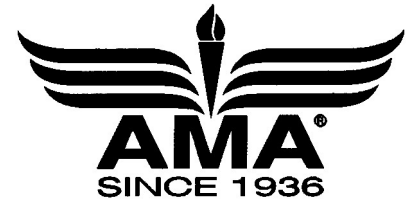


# The Seminole Flyer



Charter member of the Academy  
of Model Aeronautics since 1969

AMA Charter Club 216



## October 2018 Issue

### *Believe in a Cure*



**Addie waiting for an airplane ride at the 2018  
Believe in a Cure club event**

Okay, let's say it right up front. The turnout for this year's *Believe in a Cure* charity event was disappointing. Only a fraction of our 84 members showed up to support a very worthy charity that supports children in need. The difficult question is, "Why?" The weather was beautiful. We had food, prizes and participants from other clubs. Several of our members worked hard to prepare for the event. And, the members that did participate had a wonderful time. We should do better.

The bright spot is the members that did participate were very generous. Due to their generosity we raised \$700 for the Children's Miracle Network. A heartfelt thank you to each of you. By the way, there is still time to give a donation this year. Send your

gift to SRCC, Bill Ashbaker, 2509 Napoleon Bonaparte Drive, Tallahassee, FL, 32308 or by PayPal to [SeminoleRadioControlClub@gmail.com](mailto:SeminoleRadioControlClub@gmail.com) or give it to a club officer at the field.

As we look forward to next year, we must address the question of participation in this, our signature charity event. Should it be at a different time of year so to not compete with so many other Fall activities? Should it be on a Saturday instead of Sunday? Do we need a better program of activities? Do we have so many "events" throughout the year that it dilutes our enthusiasm? Please email any of the officers your suggestions. Let's bring this event up to the level it has enjoyed in the past.

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# Club Meeting News

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*Jeff Owens, Secretary*

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday October 18, 2018 by President Jay Wiggins.

**New Member:** Terry Hyrne from Albuquerque, New Mexico was introduced.

**Member Recognitions:** For their service to the Believe in a Cure Fund Raising event – Ray Humphreys (Cook), David Settles (Asst. Cook), Theo Titus (collecting funds), Jim Ogorek, Frank Bastos, Geoff Lawrence, and Mike Lassiter (raffle), Dan Ouellette (donation), and Bill Ashbaker (pictures); Theo Titus and Rhett Boudreaux (hurricane prep of the field); Mike Picou won the Sportsman class in a recent AMA Pattern contest; Jeff Owens won the Senior Expert class at the Senior Pattern Association Chattanooga contest and also won the annual point championship for that class.

**Vice-President's Report** – The next event will be our Veterans Day Fly-in. Under New Business it was decided to change the date to Saturday, November 17, 2018. Lunch will be served for \$5.

**Secretary's Report** – Jeff Owens – The minutes of the September meeting were taken by Geoff Lawrence and have been published in the September newsletter that is posted on the web. The minutes were approved as posted.

As an addendum to the August minutes, Jim Ogorek reminded the membership that we now have only one functional fire extinguisher and that is kept in the trailer due to extensive vandalism. It will be available when the trailer is unlocked. Members are advised to bring their own fire extinguishers just to be sure that one is available if needed. Small B/C class extinguishers are available at WalMart, Lowes, Home Depot, and elsewhere.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Bill Ashbaker gave the Treasurer's report. The report was approved. The Believe in a Cure event raised \$700.

**Safety Officer Report** – Jim Ogorek reported that there were no safety issues to bring up at this time.

**Field Marshall Report** – Gordie Meade – with the growing season coming to a close the mowing schedule will revert to once per week.

**Training Officer Report** – Geoff Lawrence reported that he has been contacted by someone from Madison who would like to learn to fly. He will meet with him next week.

**Old Business** – Several aircraft were presented for consideration for next year's Pylon Racing event. Jay showed a Park Zone T-28, Geoff showed an 800 mm FMS P-51, and Gordie showed two 1000 mm designs – one from Hobby King and one from TechOne Hobby. Members present seemed to favor the TechOne Sukhoi. Candidate aircraft will be presented at the November Fly-in on November 17.

**New Business** – There was a spirited discussion on the issue of increasing participation in our fund raising events. Only 14 out of 85 members participated in the event, although several who were out of town sent in donations. Having the event on Sunday was designed to avoid interference with football games, but it had the unintended effect of preventing out-of-town participation. Several clubs called to say they would participate in a Saturday event, but not a Sunday one. A motion to move the November Fly-in from Sunday November 11 to Saturday November 17 passed.

**Show and Tell** – Rhett Boudreaux showed his new Kingcraft Pitt Special.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

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# What the New Law Means

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As recreational RC pilots, we have been flying our airplanes with relative freedom from regulation for the last 86 years. We enjoyed protection from new regulations under Section 336 of the *FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012* for the last six years. Section 336 is now gone. President Trump signed H.R. 302, the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018*, into public law on October 5, 2018. The FAA reauthorization act repealed section 336 and replaced it with Section 349 in the new law.

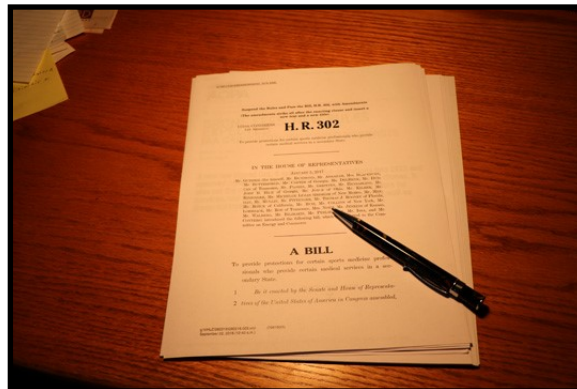
Many RC pilots disregarded previous federal requirements such as registering aircraft and complying with the safety guidelines of “community-based organizations” (CBOs) such as the AMA. Make no mistake. The new federal law is stricter, more explicit and authorizes the FAA to make new regulations and invoke penalties on RC pilots. The proliferation of drones, public concerns over privacy, potential threats and interference with first responders at disaster sites caught congress’ attention. They devoted 66 pages of H.R. 302 exclusively to regulation of unmanned aircraft, including our RC aircraft. That is remarkable considering that H.R. 302 authorizes all aspects of FAA funding, operations and administration for the next six years. This includes a myriad of functions such as air traffic control, regulation of aircraft and pilots, aeronautical research and funding airport improvements nationwide.

The AMA lost some ground with the new law. One AMA key issue is no flying above 400 feet above ground level. That restriction stands. Further, the FAA must approve any safety guidelines drafted by the AMA for recreational pilots. The AMA may participate in some FAA discussions of new regulations for RC pilots, but not all. In other words, the AMA and other CBOs are under the FAA’s thumb to a cer-

tain extent.

What are the new limitations on our flying? Some are familiar, but others are new:

1. The aircraft is flown strictly for recreational purposes.
2. The aircraft is operated in accordance with or within the programming of a community-based organization’s set of safety guidelines that are developed in coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration.
3. The aircraft is flown within the visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft or a visual observer co-located located and in direct communication with the operator.
4. The aircraft is operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft.
5. In Class B, Class C or Class D airspace or within the lateral boundaries of the surface area of Class E airspace designated for an airport, the operator obtains prior authorization from the Administrator or designee before operating and complies with all airspace restrictions and prohibitions.
6. In Class G airspace, the aircraft is flown from the surface to not more than 400 feet above ground level and complies with all airspace restrictions and prohibitions.
7. The operator has passed an aeronautical knowledge and safety test and maintains proof of test passage to be made available to the Administrator (of the FAA) or law enforcement upon request.



**See New Law, Next Page**

## New Law

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8. The aircraft is registered and marked in accordance with Chapter 441 of this title and proof of registration is made available to the Administrator or a designee of the Administrator or law enforcement upon request.

Obviously, a striking new requirement for us is the aeronautical knowledge test. The Administrator has up to six months to develop an aeronautical knowledge and safety test “in compliance with manufacturers of unmanned aircraft systems, or other industry stakeholders and community-based organizations.” Community-based organizations refers to nonprofit flight organizations like the AMA, who apply for that designation. It is good news for the hobbyist community that advocacy groups like the AMA will be involved with the development and administration of the test.

The test will be administered electronically by the FAA, CBOs or a person designated by the Administrator which leaves it open to expansion.

RC aircraft may be flown if the pilot meets the preceding eight requirements. An interesting take on this is that RC aircraft may not be flown anywhere in the United States unless the pilot is in accordance with the AMA or other CBO. A related interesting point is that it is likely that additional organizations may be designated as alternatives to the AMA. This could become confusing for hobbyists in the future.

More confusion is raised by the requirement stated in Item 2, above. Does “The aircraft is operated in accordance with or within the programming of a community-based organization’s set of safety guidelines. . .” mean that a person does not have to be an AMA member to fly as long as he/she follows the AMA’s safety guidelines? The alternative is that any person who flies a model airplane in the U.S. must become an AMA or other CBO member. That would mean thousands of new AMA members!

**Now, what does all of this mean for our club?** We are fortunate. We have a flying site located further than five miles from an airport in Class G airspace. As long as we are flying at our field and within AMA guidelines, the only thing that has changed is the prohibition from flying more than 400 feet above the ground. We already must register our aircraft. In six months, we will have to take an aeronautical knowledge test.

If we fly at other sites, it can get complicated. We must check to see how far to the nearest airport and what class of airspace surrounds the site. Then, we must apply aeronautical knowledge to figure out what you must do to fly legally. The good news is we have several licensed pilots in the club who can help with air navigation questions. Jeff Owens, Gordie Meade and Bill Ashbaker are three that come to mind.



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# Around the Field at *Believe in a Cure*

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Enjoying time with our friends from Panama City



Theo hard at work



Jim and Megan getting ready



Troy after another inspiring flight



Looking good Gordie!

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# Seminole Radio Control Club

## Tallahassee, Florida

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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>	Jim Ogorek <a href="mailto:jim.ogorek@yahoo.com">jim.ogorek@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Field Marshal</b>	Gordie Meade <a href="mailto:lmeade@fsu.edu">lmeade@fsu.edu</a>
<b>Training Coordinator</b>	Geoff Lawrence <a href="mailto:k4nkc@comcast.net">k4nkc@comcast.net</a>

### Media Managers

<b>Web Master</b>	Jeff Owens <a href="mailto:jfolso@comcast.net">jfolso@comcast.net</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor &amp; Publisher</b>	Bill Ashbaker <a href="mailto:bill.ashbaker@comcast.net">bill.ashbaker@comcast.net</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

### Field Hours

<b>Electrics/Sailplanes</b>	30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset 7 days/week
<b>Gassers/Nitros</b>	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](mailto:SeminoleRadioControlClub@gmail.com) in Word format. Thank You.

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