

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, April 16, 2026
The Wine House
1355 Market Street

Spring 2026 Opening Day

Jeff Owens

This year's Spring Opening Day was held on Saturday March 21. The day started a bit on the chilly side with temperatures in the low 50s, but with a beautiful clear blue sky. Not to worry, the temperature rose steadily into the low 80s and jackets were quickly shed as the morning progressed. The turnout was excellent with an estimate of 40-42 club members and spectators being present. Training activities continued all morning with numerous guests giving it a try. There were various levels of experience with one who had flown RC in the past being able to do takeoffs and landings unassisted after a few flights! This person ended up buying two planes from Sandy Jaffe, so he is getting back into RC in a big way. Sam Varn along with Rhett Boudreaux and Ray Murtha were cooking up a storm. We took in \$340 in food sales. A streamer drop competition was held and was sponsored by Mission BBQ. Jay Wiggins was close to the target but Tristan Seeley was 4 inches closer and won a \$25 gift card from Mission BBQ. This was a great way to kick off a new season of flying. Some pictures I took and some from Steve Warmath are shown below. Watch for the next event on April 18 - see the flyer by Steve Warmath included in this issue and also on the website.



Lots of training going on. Mike Atkinson and Steve Warmath were busy!



Sam Varn and Rhett Boudreaux hard at work.



Two beautiful two-color practice planes printed by Randy Reese.



Left - The training fleet. Center and below - some crowd pics. Right - Sandy Jaffe's scale helicopter.



Twitchy Tail-dragger Steve Warmath

During takeoffs and landings, does your tail-dragger act like wagging its tail side to side or veering to one side? The setup and wheel alignment. Some of today's airplanes have strong, robust landing gear. Some have rather flimsy aluminum or wire struts and/or weak wheel axles which can bend out of wack. Wheel alignment can have a noticeable affect on how your plane rolls down the runway. Your wheels should at least be parallel to one another. If the problem persists, consider adding a little "toe-in". The illustration shows how wheel alignment affects tracking. "Toe-out" is bad.



it has a mind of its own by culprit could be your main gear

"Toe-in" on an RC aircraft's wheels refers to the alignment of the landing gear when viewed from above. **What "toe-in" means:**

- Toe-in: The front of the wheels point slightly toward each other which provides a self-correcting force on the gear
- Toe-out: The front of the wheels point slightly away from each other and amplifies bad behavior

Why toe-in matters on RC planes

A small amount of toe-in is often used to improve ground handling, especially during takeoff and landing:

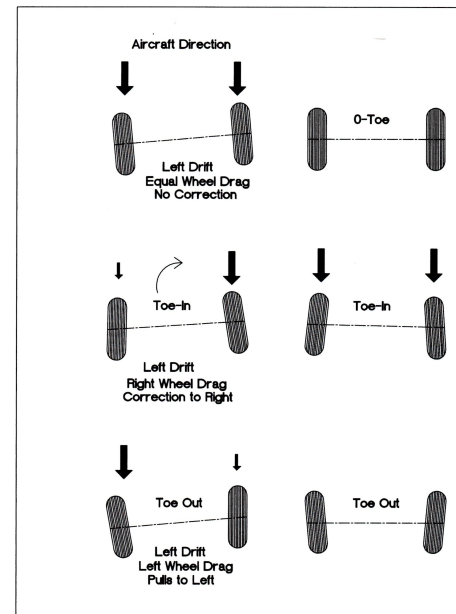
- Stability during roll out: Helps keep the plane tracking straight
- Reduces ground looping
- Adds self-correcting behavior: If the plane starts to veer, the geometry helps bring it back

Typical setup

- Most RC aircraft use slight toe-in, around 1–3 degrees
- Too much toe-in:
 - Causes drag
 - Makes taxiing harder
 - Can stress landing gear
- Too little (or toe-out):
 - Can make the plane twitchy or unstable on the ground

Differences by aircraft type

- Tail-draggers: Benefit the most from toe-in (helps tracking and prevents ground loops)
- Tricycle gear planes: Usually needs very little toe-in or even neutral alignment



Simple way to check

1. Place the plane on a flat surface
2. Sight from above or use a ruler
3. Compare wheel direction relative to the fuselage centerline

You may have to experiment a little to get your plane to behave. It could reduce one more headache in pursuit of smooth flight operations.

Upcoming Events

Jeff Owens

Our next event will be held on Saturday April 18, 2026. See the flyer below, supplied by Steve Warmath. Also, there will be an open TAG (Takeoff and Grow) training event on Saturday May 9, 2026.



Seminole RC Club

Fun Fly April 18, 2026



There will be a small auction of miscellaneous items for sale. You may also bring items for sale/swap. Bring your own table. 15% of your proceeds go to the club with a \$15 maximum.

Flying from 8:00am until dusk

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

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

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All fliers must have current AMA membership
Normal AMA and SRCC safety rules apply

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Club Meeting News - Jeff Owens

The March meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Jay Wiggins on March 19, 2026 with 13 members present.

Member recognition - Ken Kushner for handling the garbage detail; Gordie for mowing.; Sandy Jaffe for weed eating; David and Deborah Coury for stocking the dry goods for the Spring Opening Day event and taking care of the rodents in the container; Steve Warmath for the event flyer(s); Kevin Parsons for placing first in the Basic class at an IMAC pattern contest.

Vice President's Report - Sam Varn - everything is being prepared for Saturday's Spring Opening Day event. Rhett Boudreaux and Ray Murtha have volunteered to help cook.

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

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

Training Report - Steve Warmath - four TAG events are planned for this year. Dates will be posted on the web site as they become available. We will be receiving a TAG grant for this year from AMA, but the amount has not yet been announced. This will be our fourth grant. Only 40 clubs in the entire country have received TAG grants this year.

Safety Report - Mike Atkinson - no safety issues noted.

Field Report - Gordie Meade - the field has been mowed. The starting tables will be painted in the near future.

New Business - Mike Atkinson - There will be a streamer drop competition as part of the Spring Opening Day event. Mission BBQ has donated a \$25 gift card along with cups to be used to hold the streamers.

There were no items for old business. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 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 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

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.
