



The Airmasters RC Flash

Newsletter of the Airmasters Radio Control Club

10025 WW Ranch Rd
Sebastian, Florida 32978
2026 Issue: 4



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Vice-President: Conway Bolt
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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

President's Quarterly Update



Hello, Airmasters Members and Friends!

This year has gone by quickly, and our club has much to celebrate. Membership has grown from 123 active members in January to more than 170 today. That growth has brought fresh energy, new ideas, and opportunities to strengthen how we serve our members.

As our membership increased, so did the need to process annual renewals, welcome new members, and issue membership cards more efficiently. Rob Stevens stepped forward and implemented a more automated, efficient process. His contribution is one example of how volunteers help our club grow successfully.

Together, we have made meaningful improvements to club operations, our field and infrastructure, and community outreach. Our monthly meetings are also more streamlined, reducing meeting time and giving members more time to fly. Although the beginning of the year presented a few challenges, volunteers responded quickly, helped get us back on track, and have kept us moving forward.

Our growing membership has broadened the range of experience, perspectives, and ideas within the club. Rather than doing something simply because "that's the way we have always done it," we can welcome thoughtful dialogue and pursue better processes and approaches. As we prepare for our November Annual Meeting, we will have the opportunity to elect the officers and Board members who will lead the club in the year ahead. This is an excellent opportunity for both new and longtime members to share their skills and help continue the positive trajectory of the Airmasters R/C Club.

Continued on the next page...



Charter Club 2814

Next Club Meeting

Saturday October 11, 2026, at 9:00 am

President's Quarterly Update (con't.)

Our participation in the Full Sail University Tech Fest was another strong example of volunteer service. After the club received a direct invitation from the Indian River County Parks and Recreation director, Conway Bolt immediately volunteered to coordinate our involvement. Greg Triolo, Stuart Katz, Steve Bowman, and Rob Stevens supported him. Their many hours engaging with event participants made our presence at the Tech Fest a great success.

Our budget remains strong, and we have been able to avoid a dues increase. Much of that success can be credited to the all-volunteer mowing team established a little over a year ago. Their work extends well beyond cutting grass: they also maintain the equipment, so it performs reliably and keeps our field functional, safe, and ready for everyone to enjoy.

I have not listed every member of the mowing team because I would not want to overlook anyone, but each volunteer deserves our recognition and appreciation. By keeping this work in-house, this dedicated team has saved the club thousands of dollars that would otherwise have gone to an outside contractor. Those savings can instead be reinvested in improvements that benefit the entire membership.

When the club needed a Chief Flight Instructor earlier this year, Steve Bowman volunteered without hesitation. Under his leadership, we have expanded our training activities and added a documented structure to our new-pilot program, helping others learn to fly R/C aircraft correctly and safely.

When a vacancy arose on the Board of Directors, Frank Manion stepped forward so the seat could be filled without slowing the club's progress. He quickly became a valuable and contributing member of the Board.

This newsletter is also made possible by a dedicated volunteer. Mike Hobbs skillfully gathers the necessary contributions within a demanding timeline so each issue can be published on schedule and keep our members and friends informed. It is no small task, although Mike makes it look easy. As you read the newsletter, please notice the people serving in club positions and remember that every one of them is a volunteer.

As we look ahead to our Annual Members' Meeting, I invite each of you to consider how you might become more involved. Could this be your opportunity to serve in a new role, contribute an idea, improve a process, or lend a skill? Every contribution matters. Airmasters R/C Club depends entirely on volunteers, and it is your time, talent, and commitment that keep our club strong, growing, and enjoyable for everyone. Thank you to all who have served—and to those who will step forward next.

Leo de Cardenas
President



Vice-President & Event Coordinator's Corner

Hopefully, by now you've been to the field and seen the new "AED Inside" sign. While we hope no one ever needs to use it, we can all rest a little easier knowing it's there.

Special thanks to our retired firefighter, Ray, for researching the best unit to get, and to the members who made generous donations. This purchase allowed the club to apply for the AMA's "Save a Life" program, and I'm happy to share that the club successfully received a \$200 reimbursement.

As events coordinator, I often get busy during events and don't have much time to participate. However, that wasn't the case with our recent pattern contest. Thanks to Michael Cohen for putting on a fabulous event—for once, I got to participate instead of running things or acting as master of ceremonies! As a reminder, our final scheduled event for this year is the Night Fly on December 19th.

Now is a great time to start thinking about what events you'd like to see next year. While I intend to step down as an officer at the end of this year, I plan to stay on as event coordinator. If there is an event you'd like us to repeat or a new idea you'd like to suggest, please don't hesitate to reach out and let me know.

Finally, there's a great write up by Andrew Griffith our AMA District V vice president in his newsletter discussing the Airmasters and our community outreach initiatives. be sure to read it!

Happy landings!

Conway Bolt

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 aerobatic 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 Update

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 back. It is important, as always, 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 Received!

A new ZOLL AED Plus W/ Real CPR Help Complete AED Package has been received and installed inside the shelter. Ray Jones gave a presentation on the simplicity and value of the device. We hope we never need to use it. However, we are thankful for the foresight and care for the safety of all members and visitors at 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

With the start of the school year in August, training activity has naturally slowed down as most of our youth students have transitioned back into their academic routines.

While instructional volume is lighter for the moment, we do have one student on the verge of clearing a major milestone:

Daniel is very close to achieving his solo sign-off. In fact, he likely would have completed his practical evaluation on his last outing if a storm hadn't moved in and cut the session short.

A special thanks to Daniel's dad, Tony, who has been generously letting Daniel take priority stick time during their sessions to help him prepare for his solo.

On the operational side, a big thank you to Ray for staying on top of new-member checkouts recently. Your support keeping new pilots integrated and safely cleared is greatly appreciated!

While I haven't caught up with all of our other flight instructors recently to get a full update on the training front, that's precisely what makes our team so great--our instructors continuously step in whenever and wherever they're needed to keep things running smoothly.

Airmasters RC Instructors



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Steve Bowman
Chief Flight
Instructor

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Membership

Welcome to our new Airmasters members!

We continue to increase our membership so please introduce yourself when you see new people at the field and make them feel at home in the Airmasters R/C Club.

As of September 24, 2026, we have 176 active paid members. This may be a new record for the Airmasters!

At the last two meetings, I mentioned that I was developing a new format for our member cards. To help automate the membership process, I created a new card using the free Avery web application. The cards will be printed in color on business card stock using member data from the Airmasters database application written by Gary Armstrong. This eliminates the need to handwrite more than 176 cards. I have also used the database application to generate mailing labels, which previously had to be handwritten.

Membership renewal season is fast approaching. All members must renew by December 31, 2026, to use the field and track in 2027.

Updated membership notes:

1. I will print all renewal member cards on December 1. Once we receive your dues payment, your card will be issued either in person or by mail.
2. I will be at the field on several Saturdays in December for members who want to pick up their cards in person. I can accept cash or check at that time, and I will send a notice confirming the dates and times.
3. If you would like your card to show a nickname for your first name, such as Jim instead of James, please let me know by email before December 1 at rrstevens@gmail.com or airmasters22@gmail.com.
4. Zelle electronic payment is preferred if your bank supports it. The Airmasters email address is registered with Zelle for payments; we do not have a phone number registered. The address is airmasters22@gmail.com. Please make sure you spell it correctly.
5. I have also created a new card format for new members. I can hand write in the member's name, AMA number, and expiration date as we have done in the past.
6. Finally, I plan to eliminate the need for a new membership application form for renewals if your information has not changed. In that case, you would simply pay your dues and receive your card. If any of your information has changed please use the existing membership forms and submit them as we have done in the past.



Here is a sample of the new card format. For members who hold a formal club position, the title will be printed below the AMA information. I also updated the card format after this sample was printed so the first name is in a larger font size. Thanks to Conway for the suggestion. Please visit the club website for more details on joining the Airmasters R/C Club. <https://airmastersrc.org/join/>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at rrstevens@gmail.com.

Thanks, Rob



Rob Stevens
Membership

See the new Club informational hand out on the next page...

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: airmasters22@gmail.com



Scan for website and club information



Field Marshal News

Guys and gals,

Fall is here and the volunteers are doing a great job!

Many members have already pitched in completing many maintenance and improvement initiatives in 2026 to keep our facility in tip-top shape. Thank you all very much! Your help is appreciated.

✅ UPDATE ON RUNWAY CARE

Thanks again to Airmasters RC team members Ray Jones, Tim Persky, Ed Rowe, Greg Triolo, Tom Young, Frank Manion, Dave Massey, Mike Hobbs and John Farrington. With everyone's help, the field was seeded and fertilized June 18th. Volunteers like this behind the scenes help keep this place one of the best RC airfields in Florida.

It's been three full months now since the club fertilized and reseeded the runway. It seems like a long time. However, the Bahia grass seed is, as Tom Young has assessed, "progressing as expected." We are getting a good amount of rain now, so we expect to see more seedlings. Germination is a slow process, and our field is progressing on schedule.

The mowing team is doing a great job! We are back to maintenance height, and the grass is really thickening up thanks to the fertilizer and seed.

Securing the Gate, Barrier and Electric Fence

We have many new members and everyone is welcome. I just want to take a minute to clarify what we need to do when we are the first one to arrive or last one to leave the airfield.

Arriving

When you arrive, you should find the gate locked, the orange barrier in the road, and the electric fence cable connected across the entrance. The barrier serves as a visual reminder that the fence is energized.

- Unlock the gate, then scramble the lock combination to prevent non-members from learning it.
- Fully open the gate and secure it by wrapping the chain around the post.
- Move the orange barrier from the center of the road to the grass on the left (south) side of the entrance.
- On the right (north) side of the road, unhook the electric fence cable using the insulated handle and place it on the grass on the left (south) side.

Departing

Before leaving, make sure the shed is locked and then:

- Pull through the gate and park.
- Reconnect the electric fence cable.
- Place the orange barrier in the center of the road, just east of the fence cable, close to but not touching it.
- Close and lock the gate, then rotate the lock wheels away from the combination.

See you soon and thank you for keeping the airfield in tip-top shape and secure!

Enjoy the flying and fellowship!

Bret Givens

Field Marshal
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The 3rd Annual Airmasters Pattern Contest is in the books!

Contestants came from as far away as Alabama and South Carolina. We also had 5 club members participate. They will be noted below in the standings.

The winds on practice day were high at 15 to 25 miles per hour, but some people still braved the high cross wind to get in a few flights. The good news is the weather for the rest of the weekend would be spectacular. We had 17 contestants: 5 in Intermediate, and then 4 in each of Advanced, Masters, and FAI. Unfortunately, one contestant in Intermediate forgot his main flight batteries and decided to just head home.

With 16 flyers, we decided to just run one line avoid the risk of mid-air collisions but still managed to get six rounds over both weekend days. First place in Intermediate was not determined until the final two flights on Sunday. Same for Advanced. In Masters, second place was up for grabs until the 5th flight. In FAI, we flew four rounds of the "P" Preliminary sequence (which is what Master's adopted too), but Sunday, FAI flew 2 rounds of the "F" Finals sequence. Rarely are the pilots in "F" not rolling on looping elements or snapping and rolling on straight lines. Check on the Aresti diagram and scoresheet here if you want to get nauseous: [2026-2027 - F-27 - RL.pdf](#) [2026-2027 F3A Score Sheets](#)

Here are Da Planes:



Intermediate:

1. Kris Van Nostran (Club Member)
2. Eric Uptaggraft
3. Jim Hutchings
4. Conway Bolt (Club Member)

Advanced:

1. James Thomas (Club Member)
2. Larry Kauffman
3. Steve Hilmes
4. Steve Franc

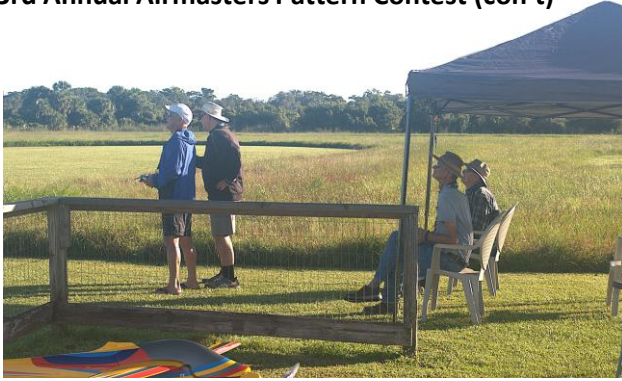
Masters:

1. Ray Morton
2. James Bennett
3. Mike Cohen (Club Member)
4. James MacLean (Club Member)

FAI:

1. Joe Walker
2. AD Dailey
3. Ron Ellis (Club Member)
4. Billy Meadows

3rd Annual Airmasters Pattern Contest (con't)



In addition to the competition, we had several club member spectators and some other people that stopped on by just to check out the scene. A teenager, Alex, and his father Sid drove all the way down from Ocala. Alex is learning to fly at his local club in Ocala, but he is interested in competing someday. Alex and Sid spent the whole of Saturday watching and talking to the contestants. Being a little over an hour from the Gator RC Club in Archer (near Gainesville), Gator member AD Dailey invited them to come over any time and fly with them.

Daniel and his father Tony, both Airmasters club members, spent a few hours Saturday with us as well. Steve Bowman is teaching them to fly. Daniel is interested in aerobatics and when he is ready, we will be there to help.

We also had a couple come from nearby in Sebastian. They were going to bring their father back sometime soon, knowing he would be interested to see what we do at the field. Who knows... maybe they will all want to give it a try.

Sunday, we had three more visitors. A father, Son, and his two young children Jaxson and Mira. Son is interested in joining and learning to fly. He has already bought a plane, but I also showed him our two club trainers and let him know to reach out to Steve Bowman, Chief Flight Instructor, about getting set up with someone to help him learn to fly. Son also spent time talking to Ray Jones and Conway Bolt. Hopefully we will see him at the field soon.

I want to thank the Airmasters Club for giving up a weekend so we could host this event. I also want to thank the mowing crew for doing such a fantastic job the whole season, but even right before the contest, the field looked awesome. Several pilots were very impressed by the facility. Thanks to Ron, Kris, and Andy Sommer for setting up/maintaining the poles and marking the box boundaries. And finally, thanks to Conway for helping with the food and drinks.

Pictures will be posted on the website soon and a report on the finances will be provided at the next club meeting.

Regards,
Mike C

Mike Cohen
Event Coordinator



Airmasters RC Member Exchange

To help our club members connect and find new homes for aircraft-related gear, we are pleased to introduce the Airmasters RC Member Exchange. Moving forward, a monthly list of available items will be distributed to all members via email. Please find the current list of available items attached.

If you have RC aircraft, engines, radios, batteries, chargers, tools, building supplies, or accessories you would like to sell, trade, or give away, we invite you to share them with the club. To include an item in the next distribution, please send the following information to Mike D'Amico at michael.damico56@yahoo.com by July 30, 2026:

- Item description
- Asking price (if applicable)
- Photos
- Your name
- Preferred contact information (phone and/or email)

Please note that this service is provided as a convenience for Airmasters members only. All transactions are strictly between the buyer and seller. The club does not inspect, guarantee, or assume responsibility for the condition, pricing, or sale of any item.

Thank you for supporting your fellow members and helping keep great RC equipment in the air!

Mike D'Amico

michael.damico56@yahoo.com

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

Giant U-Can-Do

– Greg Tripoli

I wanted to share my Monokote and balsa Great Planes Giant U-Can-Do ARF. I had forgotten how big it was. It's 84" x 84". Almost the length of the inside of my car. It flew spectacularly with the Sato 180. It sounds like a little Harley. I am not flying glow any more so I am considering selling the aircraft as is or maybe I will sell the Sato 180 and find out how it's going to be to electrify it...? If somebody is interested let me know.



Show and Tell, Tips and Techniques from the Members

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Alaska Air and Southwest Airlines - RC Art – Ray Jones and John Farrington

Dear Members,

With the summer season coming to an end, I wanted to share a project that John Farrington and I recently completed.

As many of you know, flying scale military EDF jets during the summer at our field can be challenging due to the rainy weather and all the weeds on the runway that grow in the summer, hindering rotation unless you have 4" wheels. To ensure I could keep flying through the season, I purchased a Freewing AL37 airliner. John also acquired one, and he suggested that we customize both models with real airline liveries. We selected all-white AL37 models from Motion RC. We disassembled, masked and applied base and detail paint on each airframe part.



We worked with Callie Graphics to design the decals. John chose the Southwest 250th Anniversary livery, and I selected the Alaska Airlines Star Wars edition. After 40 to 50 hours on each jet of detailed painting and decal work, both aircraft are finished, and the results turned out exceptionally well.



We look forward to bringing them to the airfield and sharing the final results with everyone in person at the October 11th monthly meeting.

Best regards,
Ray Jones

[See in "Motion RC Live" Video](#)



Paul Martin



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

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, please fasten the hog wire cable, place the orange barrier in front of the cable between the gate and the cable. and lock the chain on the gate.



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 Time!!**
- Open Fun Fly – May 30, 2026 **Good Times with Members and Guests!!**
- Swap meet - July 18, 2026 **Wheel'in n Deal'in Good Time!!**
- Pattern Practice and Contest - September 25th thru 27th. The field will be closed to everyone but contestants from 10:00 AM on Friday, September 25th thru Sunday the 27th until 3:00 PM **Spectacular!!**
- Annual Members' Meeting – November 14, 2026
- Night Fly – December 19, 2026

Airmasters RC
The Members Make the Club!