



The Airmasters RC Flash

Newsletter of the Airmasters Radio Control Club

10025 WW Ranch Rd
Sebastian, Florida 32978
2025 Issue: 3



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Club Officers

President: Conway Bolt

Vice President: Bobby Howering

Treasurer: Geoff Templeton

Vice-Treasurer: Catherine Bonin

Secretary: Jerry Smolinski

Board Members:

Tony Finazzo

Bret Givens

Mike Hobbs

Ray Jones

Ed Rowe

Safety Coordinator:

Mike Cohen

Flight

Instruction/Certification:

See page 5/Inquire at field

Membership Chair:

Rob Stevens

Field Marshal:

Bret Givens

Newsletter Editor:

Mike Hobbs

mdhobbs@bellsouth.net

From the President's Hangar

Leadership Changes

We've had a lot of changes since our last newsletter, so I'll quickly run down the changes.



Membership

A few months ago, Judy stepped down as membership chair after many years supporting the club in this important role, thanks Judy! Rob moved over from his VP role, and I also want to thank Rob for his years as a great VP. Rob and I both took over the VP and Presidency at the same time, managing a new organization that was also coming out of COVID. It was a challenge for both of us, but we pulled it together and vowed that we would leave our successors in a great position to take the baton when we were ready to pass it on. The issue is we were both thinking that 4 years is about right for leadership to stay at the top of an organization. We both wanted to move on after 4 years and that would have left the club replacing both our VP and President again. After some discussion also involving the board, we decided that I would finish out as president and Rob would relinquish the VP slot to take over as membership chair. Rob's background in IT is great for automating these procedures.

Vice-President

Bobby Howering has a lifetime of experience in the hobby, plenty of enthusiasm and lots of great ideas. I'm very excited to have Bobby on board and look forward to working with him. Thanks Bobby! Bobby is an excellent helicopter and fixed wing pilot and will also be taking over for me as Chief Flight Instructor relieving me of that duty and hopefully giving me some time to work with students. Bobby will have the chance to write about all the great things he is already doing in his VP section, so I won't preempt his message.

Treasurer

We've found a replacement for Geoff as treasurer. Cathy Bonin will be working with Geoff until the election. Until that time she has been appointed vice-treasurer. Thanks also to both Geoff and Cathy for your past and future support.

Looking forward to a great flying season and as always,

Happy Landings!

Conway

More leadership changes on the following page...



Charter Club 2814

Next Club Meeting

Saturday July 12, 2025, at 9:00 am

From the President's Hangar (con't.)

Safety Coordinator

Finally, Ray has stepped down as safety officer to focus on mowing and Michael Cohen has stepped up to replace Ray as safety officer. Thanks again to everyone for your support of the Airmasters and those that stepped up in new positions. One of the reasons that we all enjoy such a world class club and facility is because people like these members volunteer to make it so.

I

Wanted: Event Leaders

If you'd like to see the club host an event, picnic, contest or other activity, consider organizing and leading that event. If you have ever planned a backyard cookout, you have the skills required to plan a club event! We have a budget for several events/year and every event happens because a member has stepped up and said, "Let's do this!" Talk to myself or Bobby and we can help get you started. Be that leader!

Vice-President's Update

Hello Airmasters members and friends!

I want to start by expressing my gratitude to Conway and Rob for inviting me to join the leadership team as Vice President. Thanks to all for the warm welcomes and encouragement! I'm truly excited to do my best to add value and support to all the members, our field, and the Indian River community!

Recently, I've engaged with the county to explore new ways they could support us. One idea was improving our RC car track, which many members have put so much effort into. At our last meeting, we discussed enhancing the track with clay if possible. I contacted the Parks and Recreation team, and they responded quickly and positively, they have already delivered about 25% of the clay, with the remaining loads expected in the next month. Steve, the Parks Superintendent, shared that we have initially received \$4,000–\$5,000 worth of new clay, with much more on the way free of charge.

Additionally, the county Parks and Recreation is interested in promoting us through their media outlets to residents of Indian River County. They've asked us to keep them updated on the track's progress and expressed interest in joining us for an opening track day, inviting local families to experience both the RC car track and our flying field. This is a major step forward that will potentially bring more families and youth into our hobby.

Since the county's Parks and Recreation team was so supportive, I was introduced to school board members in Indian River County to explore further ideas. Depending on member feedback at our next club meeting, I may pursue partnerships with the school board to introduce STEM-focused programs. This vision would give students hands-on experience in engineering and flight. Having worked directly with NASA in the past, I've already started discussions to connect the county school board with NASA's STEM Gateway program, which supports schools with STEM curriculum, direction, and resources. It's an incredible opportunity to inspire the next generation while reinforcing our value to the community.

This next step will be a proposed idea open to discussion at the next club meeting, I encourage everyone to join us and share your opinions on this exciting new idea. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, please join us at the next meeting; I will bring some donuts to sweeten the deal!!!!

Vice-President Update continued on the following page...

Vice-President's Update (con't.)

I really enjoy being a part of modeling over the decades and find great reward in helping others. Because of this, Conway also asked me to serve as Chief Flight Instructor. At the request of a few current instructors, I've been working on refining our instructor and solo readiness manuals to ensure new pilots receive consistent, supportive, and safe instruction. Clear expectations, mentorship, and an emphasis on positive learning environments will help us build skilled and confident pilots, strengthening our future membership and the hobby as a whole.

This effort has also sparked interest from Andrew Griffith, District 5 Vice President of the AMA, with whom I've been speaking regularly on several topics, including this one. He is very excited about these ideas and sees this as a necessary protocol that could eventually become a standardized AMA introduction and training document for clubs as a resource. For anyone interested in reviewing the current draft and adding more positive ideas, please let me know, I welcome your input.

I look forward to what we can achieve together over the next year of what is possible, and what can become.

Together, we're not just flying models — we're building a community rooted in respect, learning, and joy. Don't forget that kid we all were that saw that first model and was mesmerized by it!

See you at the field!

Bobby Howering
Vice-President



Safety Coordinator Report

Next to the AMA safety code on the following page and on the bulletin board by the clubhouse entry, I have posted a larger printer version of most of our safety rules. Please take three minutes to read both documents over. I will "enforce" what is written. When I say enforce, I will gently remind people of the rules when it is distraction safe to do so, but unless someone is doing something blatantly dangerous, having them land and/or grounding them is not the way to work. We are all adults.

I have received some feedback on the current rules and will bring them to the club's attention in the July meeting. I would like to keep things as simple and safe as possible.

Some reminders for everyone based on field experiences this past month:

1. Extended engine run-ups and tuning, whether gas or glow, need to be at the far ends of the field and clear of the runway. The southwest end of the field is best for this.
2. Remember to stand between the red posts when flying. This is so we can hear each other better when calling out take offs, landing, etc.
3. Computer radio programming questions? Seek out the following folks:
 - a. Futaba: Mike Cohen, Bret Givens, or Ron Ellis
 - b. Jetti: Kris Von Nostran
 - c. Spectrum: Tim Persky

If anyone else wants to be labeled as a radio programing expert, let me know!

**In an emergency:
Call 911**

Tell the dispatcher you are at:

10025 WW Ranch Road Sebastian Florida 32958

Then, Airmasters RC Club

Mike Cohen
Safety Coordinator



ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

NATIONAL MODEL AIRCRAFT SAFETY

CODE

Effective January 1, 2018

A model aircraft is a non-human-carrying device capable of sustained flight within visual line of sight (VLOS) of the pilot or spotter(s). It may not exceed limitations of this code and is intended exclusively for sport, recreation, personal, education, and/or competition. All model flights must be conducted in accordance with this safety code and related AMA guidelines, any additional rules specific to the flying site, as well as all applicable laws and regulations.

AS AN AMA MEMBER I AGREE:

- I will not fly a model aircraft in a careless or reckless manner.
- I will not interfere with and will yield the right of way to all human-carrying aircraft using AMA's See and Avoid Guidance and a spotter when appropriate.
- I will not operate any model aircraft while I am under the influence of alcohol or any drug that could adversely affect my ability to safely control the model.
- I will avoid flying directly over unprotected people, moving vehicles, and occupied structures.
- I will fly Free Flight (FF) and Control Line (CL) models in compliance with AMA's safety programming.
- I will maintain visual contact of an RC model aircraft without enhancement other than corrective lenses prescribed to me. When using an advanced flight system, such as an autopilot, or flying First-Person View (FPV), I will comply with AMA's Advanced Flight System programming.
- I will only fly models weighing more than 55 pounds, including fuel, if certified through AMA's Large Model Airplane Program.
- I will only fly a turbine-powered model aircraft in compliance with AMA's Gas Turbine Program.
- I will not fly a powered model outdoors closer than 25 feet to any individual, except for myself or my helper(s) located at the flightline, unless I am taking off and landing, or as otherwise provided in AMA's Competition Regulation.
- I will use an established safety line to separate all model aircraft operations from spectators and bystanders.

Flight Instruction/Certification Update

Passing the Torch: Welcoming Bobby Howering as Chief Flight Instructor

I am pleased to announce that I will be handing over the reins of Chief Flight Instructor to our club's Vice President, Bobby Howering. This transition marks a great milestone for our club, as Bobby brings with him not only an impressive depth of RC aviation knowledge, but also the passion and commitment that define strong leadership and education. Bobby is a highly accomplished model aviator, holding qualifications in both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. This dual experience gives him a broad and versatile perspective on flight training—something that will undoubtedly benefit our members across the board.



Bobby's background ensures you'll be learning from someone who understands the full spectrum of model aviation. What sets Bobby apart, though, isn't just his technical expertise. It's his infectious enthusiasm, his approachable nature, and his remarkable ability to teach. Bobby has an innate talent for meeting students where they are—adjusting his instruction to match their experience level and learning style. He explains complex concepts in a clear, relatable way that keeps students engaged and motivated. His patient and encouraging manner has already made a positive impact on many of our student pilots, and I'm confident that will only continue to grow under his leadership.

As the outgoing Chief Flight Instructor, I can say without hesitation that the role is in excellent hands. Bobby embodies the values and vision of our club, and I have every confidence that he will guide our instructional program with the same dedication and excellence that he brings to every flight. Please join me in congratulating Bobby Howering as he steps into this new and exciting role.

Airmasters RC Instructors



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Bret Givens

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Steve Melagrano

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Tim Persky

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Rusty Pieper

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One of the best ways to give back to the hobby we all enjoy is to give the hobby to someone else. Namely teaching them to fly. None of us today would be flying, if it wasn't for the efforts of the people that gave us help along the way. We have some great instructors. Thank you for mentoring so many of us!!

If we want to stay relevant in the hobby, we need to find new talent that can help newcomers when they come to us seeking help. You don't have to be the best pilot in the club to be a great instructor. Obviously, knowing how to fly is a great start, but being patient and a great communicator is even more important. I will be working with our active instructors to refine our instruction program and seek new talent to help with our program. If you're interested in helping, I can tell you, nothing is more exciting than signing off your student as a pilot themselves! The AMA has established guidelines for developing a flight training program and how a student can demonstrate proficiency to be a solo pilot. The document is several pages long, so, I've included the link here, [AMA Guide for Introductory Pilot Instructor Selection Criteria and Flight Proficiency Demonstration](#), where anyone that is interested can go to the AMA site and review it.



Bobby Howering
Chief Flight Instructor

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Membership

Current paid members - 149

A few notes regarding membership in the Airmasters R/C Club

1. Annual dues are effective January 1 for each new year.
2. Details on the due structure as well as new and renewal applications are at:
<https://airmastersrc.org/join/>
3. Please write clearly and use either the online fillable PDF or download the printable version. We need paper backup for our membership roster so even if you have been a member for years with the same information, please submit a paper or email the pdf for renewals.
4. Please note that we now accept Zelle online payment for your convenience (details at the above link).
5. AMA membership is required, and the renewal date is based on when you paid so it is up to you to ensure your AMA membership is valid. The AMA will reach out via email when your membership is close to being expired.
6. All club correspondence is through email so make sure we have your current email address on file.



Thank you!
Rob Stevens, Airmasters Membership

We were recently fortunate to have five Airmasters
RC Club Presidents together at one time!



1st President
Tom Young

Shaun Frank

Bret Givens

Tom Kempf

Current President
Conway Bolt

Field Marshal News

Guys and gals,

Summer is here! I'm sure I don't need to tell you that. Many members have pitched in continuing the many maintenance and improvement initiatives in 2025 to keep our facility in tip-top shape.

There are so many people contributing their time and talent on so many projects. I hope I don't miss anyone.

Just look at the care and pride that was put into staining and preserving our entrance! Thanks Ray!!



We were able to get the tall grass cut again! I had to call them back out to finish but it is done and looking great!!

And, Look at that clay!! That will be a great improvement to our track! Thanks Bobby!!

Our mowing team has been doing a fantastic job keeping the field well maintained. It looks even better now that we are getting some much-needed rain. With the approval of our Club leadership, the team was able to purchase a second mower of the same make and model. This will ensure that we have a mower to keep mowing the field. Also, having the same make and model reduces the number of parts needed on hand as spare parts. This is a big savings to the Club and the airfield looks great! I have heard many positive comments from our members. Thank you all for helping out wherever and however you can!



Improvements just keep on coming!

Thank You to everyone that pitched in to get all of these projects done!!

All members are encouraged to join in clean-up, workdays and special projects when they are scheduled to ensure that our facility is well maintained, safe and ready to enjoy at all times.

The club does not have trash service, so it is important that everyone help keep our grounds clean and free of clutter by taking everything you bring to the field back out with you and, as they say, "leave only footprints."

Until next time, keep the planes in the air and your feet on the ground!



Bret Givens
Field Marshal

Show and Tell, Tips and Techniques from the Members

This section is for members to share their projects, lessons they have learned or techniques they have developed with other members. If you have a tip or technique you would like to share, please send your input to the editor: mdhobbs@bellsouth.net

Fun Fly'em if you got'em report: Mother nature was a bad partner. With rain in the forecast and in the sky, we did not get the large turnout I had been counting on. Several people I had spoken to on the phone beforehand and several friends with airplane crazy kids I invited understandably did not make the trek out due to the weather. Still, we had 14 pilots register and most flew between rain showers and after the weather cleared out around 1:00. Ray cooked up hamburgers and hotdogs. Dan brought his famous baked beans, and we at least could eat while the rain fell. We will have to try again next year. I donated the cost of the event sanction, so after accounting for the \$114 in food and landing fee donations, we made a small profit of \$16, if my \$98 cost for food memory is correct. Model Aviation had a good article recently on what clubs can do reach out to the community, grow their numbers, and by definition increase their income. We need to find a way to diversify our income sources and events like Rusty's swap meets, this past open fun fly, and the pattern contest are ways to do it. The article said to keep on trying and you will find some things work and some don't but keep trying. We do not have an activities coordinator, so the events you see exist because people propose them to the club and run them. Got an idea? Speak up, and volunteer!

2nd Annual Airmasters RC Pattern Contest

Saturday & Sunday, Sept 27th and 28th 2025

Here we go again! It is NEVER too early to prepare for the Airmasters second annual Pattern Contest September 27th and 28th 2025. The field will be closed Friday, September 26th starting at 10:00 AM for field prep and practice for contestants that arrive early. It will open again on Sunday after awards are given out (typically between 12:00 and 2:00 PM). Spectators are ALWAYS welcome. Awards will be given out for 1st thru 3rd place. Lunch will be served Saturday to contestants and contest assistants. Last year this event raised \$180, even with a dent in attendance due to a hurricane on the west side of the state. With some fixed costs behind us, we should do much better for the club this year. Oh, and Rusty, we might have TWO glow pattern airplanes this year!

Entry Fee for Sportsman thru FAI: \$40 per person

Entry for Club Class: \$20 per person

We will also offer the NSRCA Club Class in addition to Sportsman, Intermediate, Advanced, Masters and FAI. See nsrca.us for the sequences, Aresti diagrams, and maneuver descriptions, but listed below is the Club Class sequence. Ron Ellis, Kris Van Nostran, Conway Bolt, Andy Sommer, and I are more than willing to help people with any of the sequences from now and up to the contest (and during). Contact me at 734-478-7812 if you want to plan something, but one of us is usually there on the weekends.

Field closed Friday, September 26th starting at 10:00 AM, for final field prep and practice for contestants that arrive early. There is no flying of anything anywhere else on the field grounds Friday from 10:00AM until contest is over, which will be approximately 2:00 PM Sunday

Spectators welcome!

See Mike Cohen for additional details or if you have any questions.

email: precisionaero@hotmail.com

cell: 734-478-7812

NSRCA Club Class:

Takeoff Sequence (U=upwind)

Straight Flight Out (U)

Procedure Turn (T=turn-around)

Straight Flight Back (D=downwind)

Exit box and re-enter

Stall Turn without Rolls (U)

Exit box and re-enter

Immelmann Turn (U)

Exit box and re-enter

45 Degree upline (U)

Exit box and re-enter

Straight Inverted Flight (D)

Exit box and re-enter

Two Inside Loops (U)

Landing Sequence (U)

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Airmasters Hobby Shop

By

Rusty Pieper

Airmasters Hobby Shop has been in existence for a couple of years now.

My idea for the shop was that it would be a work in progress and continually be worked on to improve it's benefit to the club.

This year I embarked on a mission to make the shop not just sustain itself, but improve. I was able to work through some frustration that I was having due to using personal funds to restock. Well, that topic was brought into the sunlight and two things came of it; 1) I would be allowed to keep all funds I earn from cookouts and swap meets for the shop and 2) I needed to put prices on some items of higher value so folks would know what to consider in regard to donations.

On April 19th I put on a swap meet and it was a great success. I earned \$195.00 for the hobby shop. Now, I needed to think about how to wisely spend the money.

I didn't rush to spend it and waited for opportunities to present themselves. In May I found one such opportunity. It was a modeler who was leaving the hobby and had boxes of electric R/C parts for \$100.00. I was able to contact the seller and make the purchase. In the sale we got a Spektrum system, 26 good servos, assorted motors, ESCs, motor parts, chargers, props, tools, and miscellaneous items.



I made a listing for the chargers and the club sent it out.

Now that I had additional inventory, I needed somewhere to store it. I researched garage storage cabinets and found that would be an ideal item to have. In the June meeting I made a motion to the club that I would pay ½ of a cabinet that costs approximately \$200.00, if the club would pay the other half. The cabinet would be shared, where the club training equipment and the hobby shop inventory would be in it. The motion passed and on June 20th it was installed.

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Airmasters Hobby Shop (con't.)



The top shelf is for the Club's training equipment. The 2nd down has a Spektrum 6 channel system and other items. The 3rd down has electric motor, ESCs and parts. The 4th down has chargers and the bottom has propellers. This month I replaced the parts in 19 empty bins in the plastic storage boxes. Also, the electrical connectors were replaced, which cost \$46.60. There was

\$29.00 in the jar, so I paid the rest out of my pocket.

The spinners and wheels are mostly depleted. I have some used, in good condition, spinners and wheels I will put in the inventory.

The points have converged to where the hobby shop is pretty well stocked and funds have been exhausted. When I earn more money, I will continue the mission.

The larger items, like radios, servos, motors, ESCs have a sticker with a suggested donation. If you want an item and feel it is not worth it, take it and give what you will. Most of the shop has no prices and we ask you donate what you can to keep the store going. If you buy an item and it does not work, throw it away and get your money back.

Please consider donating parts you don't need. I will put a donation box in the cabinet for that purpose. Helping other people enjoy the hobby is better than hoarding it.

It was suggested I put a locked donation box to receive funds. I am not doing that. It needs to be open so people can make change and get their money back, if needed. I don't think anybody has a reason to sabotage the shop, as it is for everyone's benefit.

Thank you.

Rusty Pieper

PS: I'm a NITRO guy.

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A Tribute to Herb Brannan

- Tom Kempf

Herb Brannan was a long-time member of Airmasters and served in leadership from time to time. He had a great sense of humor and a gentle spirit. Since his name was "Herb" a couple of guys would call him "Oregano" once in a while, and he was the one who found it the funniest. He was in declining health for the past year, and passed away peacefully at home on June 13, 2025. Right up until the last week he was anxious to get back in his workshop to get a plane ready for flight. Herb, thanks for touching down in our lives.



High Flight

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings; Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things you have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung high in the sunlit silence.

Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.

Up, up the long, delirious burning blue I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace where never lark, or ever eagle flew.

And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod the high untrespassed sanctity of space, put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

— John Gillespie Magee, Jr
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Highlights:

- Airmasters RC Club and AMA memberships current to fly, drive and vote.
- Airmasters RC membership card and AMA card with you when you are flying or driving at the field.
- Take and pass the free, The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST)
- Register with the FAA and mark your aircraft
- Experienced, new, family and junior members are the fun and future of our club
- Leave only footprints and...



2025 events:

- 8 March Recognition of 35 years as an AMA Chartered club **Major Milestone Feb 28th 1990-2025!!**
- 15 March Field Day Work Party at 8:00 a.m. **Wow! Great Job!!**
- 12 April AMA Gold Leader Club celebration BBQ and Fun Fly 10:00 am **Good Times!!**
- 19 April Airmaster's Swap Meet at 8:00 a.m. **Good Turn-Out!!**
- 26 April FIT Student Project Flight Test
- 3 May FIT Student Project Final Flight Exam
- 31 May Pattern Fun Fly **A bit rainy but the food and camaraderie was Great!!**
- 5 July Airmaster's RC Club Open 4th of July Fun-fly 8:00 a.m. Free-just show your AMA membership
 - Food and refreshments will be available for purchase **Great Turn-Out!!**
 - All types of RC aircraft and cars permitted
 - Spectators welcome
- 27-28 September Pattern Contest – Mike Cohen
- 8 November Election and Field Day Work Party after Club Meeting
- TBD December Evening BBQ and Fun Flying

Airmasters RC
The Members Make the Club!