - Steve Warmath - The TAG grant from AMA came in at \$1000 accompanied by new event reporting rules. Only 28 clubs got funding. Future TAG events will be incorporated with our Fun Fly and Fly-in events. There was a discussion of what to purchase with the TAG funds. This will be decided later in the year as we determine the need for new equipment. Steve also asked members to post events and stories on our Facebook page.

Safety Report - Mike Atkinson - no safety issues noted.

Field Report - Gordie Meade - a belt on the mower has broken. Rhett Boudreaux will replace it.

Old Business - none

New Business - There was some discussion of the possibility of hosting an IMAC or pattern event. RV's are ok for overnight camping. There was no further discussion as the proponents did not come to the meeting. Gordie reported that he won the Expert class in a recent heli meet and that he judged the FAI class. He will be a judge at the 2027 World Championship in Germany.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 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 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.
