



# The Airmasters RC Flash

Newsletter of the Airmasters Radio Control Club

**10025 WW Ranch Rd**  
Sebastian, Florida 32978  
2026 Issue: 2



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## Club Officers

**President:** Leo de Cardenas  
**Vice-President:** Conway Bolt  
**Treasurer:** Catherine Bonin  
**Secretary:** Jose Melendez

## Board Members:

Tony Finazzo  
Bret Givens  
Michael Hobbs  
Frank Manion  
Ed Rowe III

## Safety Coordinator and Webmaster:

Michael Cohen

## Flight Instruction:

See Instruction section  
/Inquire at field

## Membership Chair:

Rob Stevens

## Field Marshal:

Bret Givens

## Newsletter Editor:

Michael Hobbs  
[mdhobbs@bellsouth.net](mailto:mdhobbs@bellsouth.net)

## President's Update



Hello Airmasters Members!

As we progress through the year, it is remarkable how swiftly time passes—already, we find ourselves moving beyond the second quarter. During the first quarter, the leadership team underwent a rapid restructuring, which resulted in a vacancy on the Board of Directors. I extend my sincere gratitude to the club members who offered themselves for consideration to fill this position. I am pleased to announce the board's appointment of Frank Manion as a new director. Frank's extensive experience will serve as a valuable asset to our club in his capacity as a board member.

The Board of Directors remains diligent in monitoring ongoing actions and ensuring their resolution between board meetings. The responsibilities entrusted to the Directors and committee chairs are continuous, even if the broader club membership may not always perceive visible activity.

The Board of Directors of an incorporated Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) club bears both legal and fiduciary obligations for the governance of the corporation. This includes ensuring compliance with safety standards and supervising club operations. The board is responsible for establishing and enforcing policies, managing assets, maintaining or securing a flying site, and overseeing membership, all in accordance with the AMA's national safety code and regulatory requirements.

*Continued on the next page...*



Charter Club 2814

## Next Club Meeting

Saturday April 11, 2026, at 9:00 am

## President's Update (con't.)

### Principal Duties of the Board of Directors in an AMA Club:

- **Safety Enforcement and Risk Management:** The board possesses the authority to ground any pilot or aircraft that operates in an unsafe manner and is responsible for enforcing the AMA National Model Aircraft Safety Code. Their duty is to ensure a safe environment for all participants and spectators.
- **Governance and Compliance:** The board must consistently act in accordance with the club's bylaws, articles of incorporation, and AMA regulations. This includes maintaining compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- **Financial Stewardship (Fiduciary Duty):** The board is tasked with collecting dues, managing club finances, and maintaining accurate financial records. Directors oversee the corporation's assets and are responsible for their proper disposition, which may involve transferring assets to the AMA upon dissolution.
- **Membership and Discipline:** The board holds the authority to discipline, suspend, or expel members who violate club bylaws or safety rules. Reinstatement of membership typically requires a two-thirds majority vote.
- **Operational Management:** The board is responsible for overseeing the flying site, managing club property and equipment, and conducting regular business meetings. Additionally, they may appoint committee chairpersons and define the roles of club officers.
- **Legal Duties:** Directors are obligated to fulfill the duties of **Care** (making prudent, well-informed decisions), **Loyalty** (acting in the club's best interest), and **Obedience** (adhering to the club's mission and applicable laws).

Furthermore, the board frequently serves as a liaison with the AMA national organization and local authorities, thereby ensuring the club's continued charter status.

With respect to membership, roles and responsibilities are clear: Members benefit from the club's facilities and are expected to actively participate in maintaining a safe, lawful, and effective corporate entity.

All these responsibilities and expectations are detailed in our Constitution, Bylaws, and the documentation provided by the AMA.

I appreciate the commitment of all our members coming together and continuing to make Airmasters Radio Control Club a great place to come and enjoy our hobby.

**Leo de Cardenas**  
President



# Vice-President's Report

Greetings, fellow Airmasters!

It's an honor to serve as your Vice President this year, my primary duty in this role is to support our President, Leo, in his leadership endeavours. Having previously served as President of this club, I find myself in a particularly good position to offer this support. I know firsthand what the role demands, and I can say with confidence that Leo brings outstanding leadership skills to the table. I'm genuinely happy to be in his corner, and I look forward to doing whatever I can to help make his tenure a successful one.

## Inventory & Club Assets

Beyond supporting Leo, I've set my sights on two areas where I think I can make a meaningful and lasting contribution to the club this year. The first is getting our inventory and club assets properly catalogued and organized. I want to be clear that this isn't just a good idea — it's actually a requirement under our club bylaws. Getting into compliance and staying there is something we owe to the membership, and I intend to take it seriously. Knowing what we have, where it is, and what condition it's in is the kind of foundational work that doesn't always get the spotlight it deserves, but it matters. A well-organized club is a well-run club. There's also a very practical financial benefit worth mentioning: maintaining a current and accurate inventory can help save the club money by eliminating redundant purchases. When we know what we already own, we stop paying for things we don't need — and that's good stewardship of every member's dues.

## Documenting Our Processes

Second — and this is something I'm particularly enthusiastic about — I'll be working to document the processes behind how we run our events. The goal is straightforward: create clear, easy-to-follow documentation so that any event can be handed off to a new coordinator without losing a step. Consistency matters. Whether it's our first time hosting a swap meet or our twentieth annual picnic, the experience should feel polished and well-organized regardless of who's at the helm.

The events on our calendar for this year include our annual picnic, fun flies, our F3A pattern contest, two swap meets, new this year an annual commemoration of National Model Aviation Day, and the always-beloved end-of-year night fly. Each of these events has its own rhythm and requirements and getting that knowledge out of people's heads and onto paper is exactly the kind of work that strengthens a club and allows leaders to pass the baton without losing the knowledge.

## We Need Volunteers!

Of course, none of this happens without people willing to roll up their sleeves. We have a fantastic group of event coordinators within the club who are ready and willing to help mentor and support anyone who steps forward. If you've ever thought about getting more involved, this is your invitation. No experience necessary — just a willingness to pitch in.

## A Special Thank-You

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't give a well-deserved shout-out to Mike D'amico for his outstanding fun fly ideas at our recent picnic and for all the effort he put in to help make that event such a success. Events like that don't come together by accident, and Mike's creativity and hard work made a real difference. Thank you, Mike — we appreciate you more than you know.

As always, it's a privilege to be part of this club. See you at the field!



**Conway Bolt**  
Vice President

## Safety Coordinator Report

Hello everyone. Since we continue to get lots of new members, and the variety of aircraft grows, I would like to continue to point out some key items, starting with yielding to other aircraft.

*Members are expected to use common sense and courtesy before taking off when other aircraft are flying. Trying to mix dissimilar aircraft or styles of flying may cause unsafe conflicts. For example, if combat is taking place, it would be unwise for a student pilot to be in the air. Good judgment should be used if there are people flying 3D, high-speed racing planes or jets, micro planes, very slow aircraft trainers, helicopters, etc. The question to ask is, "Will my airplane or style of flying cause conflict with other aircraft in the air: "If so it would be best to wait until conditions change or to ask flight-line pilots if it's okay to take off.*

The second reminder is what you will find in **Field Safety Rules Section, V. Flight Restrictions:**

*Flying over the pits or the spectator and parking areas is forbidden.*

*A maximum of five (5) aircraft are allowed in the air at one time. Exceptions may be made (at the discretion of the Safety Coordinator) for special occasions.*

*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. When over the runway, turns must be made away from the flight line*

FYI, two pictures have been added under [The Flying Field](#) section of the website. One showing the aerobic flying region noted above and the other is the FRIA zone. Please check them out.

Finally, remember: Right rudder on your takeoff roll, especially flying right to left!

### Fire Station Move

If you have not been to the field for a few weeks, you may not be aware that the fire station at the entrance to the park is no longer there. It is important now more than ever to call 911 if there is an emergency and provide the following information to the dispatcher:

**In an emergency:**

**Call 911**

**Tell the dispatcher you are at:**

**10025 WW Ranch Road Sebastian Florida 32958**

**Then, Airmasters RC Club**

### Defibrillator Fully Funded!

We have great news! The Club Officers and Board of Directors unanimously approved funding the remaining \$523 to complete the goal for the defibrillator out of club funds in support of the safety of all Airmasters RC Club members and visitors!!

**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 Update

Last year was a strong one for flight training at Airmasters. Instructors worked together smoothly, and feedback was very positive, confirming that the current approach is effectively guiding students safely while building confidence.

Moving into 2026, we must remain aware of new students and continue providing consistent direction and encouragement, making the path to solo flight and beyond achievable, safe, and enjoyable.

## Airmasters RC Instructors



**Conway Bolt**  
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**Michael Cohen**  
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**Steve Melagrano**  
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**Ed Rowe III**  
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**Bret Givens**  
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**Ray Jones**  
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**Tim Persky**  
Heelroper57@yahoo.com



**Rusty Pieper**  
ridingmyhonda@yahoo.com

These efforts strengthen our training program and help ensure Airmasters remains a welcoming and supportive club for both new and experienced pilots. Thank you to all of our flight instructors for their continued dedication to new members and to the club as a whole.

**Steve Bowman**  
Chief Flight Instructor



# Membership

## Welcome new Airmasters Members!

This year we have many new members so please introduce yourself and make them welcome to the Airmasters R/C club.

In 2026, only members with renewed memberships and current AMA can fly or drive RC cars at the field. As of March 31, 2026, we have **155 active paid members** and 50 members from 2025 who have not renewed their membership. Currently all active members are up to date with their AMA membership. Thank you!

We have added a “manual application” form in addition to the “fillable pdf application” form on the Airmasters website. Several people have printed a blank fillable form and have handwritten in their information. While this method works, folks miss the drop-down boxes which are there to select more details needed for the application. The manual application has blanks to hand write this information in.

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. We have moved the Zelle payee address to the Airmasters email (**airmasters22@gmail.com**). Please make sure that you correctly spell the payee as noted above (if you leave out the “s” Zelle will wait for verification and not go through).

Many thanks to **Gary Armstong** who has created a new membership database application which has really helped the club with the process of tracking membership. 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 manual 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.
9. Please note that the August 1 discount membership is for **new members** or past members who have not renewed for 1 year (subject to a new initiation fee).

See the new Club informational hand out on the next page and as always, if you have any questions, please contact me at, [rrstevens@gmail.com](mailto:rrstevens@gmail.com)

**Rob Stevens**  
Membership



## Membership (con't.)

# Airmasters Radio Control Club

**Fly • Learn • Build • Connect**



Welcome to the Airmasters Radio Control Club, a friendly community of aviation enthusiasts who enjoy flying radio-controlled aircraft and sharing the hobby with others. We are proud to be an AMA-sanctioned club affiliated with the Academy of Model Aeronautics, the national organization promoting safe and responsible model aviation. Visitors and new members are always welcome!

### **What We Do**

- Fly RC airplanes of many types and sizes
- Build and maintain model aircraft
- Help new pilots learn to fly safely
- Host club events and community activities
- RC car racing on a clay banked track



Enjoy an outdoor hobby with fellow enthusiasts

### **New Pilot Training**

Interested in learning to fly? Our instructors provide guidance and hands-on training for beginners.

### **Flying Field Location**

10025 WW Ranch Rd. Sebastian, FL 32958

Located within North County Park.

From CR-512 turn north onto WW Ranch Road and drive past the North County Pool about ½ mile.

### **When We Fly**

Our hours are 1/2 hour after sunrise, 1/2 hour before sunset. Most flying takes place in the mornings when the winds are lighter, although members also fly in the afternoons.

### **Learn More**

Website: <https://airmastersrc.org>

Email: [airmastersrc22@gmail.com](mailto:airmastersrc22@gmail.com)



Scan for website and club information

## Field Marshal News

Guys and gals,

Spring has sprung! Many members have already pitched in completing many maintenance and improvement initiatives. We have to keep up with our maintenance in 2026 to keep our facility in tip-top shape.

There are so many people contributing their time and talent on so many projects. Thank you all very much! Your help is appreciated and we have a pretty good list of projects for 2026 to tackle together before the heat of the summer.



Our Airmasters RC mowing team members have been doing a fantastic job keeping the field well maintained. It is always trimmed up and ready for use. The extra effort using the grass sweeper really makes a big difference reducing the grass clipping that get pulled into and clog up the ducted fans on the EDF aircraft. Please contact Ed Rowe or Ray Jones if you are interested in helping out with the mowing. I know they will appreciate the help.

It is time to cut the tall grass again! Airmaster Tim Persky will be taking on that job again. Great job and thank you Tim!



We had some frost damage on the field earlier in the year. What a difference the warm sun and spring rain makes!!



***Improvements just keep on coming!***

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

Thank you, all our generous members, that contribute their time, knowledge and resources to help keep our Club well maintained and ready for enjoyment by all of our members.

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](mailto:mdhobbs@bellsouth.net)

### Big Gasser Wednesday

- Conway Bolt



Pictured L to R Jeff Peterson (Sebart Miss Ultimate w/GP123), Bret Givens (Redwing Extra 330 w/EME 60), Conway Bolt (Pilot Extra 330SX 90" w/DA70), Kris Van Nostran (Pilot Laser 88" w/DA70), Mark Bowman (Pilot Laser 103" w/DA120)

Airmasters Jeff Peterson, Bret Givens, Conway Bolt, Kris Van Nostran and Mark Bowman met recently to bore some large holes in the sky with their big gassers. The weather couldn't have been more perfect for this informal event: 80 degrees and sunny with a light easterly breeze. The great weather gave everyone the opportunity to get in several flights each, practice aerobatics and just have fun! There was a unanimous consensus to make this a regular gathering so if you like to join the fun, stop by and talk to one of the aforementioned members and we'll add you to the group chat (text) so we can link up at a future big gasser fly.

### Pattern Directional Indicator Overhaul

- Ray Jones



After many years of faithful service our pattern direction indicator was pretty well worn and ready for a refresh. From the shop to the airfield, our dependable guide is back in service!

# Show and Tell, Tips and Techniques from the Members

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## Airmasters RC Club Fun Fly and BBQ

There was a great turnout for our March 2026 Fun Fly and BBQ. Great friends, food and flying.



Bomb Drop rigs ready!

MC VP Conway Bolt

Bomb Drop, Spot Landing, Limbo and then Cut a Balloon String!  
Let the fun begin!!



Limbo set up!

And the winners are...



Bret Givens

Bomb Drop  
and Limbo



Spot Landing and  
Balloon String Cutting



Ed Rowe



## 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 last one out lock the chain.



## 2026 events:

- Swap meet January 3, 2026 **Great Turn-Out!!**
- Club Officers and Board Members meeting January 3, 2026 @ 9:00 am. **Collaborative!**
- Annual Picnic *and Fun Fly* – March 21, 2026 **Fun Timell**
- Open Fun Fly – May 30, 2026
- Swap meet - July 18, 2026
- Pattern Contest – September 24, 2026
- Night Fly – December 19, 2026

**Airmasters RC**  
**The Members Make the Club!**