

Seen at the Seniors 2025

Photos by Bozena Michalowski

Fifty-four competitors and six guests vied for the Seniors Title at Seminole Lake Gliderport from March 7-14. The deepest field of all SSA sanctioned contests fought it out over five contest days, with eight contestants (and two guests) finishing within four hundred points of winner Bob Fletcher.



As always, the Seniors Championship was held at Seminole Lake Gliderport, Clermont, FL.



JP Stewart confers with members of the Lakeland Aero Club.



Colorful winglet on ASW20 glider "USA", flown by Tony Condon.



A strong cold front rained out one contest day.



Tow pilots, from left: Scott Thomas, Ray Smith, Martin Hollatz, Tom McLinskey, and Izumi Kunibiko.





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The live oak at the north end of Seminole's runway is handy for shading spectators.



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Richard Owen and Mihaela Luculescu.



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Wing runner Timmy Higgins clears the flight path as another glider is towed to the north.



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Gliders gridded in two rows on the south end of the runway.





Shona May Fenion was thrilled at the prospect of flying with World Champion Karl Striedieck.



Gary Ittner (right, Third Place) chats with Manfred Radius on the ready line.



Steve Viblen landing his ASG 29.



Daily pilots' meetings were held in one of the many hangars lining the field.



Gary Carter.



Tow plane pulls glider underneath a likely whisp of cloud.



Landscape with birds near the gliderport.



Rick Sheppe and Sandra Danoff.



U.S. team members, from left: Jared Granzow, Tony Condon, and Sylvia Grandstaff.





Contest organizers provided ample food for every diet.



Manfred Radius finds two hands aren't enough as he gets ready on the grid.



Birds of all shapes and sizes are fixtures in the Florida skies.



Henry Retting turns final in his 21-meter ASH 31Mi.



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Pilots and crew gather in Hawaiian shirts for a group photo.



From left: Roland Aleksik, Timmy Higgins (winner of the Catherine Eaglin Memorial Award), and Mr. Tamanaha of Japan.



John Good with Gregg Shugg, Second Place.



John Good with World Champion Karl Striedieck, winner of this year's Uff Da award.



Bob Fletcher, 2025 Seniors Champion.



Ground crew Roland Aleksik gets some simulator time after the grid clears.

Rank	Points	Pilot		
		ID	Name	Glider
1	4811	90	Fletcher, Bob	ASG-29-15
2	4674	GS	Shugg, Greg	LS-4
3	4648	P7	Itnner, Gary	ASG-29-15
4	4640	KM	Sorenson, Ken	V3 FES-18
5	4634	DT	Frantz&Lee,	Arcus M
6	4605	1X	Howe, Nelson	JS3-18Jet
7	4599	R	Retting, Henry	ASH-31MI-21
8	4460	CA	Scarpelli, Peter	ASG-29-18
9	4409	OO	Krolkowsky, Ryszard	Ventus 2b
10	4379	AXO	Ridenour, Ron	Arcus M
11	4367	LI	Mandelbaum&Gaisford,	Duo Discus T
12	4346	FS	Silva, Fernando	JS3-18RES
13	4300	W2	Gross, Scott	AS33ES-18
14	4294	AXC	Jaeger&Andrews,	Arcus M
15	4290	W7	Alspaugh, Jake	Discus 2b
15	4290	DJ	Jacobs, Doug	ASH-31MI-21
17	4252	92	Anderson, Kevin	DG-400-15
18	4224	JL	Lubon, John	ASG29ES-18
19	4120	BH	Banarhall, John	Twin Shark
20	4033	YO	Nadler, Dave	V3 M-18
21	4005	RF	Clark, Robin	ASG-29-15
22	4004	N9	Banks, Jeff	ASH-31MI-21
23	3990	VZ	Johnson, TJ	Ventus 2bx
24	3936	SV	Vihlen, Steve	ASG-29-18E
25	3891	C1	Takallu, Mamad	V3 FES-18

Top 25 Finishers, 2025 Senior Soaring Championship. Congratulations to the winners!

