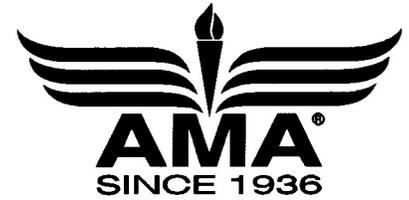


The Seminole Flyer



Charter member of the Academy
of Model Aeronautics since 1969

AMA Charter Club 216



50 Years of Responsible Model Aviation and Community Support

April 2019 Issue

It's Starting to Happen!



Aerial view of our proposed new airport by Gordie Meade. The new runway will be near the center of the large green area between the road on the left and the trees on the right. Compare with our current field circled in red in the upper right-hand corner of the photo.

Work on our new field has started. The club officers and the county staff staked the boundaries of the runway on our new field site. Several of our members have taken advantage of guided tours of the new site.

The runway area is elevated relative to the trees so we will not be enclosed like our current runway.

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Herbicide will be used to clear weeds soon. 200 truck-loads of fill dirt are scheduled to be spread and leveled on our field in May.

Grass seed will be applied after the runway is leveled. The new grass will be maintained throughout the summer, fall and winter so the runway will be ready to use when we move.

Club Meeting News

Jeff Owens, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday April 18, 2019 by President Jay Wiggins.

There were 8 members attending. The light turnout was due, in part, to Beef O'Brady's having been closed unexpectedly by the Health Department. They are due to reopen on Friday April 19.

Member Recognition – Board of Directors for work pertaining to the new field; Jim Ogorek – for repairing one of the shed fans; Rhett Boudreaux for cooking and organization of the Glow Clinic; Troy for scoring and pylon racing organization; Bill Ashbaker for his ongoing work on documenting the history of the Club; Bob Burke for replacing the foam on the model stands; Gordy for mowing and field maintenance and an aerial photo of the new field site; Randy Yarborough for volunteering to empty the trash cans.

Vice-President's Report – Rhett Boudreaux, presented by Jay Wiggins – the Glow Clinic was held on Saturday April 13. Twelve members participated. It was too windy to fly the pylon racers. The low attendance was due, in part, to multiple events that weekend including Springtime Tallahassee and Word of South. Consideration should be given to choosing a time other than early April!

Secretary's Report – Jeff Owens – The minutes of the March meeting were posted on the web in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved as posted with one correction – the March meeting date was March 21, 2019 (not February).

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

County Liaison's Report – Jay Wiggins – things are moving along. Starting on May 13th 200 truckloads of fill will be hauled in over a four day period. The leveling of the site will then allow the planting of the new grass.

Training Report – Geoff Lawrence, presented by Jay Wiggins – two Club Trainers (both are FMS Super EZs) are ready to go. New cases for the transmitters and a new box for the batteries and chargers are now available.

Field Marshall Report – Gordie Meade – the field was mowed on April 18 and is in good shape. The wooden picnic table is falling apart and is no longer usable. A motion to replace it was approved.

Safety Report – Jim Ogorek – No specific safety items were discussed. Treat your batteries carefully in the heat – they will last longer!

Old Business – none

New Business – none

Show and Tell – Theo Titus is working on a test stand to measure power consumption, rpm, and thrust developed. Stay tuned.

Jim Ogorek demonstrated a wire stripper by Vise Grip, a right-handed tape measure from Micro Mark, a cable wire cutter that works well on piano wire, and an adhesive – Multigrip – from Beacon Adhesives – see beacon1.com

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44PM.

Seminole Radio Control Club History

Last month, I published a prequel of our club history in the newsletter. The prequel set the stage for our beginnings. It described the pioneers, social and technical challenges that lead to the beginning of our club in 1969.

This month we will continue with Chapter One, the first decade, of our club. We plan to continue to publish our fifty years of history in five chapters, one decade per month. Enjoy. --- Bill Ashbaker

Chapter One Growing Pains 1970—1979

There is no complete record of the officers and members during the first decade of the new Seminole Radio Control Club. David Allen, John Alexander, Ed Budzyna, Brian Campbell, Bruce Campbell, Dale Calvin, James Cutrer, John Cutrer, Gene Densmore, Gary Gast, Geoff Lawrence, Roy McLeod, Gordie Meade, Rhett Miller, Sr. (City Engineer), Rhett Miller, Jr., Jeff Owens, Ed Roy, Rodney Scarborough, Paul Speh, Russell Spencer and Rick Sunderland are a few of the leaders who founded our club and set the course for the next several decades.

The first decade of the Seminole Radio Control Club was the time when radio control airplanes came into their own. The *Machiavellian* contraptions, such as the “Galloping Ghost” receiver, were eventually replaced with more sophisticated electronics that allowed easier and more dependable aircraft control. With new technology, improved availability and better-quality airplane kits, the popularity of RC grew, both nationally and locally. The club grew from the original twelve to close to forty members over the decade. The modest \$12.00 annual club dues helped popularity.

With the growing popularity of RC flight, Tallahassee gained a hobby shop on west Tennessee Street. H. O. Hammelman added RC supplies to the Carter Sporting Goods store inventory in the mid-70s. Brian Campbell worked at the store and was a club member. He worked to keep the store supplied with the most needed RC items.

In the 1970s, airplanes were exclusively powered with nitromethane/alcohol engines. The club bought

fuel in 50-gallon drums to save money for the members. Officers would decant it into gallon cans and sell it for \$5.00 per gallon. That was about \$3.00 cheaper than hobby shop prices. One contentious discussion resulted from a price increase to cover the cost of replacing metal gallon cans as they got lost.

Unfortunately, as members overcame one challenge



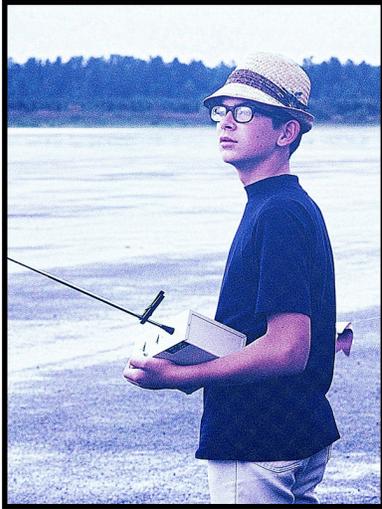
Gene Densmore with a barrel of glow fuel ready for decanting into one-gallon cans

such as difficult technology, another would rise to replace it. The popular Dale Mabry flying site was valuable land and the city began to develop it in 1972. The Seminole Radio Control Club was forced to move. The club chose an open area near the south

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**Young Rhett Miller
National Pattern Champ**

end of Appleyard Drive. This site was near the county jail and accidents could be dramatic. For instance, a slight slip of the thumb and young John Custer hit the state attorney's Cadillac with his airplane one day.

Early club members were a hardy group. Our flying sites of the early 1970s were not controlled by the club. There were no facilities. Members had to bring their own sun shades and other comfort items out for a day of flying.

Club members continued to look for a better option for a RC field. Members learned that the county was seeking federal money to develop Tom Brown Park on the east side of Tallahassee. In order to qualify, the county had to show that the area was used for recreation. The club offered to help and the county put in a small runway for the club in 1975.

The club was instrumental in helping the county win the grant. However, a power line was built across one end of the field shortly after the city received the grant. It was impossible to safely continue using the runway for RC airplanes and the club moved back to the south Appleyard Drive field. The area in Tom Brown Park was later developed into BMX and RC car race tracks.

The club continued to negotiate with the county over the loss of the Tom Brown site. Rodney Scarborough, then president of Capital City Second Na-

tional Bank, led an effort to get the county to compensate the club for effectively making Tom Brown Park unsafe to use. The county agreed to build a 100x400 feet paved runway on unused land on the far east side of the newly opened landfill on Apalachee Parkway with the condition the club agree to move when the county needed to use the area.

The paved runway was nice, but there was no road to the site. It was up to club members cut a road through the woods with axes and chain saws. They built an open sided shed for shelter. There were frequent work parties to fill holes in the access road. Flyers had to park at the edge of the woods and carry flying gear about 75 yards to the runway. The exercise was good for keeping everyone in shape. Club members were frequently subject to poignant aromas coming off the landfill. The club occupied that site from 1978 until 1984 when the county took it back.

An interesting note is that the first discussions with



Russell Spencer 1971

the county about moving the club to the top of the landfill once it was closed began in the 1970s.

Despite difficulties, club members flourished during the 1970s. The club held monthly meetings in the lobby of the City Utilities Building near the corner of Jackson Bluff and Appleyard. Rhett Miller, Jr. became pattern flying national champion four times with the help of Jim Kirkland, world champion. He was about 14 years old.

Jeff Owens started a fun-fly series with monthly

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events which were announced at each meeting. The events were challenging because there was not time to build a special model for an event between the time it was announced and the day of the event. The idea was to get more members involved and to increase collective flying proficiency. This series was very popular and it continued for several years.

Jeff also proposed and ran a level of achievement program with special pins awarded for performing progressively more complex maneuvers. Once again, the purpose was to increase flight proficiency. Level 1 was solo, while Level 6 was AMA Class C pattern proficiency. Several members were flying gliders and the club added a glider series of achievement levels. Quite a few people improved their flying as a result of the challenges in this program.

Unfortunately, things were not always perfect within the club. Controversy inevitably rises when a growing group of people develop varying visions of what an organization should be. The level of achievement program died when a group of sport flyers expressed the attitude that the program was really a "pattern" program and they wanted one of their own for sport

flyers. Of course, a loop is a loop and isn't owned by pattern flyers, but this group was against anything the club did and just wanted to be left to their own devices. They eventually left when the club moved to the current location in 1990 and raised the dues to cover construction and upkeep of the facilities.

In 1978, Jeff Owens was elected president. He initiated an effort to incorporate the club to establish some liability protection for the officers. The club was incorporated February 21, 1979. The corporate officers of state record are Jeff Owens, who was club president, Gary Gast, vice president and Rick Sunderland, secretary-treasurer. It is interesting that the secretary-treasurer was a single club officer rather than two until 1990.

With an established flying site, evolving technology and a growing, albeit philosophically divided membership, at the completion of our first decade, the Seminole Radio Control Club anticipated what the future might have in store.

Around the Field

Glow Clinic



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 imeade@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