

# 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**

**May 2021**



## SRCC Flying Field After Dark

*(photograph by Mike McCarty)*

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### Next Club Meeting

Thursday, June 17, 2021



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# **Grand Opening Celebration Fly-In**

## **Saturday, June 19, 2021**

### **9 AM – 6 PM**

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Celebrating 51 years of radio control flying, the Seminole RC Club will host its first organized fly-in at the new field. Prepare for pomp and circumstance, a great buffet, and a grand raffle with prizes the likes of which you've not seen before at an RC fly-in.

Come to fly, come to watch, come to eat, just come! Bring a prize to donate to the raffle; that's your pilot fee for this event. The only requirement is that the item be new. It need not be RC-specific so get your creative hats on and donate things your loved ones will enjoy.

Opening Ceremony, 11:15 AM

Fried Grouper and Shrimp Buffet, 12 Noon

Buffet is free for club members and a guest

Reservation required

Grand Raffle Drawing, 1 PM

Must be present to win

## **SRCC Wins TAG Grant**

AMA announced the award of more than \$65,000 in grants to 48 flying clubs, including the Seminole RC Club. SRCC is one of 14 clubs to receive a Take Off and Grow (TAG) grant for implementing a TAG program in the local community. According to AMA, "TAG programs provide newcomers to model aviation an opportunity to learn about the hobby as well as practice flying model aircraft with experienced club members."

SRCC's award comes thanks to Field Safety Officer and Training Coordinator Mike Atkinson, who submitted the grant application and purchased new training equipment for the club. Mike has been busy this spring instructing novice flyers, and it's exciting to see 9 new members join the club since the beginning of 2021.

## **Club Calendar**

- June 19 – Grand Opening
- TBA – Pylon Racing
- September 4 – Labor Day Fly for a Cure
- November 6 – Veterans Day Fun Fly

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# Field Safety Updates

*Mike Atkinson, Field Safety Officer*

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Membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) is required of all members. The AMA safety code specifically states:

- **“I will use an established safety line to separate all model aircraft operations from spectators and bystanders.”**

Additionally, Seminole RC Club has established the following guideline regarding the safety line:

- **“The flight line runs along the pilot station fences and extends infinitely in both directions from the ends of the fence line. The flight area is defined as north of the red and white ‘barber poles’ located at the east and west ends of the flight area. Pilots shall not allow flying aircraft to cross to the spectator side of the flight line.”**

The only aircraft authorized to fly behind the flight line are those utilizing the hover pad just west of the pavilion. That area is for hovering only. Transition to forward flight requires the pilot to move to an available flight station before entering the pattern. At that point, flight line restrictions are in force.

As training coordinator, the very first rule I teach new students is stay within the designated flying area. Novice pilots make mistakes from time to time, but we try to get them back in front of the designated flight line ASAP. A problem arises when long-time RC pilots, some of whom are “instructor quality” pilots, blatantly disregard the established rules. It doesn’t matter if you are over the runway, east of the runway, or west of the runway, the flight line still exists. Some pilots fly in an arc, crossing the flight line on the east and west areas, but keep the aircraft in front of them over center of the runway. This is a violation. Some pilots prefer to make a left hand approach on landing, so they swing over the flight line at the east side to make the landing approach. This is a violation.

Additionally, First Person View (FPV) flight also includes the same designated flying area. All FPV flight requires a spotter to maintain visual contact with the aircraft at all times. This means a spotter looking at a video monitor to visualize what the pilot is seeing would be a violation of the rules. If the aircraft crosses the flight line, it is the spotter’s responsibility to instruct the pilot to return to acceptable airspace.

Friends, this is not a hard rule to follow. Please make it a point to stay within the designated flying areas.

Happy Flying! - Mike



## Meet Amanda Heidecker

**Amanda Heidecker** has been promoted to become the new Director of County Parks & Recreation, leaving the Leon County Division of Tourism/Visit Tallahassee. Since 2013, Amanda has been a vital part of the Tourism team and has been instrumental in developing Apalachee Regional Park and bringing national exposure and prestigious cross-country championships to Tallahassee—along with tens of thousands of visitors annually. Amanda is an avid runner and enjoys spending her free time with her three children.

Amanda is the County Liaison to the SRCC.



# FAMU-FSU Final Report

Jacob Pifer gave his final report to the club about the FAMU-FSU engineering students' aerodesign project.

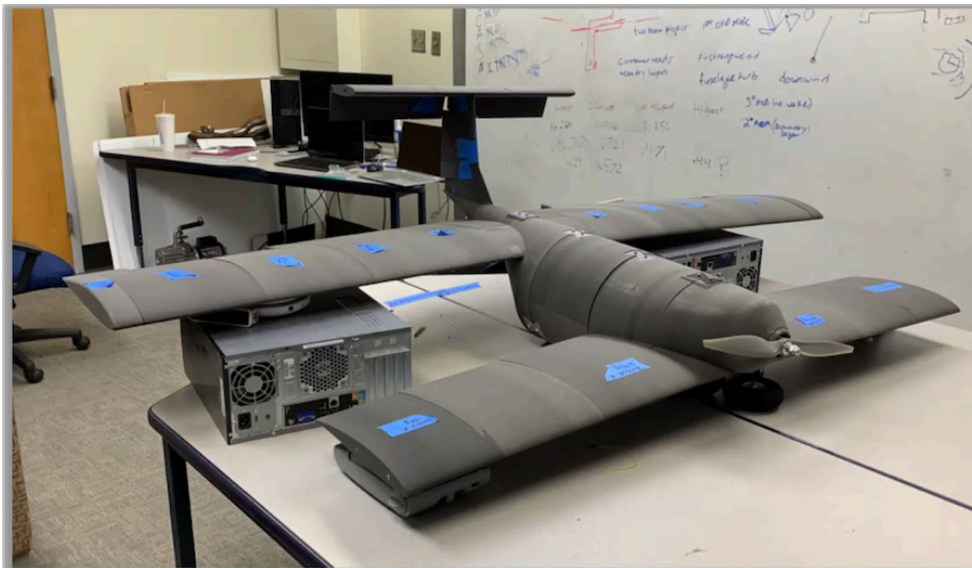
The COVID pandemic prevented the student team from competing in Lakeland, and FSU PD repeatedly denied (or ignored) their requests to make a test flight at the SRCC field.

However, the team did attempt an operations test, with mostly good results. All control surfaces worked, and the nose of the plane withstood the torque of the propeller. The center of gravity was slightly off.

## The Golden Goose



Lessons learned that the team will pass on to next year's students include:



- Having printers up and running early;
- Completing all of the CAD before printing begins; and
- Establishing professional relationships with the FSU Innovation Hub and the Seminole RC Club.

We all look forward to a successful project and competition next year!

## WANTED

News, articles, and photographs from club members about topics and projects of interest. Please send submissions for the newsletter to Marcy Driscoll, [robin.marcy@gmail.com](mailto:robin.marcy@gmail.com). I can work with most any format as long as photos are sent separately from text.

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# Club Meeting News

*Jeff Owens, Secretary*

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[Bill Ashbaker took minutes of the May meeting in the absence of Jeff Owens, who was off competing.]

This month's meeting was held with a video conference via Zoom. The meeting was called to order on May 20, 2021, by President Jay Wiggins at 7:01 PM. 24 members attended.

## Member Recognition:

Marcy Driscoll for excellent newsletters, updates, and managing Zoom for meetings;

Theo Titus and Mike McCarty for pressure cleaning the pavilion;

Bill Jones and Karen Kimel for donating items for the club auction;

Joe Satterwhite, Mike Atkinson and Jim Ogorek for assistance with setting up and conducting the auction;

Ken Kushner for taking over the club garbage detail and Randy Yarborough for helping in June;

Sam Varn for contributing toward the new signs;

Mike Atkinson for barrier fencing and training several new students and capturing a Take-off and Grow grant from the AMA;

Jeff Owens for updating our website;

Troy Emmett for reviewing our revised Operational and Safety rules and reporting errors; Bill Ashbaker for preparing and submitting the final project report for our AMA grant for our new container;

Gordie Meade for smoothing the rocks at the entrance to our new container, and all who helped with the move to the new container:

Jeff Owens, Jim Bussey, Ed Budzyna, Mike Atkinson, Tommy Lee, Mike Picou, Rhett Boudreaux, Geoff Lawrence, JoJo Edar, and Gordie Meade (for checking out the lawnmower).

**FAMU/FSU** - Jacob Pifer presented a summary of the final report of the FAMU/FSU College of Engineering model aircraft design and manufacture project. Unfortunately, the aircraft was not test flown due to technical and time related COVID administrative issues. However,

the aircraft passed all operational tests.

Jacob thanked our club for our technical assistance.

## County Liaison - Jay Wiggins

Amanda Heidecker is the new Director of Parks and Recreation. She is proving to be a friend of the club.

Field access may be a little challenging during entrance road construction, but the county assures us that we will have access during flying hours.

Field update: Electrical installation is scheduled to be completed soon. The main part of the fencing is complete. Pavilion signage is complete. The container wrap is ready. The runway and hydro-seeded areas have been fertilized.

Surplus sale: Fans from the old pavilion and the old fertilizer spreader are available for sale. Email Jay with bid.

Events and calendar: The 2021 Club Events Calendar has been revised. Four items remain on the calendar for this year - Grand Opening Fly-in June 19th, pylon racing TBA (need a volunteer race manager), Labor Day/Fly for a Cure September 4<sup>th</sup>, and Veteran's Day Fun Fly November 6<sup>th</sup>. We welcome comments on events and dates.

Grand Opening: Jay will send out an email with details. This event will include a catered lunch and is designed to involve all club members and a guest and county officials. Several committees are necessary to accomplish a celebration of this level: Decoration, Invitation, Parking, Ticket Sales, Setup/Breakdown, On-Site Food Coordination,

(continued on next page)

## *Club Meeting News, continued*

Dessert, Trash, Photography, and Grounds. Several members volunteered to lead the committees, but two volunteers are still needed.

Also, members support an appreciation lunch for the county workers who built our new field. This will depend on whether the county rules will allow workers to attend a lunch.

**Vice President's Report** - Rhett Boudreaux - Nothing new.

**Secretary's Report** - The minutes of the April meeting were approved as posted in the newsletter and on the club web site.

**Treasurer's Report** - Bill Ashbaker presented the April financial report and it was approved by the membership.

**Safety Officer / Training Officer Report** - Dr. Mike Atkinson pointed out that flying south of the safety line is prohibited by AMA rules and our club safety rules.

Mike successfully captured a \$1,000 AMA Take Off and Grow (TAG) grant for the club. It is being used to purchase training equipment.

The container still needs four corner support pads and leveling. This should be accomplished within the next few days.

**Field Marshal Report** - Gordie Meade - Nothing new.

**Newsletter** - Marcy Driscoll welcomes any articles members want to share. News about member projects is especially welcome.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

### **New Business**

Jay is investigating the possibility of installing a weather station at our field. There are several unresolved issues including: Will the county approve relocating the existing weather station? Cell service would have to be purchased. Cost?

Jay will continue to investigate and discuss in the future.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

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# Seminole Radio Control Club

## Tallahassee, FL

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### Officers

<b>President</b>	Jay Wiggins ( <a href="mailto:moonangelb@gmail.com">moonangelb@gmail.com</a> )
<b>Vice-President</b>	Rhett Boudreaux ( <a href="mailto:geobatch@aol.com">geobatch@aol.com</a> )
<b>Secretary</b>	Jeff Owens ( <a href="mailto:jfolso@comcast.net">jfolso@comcast.net</a> )
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Ashbaker ( <a href="mailto:bill.ashbaker@comcast.net">bill.ashbaker@comcast.net</a> )
<b>Field Safety Officer</b>	Mike Atkinson ( <a href="mailto:nexnbax1@comcast.net">nexnbax1@comcast.net</a> )
<b>Field Marshall</b>	Gordie Meade ( <a href="mailto:lmeade@fsu.edu">lmeade@fsu.edu</a> )
<b>Training Coordinator</b>	Mike Atkinson ( <a href="mailto:nexnbax1@comcast.net">nexnbax1@comcast.net</a> )

### Media Managers

<b>Webmaster</b>	Jeff Owens ( <a href="mailto:jfolso@comcast.net">jfolso@comcast.net</a> )
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Marcy Driscoll ( <a href="mailto:robin.marcy@gmail.com">robin.marcy@gmail.com</a> )

### 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

**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.

The Seminole Flyer is a publication of the Seminole Radio Control Club of Tallahassee, FL. We welcome and encourage items for publishing in The Seminole Flyer. Please submit your suggestions to [robin.marcy@gmail.com](mailto:robin.marcy@gmail.com) in Word format. Thank you.

[www.seminolerc.com](http://www.seminolerc.com)