

Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

Greetings to all of you on this unusually warm February afternoon following our annual Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly. We had ideal flying conditions with a fine turnout of model aviators and their planes. The solar coffee was hot, and the food was plentiful. The snow

cover on the field accommodated both skis and wheels on the planes. Thank you to those who brought food items to share. We all enjoyed the flying and catching up with our fellow Propsnappers.

Earlier in the week we had our board and membership meetings at Ray and Robbin's Hobby Center. The membership meeting was well attended and ended with five members showing projects they had finished or were working on. I can't help but be inspired by the work and skill demonstrated in these projects.

One of my goals this year is to reach out to local schools and organizations, like scouting and the Civil Air Patrol, with educational materials from the AMA to

encourage interest in aeronautics and model aviation with children and families. The response from our members so far has been very positive. This initiative needs to be realistic and feasible for a club with 50+ members. Kyle Jaracz, the Education Director at AMA, whom I spoke with, had some excellent suggestions on how to approach schools. Kyle's first thought was to poll our membership for individuals who already have experience with the local schools. These members could help us identify individuals within the schools that we could speak with about helping students develop an interest in aviation, with fun and engaging curriculum.

So far, I have had several conversations with members who are excited about and willing to help with this initiative. My first thought was that this could be a way of bringing in new members, but we may find that our involvement with these youngsters may give us something more meaningful than increased membership.

Take care and land well!

David

2024 Events

Field Clean-Up Saturday, April 20
Raindate April 27

Swap Meet April TBD

Field Opening Fun-Fly Saturday, May 4
Raindate May 11

Spring Float-Fly May 18 & 19
Saturday & Sunday

Summer Fun-Fly & Open House Saturday, June 22
Raindate June 29

Warbird & Fun-Scale Event Saturday, July 20
Raindate July 27

Fall Float-Fly September 14 & 15
Saturday & Sunday

Fall Fun-Fly Saturday, October 5
Raindate October 12

[Visit our events page...](#)

Next Club Meeting
Wednesday, March 6

See page 4 for details...

**RAY &
ROBIN'S**

HOBBY CENTER

Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, Tony Blanchard, Spike Enck and Bill Lairsey.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:34PM

Board Meeting Minutes: All board members present voted to accept the January 3rd board minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Ricker reviewed January 2024 financial statement. Spike asked about the \$500 Board Reserve transfer. Ed confirmed the transfer was included in the numbers reported. Question regarding the "Battery Charging Fund" line item. Ed confirmed this was a monthly carry forward of funds from the original project. The January 2024 financial statement was approved as submitted.

Secretary's Report: Simon summarized the results from the Flying Field Defibrillator Survey:

- 16 of the 30 respondents voted against the need for purchasing a Defibrillator.
- 2 of the 30 respondents are currently CPR/AED certified.
- 12 of the 30 would be willing to become CPR/AED certified.
- Of 20 respondents to the final question, 13 would be willing to contribute to the cost of the CPR/AED training.
- Project tabled due to results of the initial question.

OLD BUSINESS

Remaining 2024 club events were tentatively scheduled.

- Spring Float/Fly scheduled for 5/18 & 5/19
- Fall Float/Fly scheduled for 9/14 & 9/15
- David discussed venue for the swap meet. He will speak with David Cyr regarding the use of the Italian Heritage Centre.

The gate code will be changed Friday, February 9th in time for the Numb Thumbs event. Jim will update the 2024 membership card and send to Simon for distribution to 2024 members.

Further discussion regarding the attraction of new members to the club

- David summarized his investigation thus far regarding the AMA and its resources.
- AMA has an education program for the hobby as well as educational materials.
- Content is focused toward schools and educators that can establish a class for the purpose of presenting the material and holding various hands-on events.
- Membership participation would be needed.
- It was suggested that club events be opened to the public as a way to boost membership.
- Advertising could be done in local paper for minimal cost or/and social media for near no cost.
- Suggested we ask the membership if this is something we should do. Simon will follow-up.
- Youth recruitment thru the STEM education program may be an avenue to pursue. Need to know if anyone in the membership has connections in the education field that could help.
- Observed that typically young folks become interested in the hobby thru the interests of parents or grandparents.

2024 Executive Board



David Dyer
President

[CONTACT](#)



Jim McCoy
Vice President

[CONTACT](#)



Ed Ricker
Treasurer

[CONTACT](#)



Simon Willcox
Secretary

[CONTACT](#)

2024 Board of Directors

Jeff Beuttell Elliott Randall
Tony Blanchard John Thibault
Spike Enck (EX OFFICIO)

SAFETY OFFICER
John Thibault

WEBMASTER
Bill Lairsey

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Jim McCoy

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR
Bill Lairsey

Continued next page...

Board Meeting

Continued from previous page

NEW BUSINESS

- Brief discussion regarding the proposed Gorham Connector highway project. In the latest proposal, Green Road would cease to be with access thru the landfill main entrance. This has been discussed with landfill representative.
- Reminder of Numb Thumbs event to be held on Saturday, February 10th. General discussion regarding food, coffee and associated supplies.
- Elliot raised the question of what to do with the club trainer planes as they now reside in the clubhouse which is getting rather full and risks damage to the planes. Suggested we discuss after the Numb Thumb event at which we can view the current situation.
- David discussed involvement of the AMA in the sponsoring and publicizing of event in the region as well as District 1 clubs collectively participating in events. Ray Labonte of Ray & Robin's Hobby is a District 1 representative. He spoke briefly regarding this question and would investigate.
- David has received the 2024 Club Charter Application. Spike offered to assist David in completing the document.
- Number of paid members so far for 2024 was discussed.
- Suggested that many members are fair weather fliers and as such the need to renew club membership is often forgotten until late March/April when the better weather arrives here in Maine. It was suggested that in the future we send a .PDF of the application as an attachment to a reminder email.
- Note from member Chris Westra to check contact information and standing. Ed and Simon to follow up.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:30PM

Simon Willcox
Secretary



Member's Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, Tony Blanchard, Bill Lairsey, Ray Labonte, Spike Enck, Dan Desena, Peter Flanagan, Frank Maguire, Richard Evans, Dave Cyr and Steve Gehrs. Guest: Bill Reeve

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30PM

January Meeting Minutes: David called for approval of the submitted minutes for the January 3rd, 2024, meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Ricker reviewed January 2024 financial statement. Several questions were asked, and answers provided by Ed.

Secretary's Report: Simon summarized the results from the Flying Field Defibrillator Survey (see details in board meeting minutes)

- 16 of the 30 respondents voted against the need for purchasing a Defibrillator.
- 2 of the 30 respondents are currently CPR/AED certified.
- 12 of the 30 would be willing to become CPR/AED certified.
- Of 20 respondents to the final question, 13 would be willing to contribute to the cost of the CPR/AED training.
- Project tabled due to results of the initial question.

It was noted that no training or certification is required to use a defibrillator however being trained does tend to improve the results of using such a device. Could provide simple CPR/AED training to members during a club meeting/s or field events to help members be more comfortable should the need arise. David pondered this and indicated further consideration may be needed.

OLD BUSINESS

David summarized his investigation thus far regarding the AMA and its resources. AMA has an education program for the hobby as well as educational materials. Focused on schools and associated educator that can establish a class for the purpose of presenting the material and holding various hands-on events. Membership participation would be needed. David Cyr suggested holding a scout day at the field. STEM programs and the role of advisor for these was further discussed

Continued next page...

Member's Meeting

Continued from previous page

Schedule for the final two 2024 events as discussed in the board meeting were reviewed.

- Spring Float/Fly - 5/18 & 5/19
- Fall Float/Fly - 9/14 & 9/15

NEW BUSINESS

Reminder of Numb Thumbs event to be held on Saturday February 10th. Elliot provided a overview of the current access road and field conditions. Bill L will supply the donut holes. Spike has disposable cups and plastic utensils.

2024 Swap Meet event. Dave Cyr offered to contact the Italian Heritage Centre to request the use of their parking lot for the event. It was suggested using the club Facebook page as well as contacting local clubs to advertise the event.

David stated the new gate lock code will be effective come Saturday, February 10th.

David confirmed the new Club Charter Application for the AMA had been received and would be processed over the next couple weeks with the help of Spike.

Ray Labonte informed the members that the Sky Streakers club will be celebrating their 50th year this season and having an open event August 1, 2, 3 & 4. Camping, Day/Night flying, Food and entertainment will be available. The event is open to the public and certified/registered pilots.

Brief discussion about the proposed Gorham highway connector. Questions regarding access to the field were raised. Green Road would no longer exist and access would via the primary landfill entrance. It was decided there was no tasks for the club at this time.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:24PM

Simon Willcox

Secretary

Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, March 6 • 6:30 PM

Downstairs at Ray & Robin's Hobby Center

West Falmouth Crossing Plaza
65 Gray Road
Falmouth, ME 04105

Located at the rear entrance of the West Falmouth Crossing Plaza off exit 53 of the Maine Turnpike. Enter the building through the main doors and then proceed to the right and down the steps.

[Map & Directions...](#)



AROUND THE PATCH

One Hobby Isn't Enough?

If you're around this hobby for a while, sooner or later you'll realize that most folks that build and fly model aircraft have other hobbies or interests they enjoy besides model planes. Without naming names, I can think of club members who also enjoy sailing, cycling, collecting firearms, archery and cooking. I happen to like gardening and building birdhouses and other small woodworking projects. So, imagine my surprise when a video I came across on Facebook happened to combine several interests in one episode...aircraft (full-scale and models) and antique woodworking tools!

The video in question is linked above. This gentleman has a whole series of wood shop related videos, but the one I stumbled upon focused on table saw alignment and adjustment and featured a historical saw with a connection to the Academy of Model Aeronautics, the Wright Brothers as well as the manufacture of small balsa wood gliders that maybe your father flew as a kid.

If you've got a spare 15 minutes, click the link and enjoy. I found it both educational and entertaining...and I got a real kick out of the model aircraft connection.



[Click for Facebook Video](#)

Club Meeting Show & Tell

After the business portion of our meeting on February 7, we were treated by several members who brought in projects they have recently completed or were still in the process of building. This is usually an interesting part of the night, but the number of presenters this time as well as the scope of the work made it even more so.



ABOVE: Mike Fasulo presented his very unique electric Revolver autogyro that he built from plans and a short kit with rotor parts. Mike hasn't flown it yet, but it will certainly be interesting when he does!

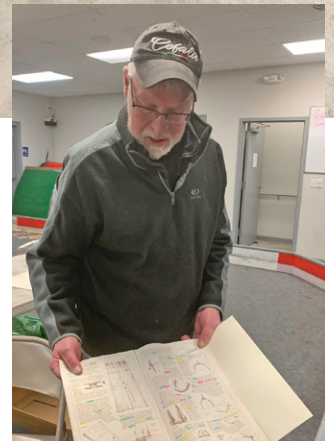
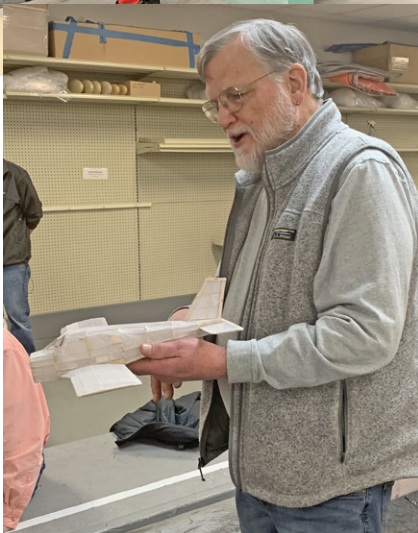
LEFT: Dan Desena is coming along nicely on his Pat Trittle DC-3 project. This evening he demonstrated the working retractable landing gear of his own design as well as the working scale flaps.

LEFT: David Dyer reviewed the progress on his rubber-powered Guillow's Piper Cherokee. Dave is already planning his next project, a Dumas de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver.



RIGHT: Dave Cyr continues to surprise us with his challenging static builds. This time he took on the task of building a model of Leonardo da Vinci's bird-like ornithopter, which is a human-powered flying machine that generates lift from flapping its wings. The kit included several detailed drawings which were quite beautiful in their own right.

LEFT: Frank Maguire is always up to something interesting, and his latest project is no exception. Built from plans, his SPAD (Simple Plastic Airplane Design) is constructed entirely from plastic and vinyl construction / household materials. He refers to his model as "Das Pla-stik" as it's based on the classic "stik" design from the 1970s.

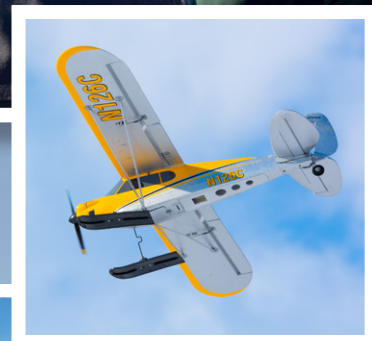
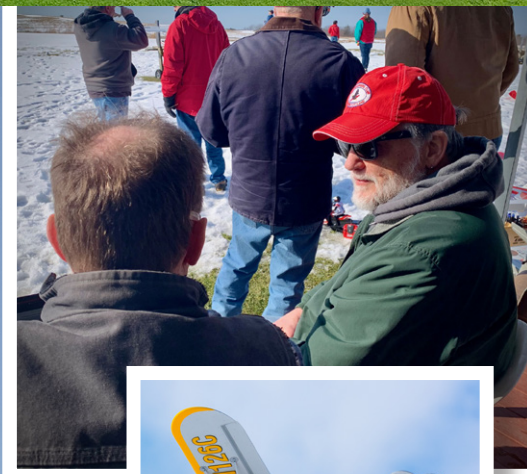


2024 Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly

The forecast did look promising, but on the day of the event we were all pleasantly surprised at how VERY accommodating Mother Nature was for our annual Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly on Saturday, February 10. Sunny and beautiful clear skies, calm wind, temperature in the mid-40s and just a thin layer of snow on the field all added up to a pretty spectacular day. Close to 30 pilots and guests enjoyed the opportunity to fly, catch-up with fellow members and enjoy coffee, donuts and Sarah Randall's chocolate chip cookies in the morning as well as Dave Cyr's American chop suey as we neared lunchtime.

No contests were planned as the day was really meant as an opportunity for everyone to just have a good time at the field. About half of the aircraft were outfitted with skis and the rest had wheels of various sizes. Because the snow cover was thin and a bit crusty from the warmer temperatures, everyone was able to land and take-off with ease.

A really warm thank you to everyone who pitched-in either with food or effort to make the day go smoothly.



Membership Renewal Time!

Propsnapper Field gets pretty quiet this time of year. However, believe it or not, a brand new flying season is right around the corner! With that in mind, NOW is the perfect time to renew your club membership. The sooner we have a bead on membership levels, the better we will be able plan club activities.

A 2024 membership application as well as links for the AMA and FAA are all easily available on our website homepage at propsnappers.org. You can also click the link below to go directly to the 2024 application. Simply download both pages, complete **2024 Club Application** the info, then sign and return to Ed Ricker along with your check.

Once we receive your renewal paperwork, Simon Wilcox will email your spiffy new 2024 member card right to your inbox. Then all you need to do is charge your batteries and get flying!

Gate Lock Combo Has Changed!

Every year at this time, the gate lock combination is updated for the coming flying season. This also affects the clubhouse and porta-potty locks. Current members will find this season's combination on the lower right corner of their 2024 member card.

About the Propsnappers



The Propsnappers R/C Club of Greater Portland was incorporated in 1963 to promote and encourage the hobby of building and flying radio-controlled model aircraft. We are a non-profit organization that holds monthly meetings, sponsors flying events throughout the summer and maintains a flying field for the use of our members. The Green Road field entrance is located at 61 Running Hill Road in Scarborough, ME.

Club Website

For more information about our club, including membership and directions to our flying field, please visit our website at propsnappers.org or click the link above.

JUST A REMINDER

Entrance Gate Procedure

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY - We are permitted to keep the gate swung open while we are flying from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Last one out closes and locks the gate.

ON WEEKENDS - The gate must be swung closed but left unlocked by putting the chain over the gate.

In either situation make sure the padlock itself is locked on the chain so it does not disappear. Thanks!

Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

The Propsnappers Club Bullsheet newsletter is published approximately six times a year to keep members up-to-date on club activities. Comments, suggestions and contributions are welcome.

Please feel free to **EMAIL THE EDITOR**.



AMA Gold Leader Club • Chapter 871

This and other club great event photos courtesy of Ann Blanchard.

