



The Airmasters RC Flash

Newsletter of the Airmasters Radio Control Club

10025 WW Ranch Rd
Sebastian, Florida 32978
2025 Issue: 4



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Vice-President: Bobby
Howering

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Vice-Treasurer: Catherine
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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



Airmasters Lease Renewal

I'm excited to announce that I have just signed and forwarded to Indian River County officials the Airmasters lease renewal. Once we have received signed copies from the county in return, we will have an executed lease agreement. After that, we will plan an event to commemorate this occasion !!! This is a very important milestone for our club, because this lease secures our future at this location for another ten years. Real estate is in prime demand, and our hobby requires a lot of it. Our lease encompasses nearly 50 acres without any restrictive overflight zones or noise ordinances. And thanks to our field maintenance crew led by Ray and Ed, we have beautifully manicured grounds. We are extremely fortunate to have access to such a premium site close to home. Sadly, this isn't the case for everyone in our hobby.

New Members

Two major clubs; the Sundancer's to our south and PKARS to the north have both lost flying sites and their members are now having to find other locations to fly. We are welcoming new members from both clubs into the Airmasters and while it's not the way we want to see our club grow, I'm confident every old Airmaster will welcome every new Airmaster into our fold. So, when you see a new face at the field, walk up to them, shake their hand, and introduce yourself you might just meet your new wingman.

Member Survey Results

I also want to say thanks to everyone that responded to our member survey. Your responses help the club leaders understand what's important to our fellow members and while we try to engage in a variety of ways, this survey was a great tool to help us measure the pulse of the club. Everyone asks you to fill out surveys these days so we're grateful for taking the time to tell us what you think. This information will be useful in helping Bobby, Cathy and the board members prepare a budget that provides the resources to do what you want to see get done.

Happy Landings!

Conway



Charter Club 2814

Next Club Meeting

Saturday October 11, 2025, at 9:00 am

Vice-President's Update

Hello Airmasters members,

I want to start by again expressing my gratitude to Conway and Rob for inviting me to join the leadership team as Vice President of the Airmasters RC Club. When I was asked to step into an active Vice President role on June 8, 2025, I wanted to build momentum, create opportunities, and strengthen this club for the members who make it possible. Over the past few months, I've worked hard to show what happens when leadership listens and takes action.

One of my first priorities was understanding where we stood with the county park, state park, and county commissioners. Today, more than ever, model airplane fields live and die based on their relationships with local officials. I've spoken numerous times with Andrew Griffith, District 5 Vice President of the AMA, who believes that the future of model field security depends on these relationships. They are also in new situations as their two fields he is a member of are being challenged with future outside change and business development.

With that in mind, I met with the County Park Superintendent on June 9, 2025, to request support for clay for the RC car track. Airmasters members had already shown interest in this project, and in short order Steve from the park was excited to work together. He also saw the opportunity to tie in the local high school's Aeronautics STEM curriculum. Thanks to this collaboration, we've now received roughly \$12,000 worth of clay. A huge thank you goes to Bret Givens and Tim Persky for providing the equipment and labor to apply the clay (see pictures contributed by Ray Jones for the Field Marshal Update). On October 1, more clay was delivered, and one more application will be required to create enough surface thickness to run cars on. I've also requested annual support so we can maintain the track as it weathers. Steve also encouraged me to reach out to the Indian River County School Board. The executive assistant to the curriculum and instruction department, Wendee, welcomed the idea of classroom volunteer opportunities under STEM. I am currently being processed for participation. Once I know more, I would love to invite other members who are interested in volunteering with students at the school.

The school board liked the concept so much that Assistant County Commissioner Kim contacted me directly, arranging a meeting with Commissioner Susan Adams on September 3. That meeting went extremely well. She believes we may qualify for even greater financial support from the county budget department. I then spoke with Robert from that department, who said our support for the STEM project aligns perfectly with Airmasters' nonprofit status and could qualify for a significant annual budget. This could help us develop infrastructure such as plumbing, electricity, and possibly improved road access, allowing membership funds to be saved or offset for future needs.

Commissioner Adams is also supporting Mr. Anderson from Sebastian High School in his curriculum work with the Vero EAA Young Eagles chapter. Together they plan to establish a hangar at Sebastian Airport where students can build a large RC model as part of their coursework. I will be volunteering to help with this project, with Airmasters serving as a natural extension for these students to become future members and modelers. Horizon Hobby has already supplied two NX6 transmitters and one NX8 to support these efforts. With my background in experimental aircraft design and construction, I have also reached out to Scott and Dwayne Swing who I know very well. They are the owners of Velocity Aircraft in Sebastian. They have a long history of supporting youth aviation and have expressed interest in being involved again.

Continued on the next page...

Vice-President's Update (continued)

I have also had several meetings with the State Park Manager, who provided a rough property line showing what Airmasters actually leases. It is a substantial piece of land totaling roughly 48 acres, larger than any of the other single attractions in the county park such as the softball field, pool, playground, or soccer fields. We also discussed potential future projects that the state could support, including clearing and pruning overgrowth, as Justin, the manager, described it.



These relationships are critical to the future of both the hobby and Airmasters. We are currently waiting on the final contract for another 10-year lease agreement, and I believe showing officials, schools, and the community how valuable our club is will be key to securing our future beyond that period. Other clubs, such as Sundancers and IRKS, have already lost their fields due to lack of support by local officials, and we must remain proactive. Becoming an asset to the community doesn't require much from us, and the support we've already received shows how much potential we have if we continue on this path. I believe there is a way to secure our field and enjoy it for decades to come.

I look forward to sharing further details with you to assure you that this is a very beneficial and necessary project to ensure we thrive doing what we love.

Bobby Howering
Vice-President



Safety Coordinator Report

Opportunities to Improve

A concern was brought up to me recently about the interpretation of the following section of our updated rules:

*Other than takeoff and landing, all maneuvers for aircraft, helicopters, and drones, including low passes, aerobatics, 3D flying, hovering, etc.. shall be performed no closer than the centerline of the runway. Turbines, gas powered planes 25cc or larger, and larger 3D helicopters should keep maneuvers further out over the rough grass. When over the runway, turns must be made away from the flight line. **Never aim the airplane, even temporarily, toward the pits.***

The concern is related to the last sentence. My understanding is when over the runway, turn away from the pits. The sentence does not stand alone. One can't never ever aim towards the pits. However, we do need to be mindful to keep our aerobatic maneuvers north of the runway centerline and bigger aircraft over the tall grass north of the runway. I appreciate this opportunity to discuss and clarify our safety rules. If you have questions about any rule that might not be clear to you, please ask and do submit written suggestions to help us make our safety guidance clearer.

Mike Cohen
Safety Coordinator



**In an emergency:
Call 911
Tell the dispatcher you are at:
10025 WW Ranch Road Sebastian Florida 32958
Then, Airmasters RC Club**

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

This year has been a productive one for flight training at Airmasters. All instructors have been working together smoothly, and the feedback has been very positive. Everyone agrees that the current approach is working well to guide students safely and help them gain confidence as they progress.

As instructors, our responsibility is to remain aware of new students and offer direction and support to bring them further along in this great hobby. By continuing to provide consistent guidance and encouragement, we make the path to solo and beyond both achievable and enjoyable.

Airmasters RC Instructors



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Ed Rowe
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Bret Givens
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Rusty Pieper
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I am also pleased to announce that Mike Cohen has joined the instructor group. Mike brings expert-level flying ability, coupled with immense modeling skills and years of experience. In addition, he has been actively supporting the club as Safety Coordinator, providing guidance and oversight that benefit all members. His involvement as an instructor is an excellent addition and will greatly enhance the success of new members and instructors.

The strength of our club lies in the knowledge, patience, and willingness of members to share their experience. I encourage everyone to continue fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for students, as this is the foundation of our future growth.

Bobby Howering
Chief Flight Instructor



Membership

Current paid members - 168

Welcome new Airmasters Members!

We are quickly approaching the December renewal time. To make the process as efficient as possible please take advantage of the online fillable PDF document. The form is simple and easy to fill out. Once you complete the form simply select the down arrow in the upper right of the form to save the file to your computer. It can then be easily attached to an email to submit. Please note the updated form now includes AMA expiration date as well as a revision to the instructions on the website. Over the next few months there **may** be changes to the Zelle address and or email address to submit. When you are ready to renew, please check the "Join" page on the site for the latest information.

One of our members, Gary Armstrong has been busy working on a new membership database application which will really help the club moving forward. When you see Gary, please thank him as it has been a ton of work for him to create.

A few notes on membership.

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 try to use the Zelle online payment if possible (details at the above link). Otherwise, mail in your check and form if you are unable to send the application in electronically.
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. This is another great reason to use the online form!
7. Please **do not** attempt to hand over your application and or dues to a club officer or BOD member. This only complicates the process for us and may result in a delay of processing.
8. Renewal applications and payment (check or cash) will still be accepted at the monthly meetings if you are not interested in submitting with the computer or US Mail.



Thank you!
Rob Stevens, Airmasters Membership

Field Marshal News

Guys and gals,

Cooler weather is approaching and welcome! 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.



Photos courtesy of Ray Jones

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.

Runway Improvements – in support of club member input in the survey and monthly Club meeting discussions, the board of directors has authorized the following runway initiatives:

- Investigating the extension of the runway to the east
- Discussing trimming carefully selected trees with the county to improve the glide slope for the approach from the west
- Cease the maintenance of the north end of the north/south runway for safety reasons and keeping our flight pattern within our FRIA

Improvements just keep on coming!

Thank You to everyone that pitch 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!



With Tim Persky on his front loader moving the clay on the track and me on my Bobcat, we got the clay smoothed down on the track. The clay layer is very thin, so if we drive our RC trucks now it would mix the clay and base dirt. So, the track is closed until we get more clay and put it down.

We were able to get the tall grass cut again! It got tall with the rain, but it is done!!



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

2nd Annual Airmasters RC Pattern Contest

Saturday & Sunday, Sept 27th and 28th 2025

The 2nd Annual Airmaster's Pattern Contest is in the books. I wanted to start by saying thanks to the club for hosting the contest and closing the field for use by the contestants for the weekend. We had 17 people make the trek from as far south as Miami and as far north as Perry Georgia (6.5 hours) and Alabama (8.5 hours). We got in 6 rounds despite the threat of what is now called Tropical Storm Imelda hanging over our heads for the weekend. So, here comes the high drama story...



On Friday, practice and field acclimation was scheduled to start at around 10. When I arrived at 8:30, I was surprised to see Lake Airmasters, well, floating around. Ray Jones marked off the end of the parking area to be sure no one got stuck in the mud or tore up the grass later in the weekend. I guess Sebastian got a lot more rain than I did up in Satellite Beach Thursday afternoon. Friday's weather was great for practice and Saturday looked good too. Sunday, not so much, so we were going to press to get in 4 rounds Saturday just in case. Friday practice did claim two planes though. One landed wide in the rough grass damaging the plane's landing gear beyond a quick fix, and another pilot became disoriented in the late afternoon sun, slowing down to get his bearings, but tip stalled the plane in the process. Search on foot and by drone did not locate the plane before it got time to call it a day. Ray "Tracker" Jones came out Saturday and was able to locate it with the help of Conway and some others. The surviving 15 planes and pilots were spread across the following classes: Sportsman: 2, Intermediate: 1, Advanced: 5, Masters: 1, FAI: 6. This included 4 pilots from our Club, Conway Bolt, Andy Sommer, Ron Ellis, and me.

Saturday morning at the field we had a pilot's meeting at 8:30 and were just about to start on-time at 9:00 when we discovered the computer/scoring system was having wireless communication issues. We started the old-fashioned way with paper and pen while the "IT guy" worked the issue. Sometime between the last contest and this one, Windows updated and changed the ethernet settings. Halfway through round 1, we were able to use the scoring system and things went smoothly for the rest of the day. Even though thunder boomed in the distance, the weather was not a problem at the field. Four rounds were completed. Sunday's forecast was not looking good at 5:00PM Saturday, with a small window in the morning. Pilot's meeting was scheduled for 8:00AM to take advantage of that window.

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2nd Annual Airmasters RC Pattern Contest (continued)

Saturday & Sunday, Sept 27th and 28th 2025

Sunday morning, I got down to the field nice and early at 6:45 to set up. No computer/scoring system issues. At 8:00, I even skipped the pilot's meeting and let people know who was flying and who was judging. We started at about 8:15 with a 1.25 hour window before the rain was supposed to move in. A few pilots opted not to fly, myself included, so the rounds would go faster. We finished round 5, weather was holding, so we rolled right into round 6. The sun even started to shine! We completed round 6, acknowledged several people's efforts to help make the contest a success (relayed below), gave out awards, and headed home.



I wanted to say thanks to a few folks for helping make this event a success. Thanks to Kris Van Nostran and Ron Ellis for getting the poles back up and for marking the box lines on the ground for the pilots. Thanks to those two plus Ray Jones for helping get things set up Friday. Thanks to the mowing crew for getting the pits and runway in such beautiful shape beforehand. Many of the first-time visitors remarked how awesome the field looks. Thanks again to Ray for coming out and helping to locate the downed plane. Lastly, thanks again to the club for giving up a weekend for the contest. We will net out \$441.11 from the event. We had several visitors show up, including a friend of mine from the gym and some people just passing by in the park who saw the planes. Hopefully some of these visitors will lead to new members and hopefully like this year, next year's turnout increases yet again. Maybe a few of you out there will be interested in giving the Club Class or Sportsman a try.

Regards,
Mike Cohen, Contest Director

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 **Great Turn-Out even with tropical storm Imelda hanging over our heads!!**
- 8 November Election and Field Day Work Party after Club Meeting
- 6 December Evening BBQ and Fun Flying

Airmasters RC
The Members Make the Club!