

# The Seminole Flyer

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A chartered member of the  
Academy of Model  
Aeronautics  
AMA Charter #216, 1969-2009



"The Seminole Flyer" is a publication of the Seminole Radio Control Club of Tallahassee, Florida



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- Letter from the Editor
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- Club Calender
- Chief Treasurer Report
- Chief Scribe Report

June 2009

## Letter from the Editor- Michael Hupp

Summer is upon us and I just want to remind everyone that the sun is always worse than it appears. A few things that should always be in your field kit during the summer months is sun protection (I like Bull Frog), bug spray (Off has an Avon Skintastic knock-off that works well and does not offend the olfactory) and at least two liters of water or water-based beverage. Play it safe and you will always enjoy the flight in the summer. On another note.....SPEED KILLS (and not just people)! This is what happens when good planes turn bad.....



## Chief Pilot - Mike Atkinson

Not a whole lot to report this month. Due to the upcoming summer months, we've scaled back our organized activities due to the heat. I expect the field will be buzzing all summer long, especially with our newly added morning hours for the electric planes and gliders. Remember, the field is open from 9-noon for electrics and gliders, followed by noon to dark for all aircraft.



We do have the upcoming float fly-in scheduled for June 13th. Flying will start at 9:00 and go probably until about 2:00, later if participants desire. I won't be able to attend, but Frank Bastos can give you any information you need.

Thanks to everyone who helped with Airfest 2009. They had a lower than expected turnout for the event, but it was still loads of fun. Jeff Owens did a great job organizing the event for the club. If he hasn't purchased a new Typhoon from Frank by now, I'll be greatly surprised. We've been talking about a little better volunteer organization next year to keep from overworking the same members every time. Hard work is good. Being overworked leads to burnout!

There has been no update on the "sanding" of the runway, but I'll let everyone know as soon as I hear something.

Finally, we're trying to arrange to have a volunteer from the American Cancer Society at the meeting Thursday to receive our check. It would be great to have a large crowd of members behind the presentation, with some aircraft in front, so pictures can be submitted to AMA. So, bring your "pretty" faces to the meeting Thursday. Eat at 6:30, meet at 7:00.

Happy flying,

Michael Atkinson  
President, SRCC



## Upcoming AMA Regional Events

### Gateway RC Summer Swap Meet and Fly In

FL

6/06/09 - Jacksonville, FL (C) Gateway RC Summer Swap Meet and Fly In. Site: Club Field. John Lake Jr CD, 3917 Vacuna Road Kingsland GA 31548 PH:912-673-6713 email: theranger545@tds.net. Visit [www.gatewayrc.org](http://www.gatewayrc.org). Free admission, no charge to set up, landing fee \$5, RV parking available no hookups, concession stand open and lunch available, modern restrooms on site. Sponsor: GATEWAY RADIO CONTROL CLUB

### June FAC

GA

6/06/09 - Whitesburg, GA (A) June FAC for Cat III 501, 503(JSO). Site: NG Turf. Frank Hodson CD, 150 Hill Ave Fayetteville GA 30215 PH:770-461-9870 email: fhodson@bellsouth.net. Visit [www.thermalthumbers.com](http://www.thermalthumbers.com). Sponsor: TTOMA

### Peach Pattern Classic

GA

6/06/09-6/07/09 - Andersonville, GA (AA) Peach Pattern Classic for 401, 402, 403, 404, 406(O). Site: Mac Hodges' Field. Emory Schroeter CD, 800 Springer Dr Griffin GA 30224 PH:770-467-0221 email: rcaerobat@bellsouth.net. RV hookups available, planes up to 15 pounds allowed in Sportsman. Sponsor: FLYING GRIFFINS

### June Bug Jamboree

GA

6/07/09 - Whitesburg, GA (A) June Bug Jamboree for Cat III 101C, 102-103C, 104-105C, 124, 130, 140, 142, 160, 161, 162, 501, 503(JSO). Site: NG Turf Farm. David Barfield CD, 2000 Trophy Drive Marietta GA 30062 PH:770-977-5517 email: gollywock@yahoo.com. Visit [www.thermalthumbers.com](http://www.thermalthumbers.com). Sponsor: TTOMA

### McLaughlan Fiesta of Five Flags

FL

6/13/09-6/14/09 - Pensacola, FL (AAA) McLaughlan Fiesta of Five Flags for 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 101C, 102-103C, 104-105C, 120, 124, 128, 140, 142, 152, 153, 154, 155(JSO). Site: Navy Heli Field Site 8A. George White CD, 5928 Hermitage Drive Pensacola FL 32504 PH:850-473-0866 email: white76@cox.net. Visit [www.pensacolafreeflight.org](http://www.pensacolafreeflight.org). SAM OT Cabin, OT Rubber, Small and Large, Commercial Rubber, Nos Gas 1/4A, 1/2A, A/B/C/D, FAC WWI, Thompson/Greve, Dime Scale, WWII, FAC Two Bit Rubber, Jet Cat Glider, NFFS Classic Towline Glider. Sponsor: PEN-SACOLA FREE FLIGHT TEAM

### 1st Annual N FL Electric Fly In

FL

6/20/09-6/21/09 - Jacksonville, FL (C) 1st Annual N FL Electric Fly In. Site: Lannie Rd Flying Field. Robert Masterson CD, 6035 Holly Bay Dr Jacksonville FL 32211 PH:904-762-0270 email: mastrsn@bellsouth.net. Time 9-5, concession stand and facilities on site, camping spots available, no hookups, must have "Open" AMA membership, no park pilot license, \$8 landing fee. Sponsor: GATEWAY RC CLUB



## Chief Treasurer- Theo Titus

*Editor's Note: The Treasurer's report is published for Members only. The public version of the Newsletter does not include account balances.*

### Checking Accounts

Capital City Bank	\$000.00
Premier Bank	\$000.00

### Savings Accounts

Capital City Savings	\$000.00
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### Funds for Deposit

\$000.00

### Cash On Hand

\$000.00

### Total Assets

\$000.00

### Income for the period

Dues / New Memberships \$000.00

TOTAL INCOME - \$000.00

### Expenses for the period

Plaques and Awards \$000.00

Field Maintenance \$000.00

TOTAL EXPENSES - \$000.00



The monthly statement for the CD has not been received as of this date.

## Chief Scribe- Geoff Lawren

### **May Minutes**

5/7/2009

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Welcome new members Jeff Krell, Gaylon Jungling, and visitor Rick Rice.

The Treasurers Report was read by Theo Titus.

Seminole RC Club raised over \$1100 at Flying for a Cure for the American Cancer Society.

Thanks were given to David Mills who passed on the grand prize, a ParkZone Typhoon, and donated it back to the club to be auctioned with proceeds being added to the total.

Motion to accept the Treasurers Report made, seconded, and passed.

### Old Business

Mike Atkinson states the runway is looking real good. Espesito wants to wait until after the leveling sand is put down to apply the weed and feed. The County sprayed an application of herbicide without notifying the club. Mike A. states that it appears the County is going out of its way to help us maintain the field.

The Float Fly will be held June 13th, 9am until...at Lake Surevec.

The Fall Fly-In will be scheduled sometime in October. Club members will need to solicit donations from businesses for raffle and door prizes.

The schedule for the upcoming AirFest was discussed.

There is no new information on the runway material for the proposed electric runway. This issue will be shelved until completion of the runway upgrades.

Michael Hupp will create a new club roster. Club members will provide only information to him they wish to list in the roster.



## Chief Scribe - Geoff Lawrence (cont.)

### **New Business**

Frank Bastos discussed hearing complaints from new fliers about not receiving help at the field. We all need to be more attuned to newcomers. Be aware they may not be comfortable enough to ask for help.

Hobbytown has a new vinyl cutter. See Frank for custom vinyl graphics.

Theo reminds all members annual club dues should be received by July 1st.

Dave Sellars brought up the issue of conflict with the new cross country track. Mike A. suggested the club post a sign that reads " Restricted Area - Low Flying Aircraft"

### **Announcements:**

The Tallahassee Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association has invited all Seminole RC Club Members to their monthly meetings, second Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm at the old airport terminal building.

Ed Buzena donated back to the club a DuBro filling station. The club will keep it for the next fun fly raffle.

The club still has a good assortment of T-shirts, hats, and coffee mugs for sale. Bring money to the next meeting.

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With no more business or announcements, the motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed at 7:43pm

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## Afterburner - Members like you

This is a letter that was written by AMA president , Dave Matthewson, in the June Model Aviation magazine. I felt it was worth a second look. As I have many times, it is not enough just to be a member, we all need to take part in the club if we are to survive as a club. Our time may come when we will need to act to keep our flying freedoms in tact. Are you ready to go the extra mile???

If you've been following this column during the last year or so, you'll recall that I've written about the FAA's Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC) that was created by Executive Order of the FAA acting administrator in April 2008. The purpose of this ARC, as established in order number 1110.150, was to draft recommendations for the FAA to consider in developing a regulatory basis for the operation of small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) in the National Airspace System (NAS).

By definition, radio-controlled model airplanes are considered "aircraft" and the FAA has included model aviation in its effort to create new enabling regulation for sUAS. The ARC comprised roughly



## **Afterburner - (cont.)**

20 members from throughout the sUAS community including representatives of the military, several commercial entities, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Justice, and FAA Air Traffic.

Associations with seats at the table included the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the Airline Pilots Association, the Radio Control Aerial Photography Association (RCAPA), the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Helicopter Association International. The AMA was also extended an invitation to participate.

By accepting the invitation to be part of the ARC, AMA agreed to abide by the FAA's Rules of Engagement (ROE) established to govern the process. One of the rules was that members of the committee would not speak publicly about the specifics of the ARC's work until after the process was complete. This put AMA in the difficult position of weighing our members' right to know against honoring the agreement made at the first committee meeting in May 2008. Ultimately, we felt it was important that model aviation be represented on the ARC and agreed to the stipulation. We've honored that commitment throughout the process.

The ARC completed its work in late March 2009, and sent its recommendations to the FAA hierarchy for review. As I am writing this in April, the FAA is still reviewing the material and the recommendations have not been released to the public. I anticipate the information will be released and the ARC members will be free to discuss the recommendations by the time this issue of MA reaches you.

In accepting the FAA's invitation to participate on the ARC, AMA believed our main role would be to separate model aviation and its activities from that of the commercial and public use sUAS operators, which was the focal point of the Executive Order. In fact the only specific reference to model aircraft in the order was Item 4, Section (c). This section charged the ARC with establishing, "the regulatory basis allowing small UAS to operate in the National Airspace System for compensation or hire, and clarify the definition of a model aircraft."

As the process evolved, the scope of the ARC expanded beyond the specifics of the Executive Order. At the first meeting, Bruce Tarbert, ARC co-chairperson from the FAA Unmanned Aircraft Program Office, cautioned all participants not to bring personal agendas to the table. This turned out to be easier said than done, especially for those who represented companies with a vested interest in the commercial SUAS market.

Another component of the ROE stipulated that the ARC recommendations would be consensus based and any single dissenting vote from a member on the committee would table a proposal. This stipulation should have created a level playing field for a diverse group of people with differing viewpoints and in some instances competing interests.

This did not turn out to be the case. Early in the proceedings it proved to be nearly impossible for the group to come to consensus on many of the issues. The consensus approach was abandoned and the "go-no go" standard was dropped in favor of majority rule. This shift in the ROE clearly put the AMA and model aviation at a disadvantage.

It quickly became clear that the intent of the ARC was to do more than merely clarify the definition of a model aircraft. The undertaking shifted to recommending federal regulation to govern model avia-



## **Afterburner - (cont.)**

tion. In short, a workgroup, led by AMA but composed mostly of individuals with virtually no aeromodeling interest or experience, began formulating guidelines for model aviation and its integration into the NAS.

Given the change to a majority rule standard, this became problematic as the recommendations moved forward to the full ARC. Other than our AMA representative, Rich Hanson, and two other members of the ARC, Fred Marks and Patrick Egan, none of the members of the ARC had any modeling experience. And though Fred and Patrick certainly understand model aviation and generally supported AMA's position, neither served on the committee to represent model aviation interests.

Fred was invited by the FAA to assist in addressing the sUAS radio spectrum concerns and Patrick represented RCAPA. As the ARC's work concluded, there were many lingering areas of concern for model aviation. Given the makeup of the committee and the change in the ROE, there was little AMA could do to influence the outcome.

There were many instances where the ARC was unable to come to a consensus on specific sUAS issues, many more on the commercial/public-use side than on the recreational side. Each member with a dissenting viewpoint was given the opportunity to provide comments, and AMA submitted our views and rationales regarding specific recommendations that pose a detrimental impact to model aviation. These comments were included in the final document and listed along with the ARC's recommendations as "Alternative Viewpoints and Rationales."

Now that the ARC's final document has been sent for review, the next step in the rulemaking process is about to begin. The FAA has the latitude to accept the ARC's recommendations in total, accept a portion of the recommendations, or put aside the recommendations altogether and start over. The latter is fairly unlikely.

During this period, AMA will work directly with the FAA to try to find reasonable solutions to our remaining concerns. When the FAA completes its work, which includes drafting regulatory language, conducting a safety assessment, and performing an extensive intra-agency and interagency review, it will create a final set of proposed regulations.

These proposed regulations will be released for a period of public comment known as a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). The current timeline targets the second quarter of 2010 for the NPRM process; however, this may be slightly optimistic. It is unlikely that there will be an sUAS Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) in place much before the first half of 2011.

I want to be clear that while it appears there will be some changes to the way model aircraft can operate in the future, for most of us the changes will be negligible. The most likely change will be codifying some of the current guidelines in AC 91-57. This FAA Advisory Circular has guided model aircraft operations in the NAS since 1981. Some of the guidelines, that until now have been recommendations, may become regulation.

AMA represents the full spectrum of aeromodeling activities and we're committed to advocating for all of our members. We feel strongly that some of the recommendations sent to the FAA from the ARC are unrealistic, unnecessary, and impose an unjustifiably detrimental impact on the modeling community. As mentioned previously, AMA will continue to work directly with the FAA to address these concerns.

The FAA has stated numerous times that it is not its intention to diminish the aeromodeling activity and seeks to regulate model aviation by exempting it from regulation and pointing to a community-based set of safety standards such as those established and administered by the AMA. It is recognized that the FAA has an obligation to ensure the safety of all those who operate within the NAS. AMA acknowledges this obligation and supports the FAA's effort toward this goal.

We feel that model aviation has an impeccable safety record dating back to the 1930s and modelers should be allowed to continue to enjoy their hobby as unencumbered as possible in the future. Aeromodeling must not suffer unjustified consequences as a result of the FAA's effort to draft regulations enabling the operations of the commercial sUAS industry.

Depending on how the final FAA document addresses model aircraft, we may ask our members to voice their concerns during the NPRM process. As was the case during the FCC frequency reallocation in the early 1990s, it may become necessary to alert our elected representatives to our distress.

By working together we can make a difference and have a positive effect on the final outcome of these proposed regulations. As I wrote in an earlier column, the value of associations such as the AMA is its strength in numbers. Our collective voices may be needed to help guide the direction of model aviation in the future. MA



# Seminole Radio Control Club

Tallahassee, FL

AMA Charter #216, 1969-2009

## **SRCC Officers**

President – **Mike Atkinson**

Vice President – **Mike Kinsey**

Secretary – **Geoff Lawrence**

Newsletter Editor – **Michael Hupp**

Treasurer – **Theo Titus**

Field Marshall – **Joe Satterwhite**

Field Safety Officer- **Gordie Meade**

## **Field Hours**

For Gas and Nitro (wet) - 12:00 noon until dark

For Electric - 9:00 a.m. until dark

## **Training Notes**

To schedule a training time contact Mike Atkinson.

## **Flight Instructors**

Mike Atkinson- Primary/ Advanced Flight Instructor (Coordinator)	926-4692
Mike Kinsey- Primary/ Advanced Flight Instructor	
Geoff Lawrence- Primary/ Advanced Flight Instructor	942-9807
John Hall- Primary/ Advanced Helicopter Flight Instructor	893-6457
Jay Leudecke- Primary/ Advanced Helicopter Flight Instructor	508-7135
Jeff Owens- Ground School/ Airworthiness Instructor (Fixed Wing)	894-2504
Frank Bastos- Hobby Town Flight Demonstrator	671-2030

## **Club Meeting Location and Time**

**November- March:** The regular club meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Grace Lutheran Church on Miccosukee Rd. Head out Miccosukee Rd., cross Capital Circle NE, and the entrance will be the first one on your right. Once you park, follow the sidewalk around the left side of the building and go down the hill. We meet in a room on the first level.

**April- October:** The regular club meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at **7:00 PM** at the Flying Field. The Club offers food and drinks for a small charge.

**Newsletter Submissions-** Submissions are requested to be in M.S. Word format or via e-mail text. Photos should be in .jpg or .tif format. Vector art accepted in Corel, Illustrator and AUTOCAD format. We will, however, accept anything to make it easier for those who wish to contribute. Submissions are due no later than the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month. Send your submissions to Michael Hupp - [hbhobbies@gmail.com](mailto:hbhobbies@gmail.com)

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