

Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

Sometimes on the news we hear an official state that "Mistakes were made" about some incident that went awry. That pretty much describes my learning to fly RC planes as well as my fledgling attempts at building balsa model airplanes! Of course, I know I am not alone

in this endeavor. What is it about the character of model aviation enthusiasts that can tolerate repeated failures in pursuit of flying and or building our model planes.

Perhaps it is simply the joy or sense of wonder we experience when we look to the sky at the sound of an approaching aircraft or watch our model planes take off for the first time. Maybe we are the Charlie Browns of the world, believing that the next time Lucy will hold the football so that we can finally kick the field goal. We must be a resilient group of individuals, who literally pick up the pieces of our mistakes, shake off our disappointment, and regain our focus on a successful next flight or build. I think it is just human nature that drives us to

learn, to do better, to compete and to express our creativity. Fortunately, another aspect of human nature is to encourage and help others learn, develop skills, and offer support when things go awry. The Propsnappers, like other RC flying clubs, bring together like-minded people so that we have these wonderful fields to fly on and other members to share our failures and successes.

All these things are life lessons and passions that we can, (should?) pass on to children in our communities.

For me, as a newish pilot, the four most important concepts that have been impressed upon me by our members is:

- To be patient.
- To practice, practice, and then practice some more.
- To turn my frustration and disappointment when I make mistakes into an opportunity to do better the next time.
- To be able to accept my mistakes with grace and humor.

As I write this, I see that model aviators are not so unique because there are countless groups of people with similar interests coming together to enjoy and

promote their hobby or sport all around the world.

For me, the Propsnappers is unique because of its members, its beautiful field, the camaraderie and the interests we share. I hope this season you will come out to the field as often as you are able to. Share your experiences and enjoy the fellowship of flying. I look forward to meeting all of you.

Take care and land well!

David



Upcoming Events

Field Clean-Up Saturday, April 20
Raindate April 27

Swap Meet Sunday, April 28

**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

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

RAY &
ROBIN'S

HOBBY CENTER

Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

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

CALL TO ORDER: 5:28PM

Board Meeting Minutes: All board members present voted to accept the February 7th board minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Ed reviewed February 2024 financial statement. He clarified the AMA cost as corrected to \$215. Reported 37 active members for 2024 as of the end of February. The February 2024 financial statement was approved as amended.

Secretary's Report: Simon reviewed his initial brief communication with Preble Street regarding the possibility of the club sponsoring a youth who has an interest in piloting. It was suggested the Boys & Girls Club of America and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America may be of help. Simon will make contact with these organization in the near future.

President's Report: David presented material on an AMA event called "Sky Battle 2024" which is a flight duration contest using "Bagged Slip-Together Balsa Airplane Kit That Come With Wheels." This is a "Postal" event where contestants sign-up, compete and email results. The contest runs from April 26th to May 5th, 2024 with information on the AMA website. David also suggested the club establish a committee to head youth education and recruitment in schools and communities.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Lairsey submitted his written overview of the club's basic pilot training program for review and comment.

- Minimal training requirements to become "Solo: certified."
- Focus on safety and basic control of the flying apparatus.
- Bill discussed the use of the "SAFE" and "AS3X" systems.
- Both systems are excellent training assist solutions, however the trainee should be weened of the "SAFE" as it could become a "crutch" and inhibit the move to more complex planes that do not have such a system.
- Elliot discussed the need to just let the trainee fly the plane to understand how it reacts to control inputs and environmental conditions. He indicated emphasis on flying patters should not be ignored, parallel flight, altitude and speed consistency and bank angles depending on wind conditions.
- It was asked if there were AMA or club training equipment recommendations.
- Carbon Cub S2 and Apprentice seem to be the most popular and are wonderful planes for new pilot training.
- The club has buddy boxes for Spektrum radios. However if someone wishes to be trained on another brand they would need to provide both the master and buddy-box radios.
- Club does have a couple of nitro-powered trainers. However, in recent years most choose to use electric-powered apparatus.

The remaining 2024 club events were scheduled, with the Swap Meet confirmed for April 28th (rain or shine).

David stated that the 2024 AMA club charter renewal application has been completed and submitted.

Spike confirmed we should not expect an elaborate document package from the AMA/FAA for FRIA approval of the Kiwanis Beach location as it is not within controlled area of a airport as is the case with our Green Road field.

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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

Board Meeting

Continued from previous page

NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding member dues and access to the club field between the expiration of the current year's membership and member's renewal which could be two to three months.

- Membership officially expires on November 30th of the active year.
 - Many do not renew their membership until early spring when the weather becomes more conducive to flying.
 - Should the gate code be changed in sync with the membership cycle?
 - Peter Robbins suggested the membership expiration date be shown on the member card. It was agreed and Jim will update card and send to Simon to use for all future issues.
 - Discussed email reminders to membership regarding club membership renewal prior to the current expiration.
- David discussed the current status of the Remote ID issue.**
- No need for the device at either club

flying field.

• Should flying at another location be wanted, there are apps that can be used to enter the location information and receive real-time approval. Aloft, AirAware and OpenSky are examples. Enter location, envelope of flying area and time window for event and submit for approval. Response is in minutes. Can also be used for club events that might occur at non-club locations such as school fields, gymnasiums etc.

Email received from Joe Horvath (AMA Club in Crossville, TN)

Joe is a software developer that has a system developed specifically to assist officers manage AMA club specifics such as membership, events, meeting minutes, etc. The executive board will review the sample systems and discuss at next month's meeting. Maybe contact Joe to set up a review after our internal discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:26PM

Simon Willcox
Secretary

Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, April 3 • 6:30 PM

Downstairs at Ray & Robin's Hobby Center

West Falmouth Crossing Plaza
65 Gray Road
Falmouth, ME 04105

[Map & Directions...](#)

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.



WATCH YOUR INBOX

Upcoming Field Maintenance

Propsnapper members should keep their eyes peeled for an email announcing our yearly field clean-up on April 20 (with a April 27 raindate). As in the past, we'll need to tidy-up what Mother Nature did over the winter months as well as re-position the pilot stations and field benches for the coming season. Another task that has been on our to-do list for a few seasons will be to fill the numerous vole holes on the runways. Please bring straight and spring rakes, shovels, work gloves and your usual sense of humor.

Last year we had a great turn-out which made the work go much faster and easier for everyone participating. Please consider helping out even if you can only dedicate a hour to the cause... it would be very much appreciated!



PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

SWAP MEET

Clear out those "under used" models, engines, supplies and other gear and make room for something new!

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SUNDAY, APRIL 28
9AM-1PM RAIN OR SHINE

BUY!
SELL!
TRADE!

Italian Heritage Center Parking Lot

40 Westland Avenue • Portland, ME

Located behind the Shaws at the
Westgate Shopping Plaza on Congress



VISIT PROPSNAPPERS.ORG FOR EVENT DETAILS

Member's Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, Tony Blanchard, Jeff Beuttell, Spike Enck, Peter Robbins, Dan Desena, David Cyr, Jay Wiley, Roy Watson, Bruce Morse & Steve Gehrs.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:32PM

January Meeting Minutes: David called for approval of the submitted minutes for the February 7, 2024 meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Ricker reviewed the February 2024 financial statement. He clarified the AMA cost as corrected to \$215. Reported 37 active members for 2024 as of the end of February. The February 2024 financial statement was approved as amended.

Secretary's Report: Simon reviewed discussion from the board meeting regarding the club sponsoring a youth with interests in aviation and the organizations that were suggested.

President's Report: David presented material on an AMA event called "Sky Battle 2024" which is a flight duration contest using "Bagged Slip-Together Balsa Airplane Kit That Come With Wheels." This is a "Postal" event where contestants sign-up, compete and email results. The contest runs from April 26th to May 5th, 2024 with information on the AMA website.

OLD BUSINESS

Reviewed the training documentation Bill Lairsey submitted.

- Minimal training requirements to become "Solo: certified."
- Focus on safety and basic control of the flying apparatus.
- Once completed and approved the document will be posted at the field.

The remaining 2024 club events were scheduled, with the Swap Meet confirmed for April 28th (rain or shine).

David stated that the 2024 AMA club charter renewal application has been completed and submitted.

David reiterated the information Spike had offered in the board meeting with regards to the expected documentation package and confirmed the application had been completed and submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

David stated he would like to establish a subcommittee to lead the youth recruitment and education initiative. We will need to follow-up on this with email and maybe a survey to the membership to determine the interest level.

- Various discussions regarding the need for outside interests to be presented at schools.
- Reviewed the AMA Sky Battle 2024 information presented in the Board meeting. David stated he paid \$21 for two balsa stick planes but likely could be purchased for less cost in quantity.
- This type activity would make for a great winter event.

Swap Meet event is confirmed to be on April 28th.

- Advertise on Facebook page and notify AMA District 1 clubs.
- It was suggested we have club table and accept saleable donations such that the proceeds benefit the club coffers.

- Items not sold could be returned to donor prior to end of Swap Meet.

Presented club fiscal year and membership expiration date.

- Membership officially expires on November 30th of the active year.
- Many do not renew their membership till early spring when the weather becomes more conducive to flying.
- Membership expiration date to be shown on the member card in future.

David reviewed Remote ID discussion from the board meeting.

- No need for the device at either club flying fields.
- Should flying at another location be wanted there are apps that can be used to enter the location information and receive real time approval. Aloft, AirAware and OpenSky are examples. Enter location, envelope of flying area and time window for event and submit for approval. Response is in minutes. Can also be used for club events that might occur at no club locations such as school fields, gymnasiums etc.
- Remote ID device if needed can be purchased for \$100, can run on 9V or equipment battery.

Simon will be investigating the equipment and setup required to host "hybrid" meetings such that members could join remotely to participate.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:14PM

Simon Willcox
Secretary





MEETING SHOW & TELL

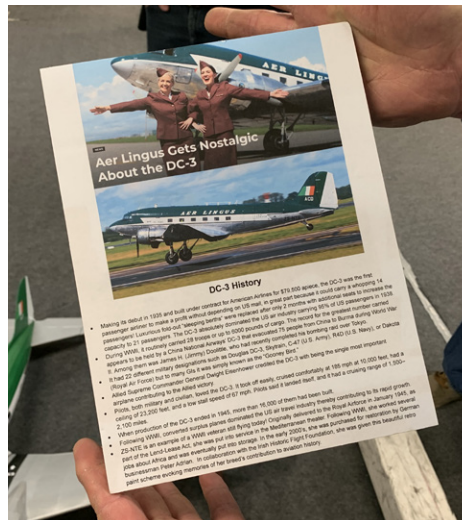
Dan Desena's DC-3 Project

If you're a regular reader of the *Bullsheet*, you may remember that Dan Desena has been working on an electric-powered DC-3 project for a while now. His focus early-on was fabricating a set of custom retractable landing gear for the model that closely resembled the full-scale plane in both appearance and function. After a fair amount of trial-and-error (and learning new skills like brazing), Dan was successful in getting the gear to operate as hoped.

With the time he spent on the landing gear, we were all surprised to see him arrive at the March meeting with a completed and just about ready-to-fly plane!

Built from a Dare kit designed by Pat Tritle, the model has a 60-inch wingspan and sports two electric motors with counter-rotating propellers. Dan covered the model with Polyspan sealed with Polycrylic by Minwax and then painted it to match a beautiful Air Lingus aircraft that was restored after serving originally with the Royal Air Force late in World War II.

Needless to say, we are all anxious to see the model in the air and we wish Dan the best of luck with his maiden flight!



When are You Flying?

Over the past couple of seasons, several members have been utilizing a phone app called *Whatsapp Messenger* to let others know when they are going to the field. It seems to work well, so we are suggesting that interested members consider signing-up for the app and give it a try. It's free to download from the Google Play Store for Android and the App Store for iPhones.

Members are notified when someone else in the "Props Go-Fly" group leaves a "Go Fly" note. Messages identify the sender and the day/time that the note was posted. Only invited members belonging to the group will see your message or can respond.

If you want more information or need help signing-up, feel free to contact Bill Lairsey directly at wlairsey@gmail.com or click on the email link provided.

CONTACT



**WhatsApp
Messenger**
Simple. Reliable. Private.

Get Started...

- Using your phone, download WhatsApp Messenger.
- Send Bill Lairsey a text at 207-650-1761 to let him know you would like to join.
- He'll reply with a link to click on that will sign you up to the Props Go-Fly group.

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!

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 the info, then sign and return to Ed Ricker along with your check.

[2024 Club Application](#)

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!

The gate lock combination has been 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.



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.

