



Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

I would like to thank Spike for leading the Propsnappers through two years of continued operation, special events, and over some significant hurdles. These included working with all the entities to ensure we could continue to lease our site alongside the development of the solar "Farm". Spike worked

with the FAA to process our application for FRIA status at our Green Road field and the Kiwanis campground for our Spring and Fall float flies. We were able to maintain our club's Gold Status with the AMA thanks to his efforts. Spike has maintained the good relationship we have with Eco-Maine who manage the landfill property. We are grateful to Spike and Elliot for their successful efforts at finding our new porta-potty! Spike also kept us up to date on the remote ID program.

To give you a little bit of my background, I joined the club and received my wings in October of 2021 with Dan Desena as my flight instructor. Dan encouraged me to run for vice president for 2022, which I did partly because I was a new member, and also because the club needs to foster leadership opportunities for all members, but particularly new ones. So, after two years, here I am, ready to take on new challenges and opportunities as

president of the board.

I live in Bath, which is about a 50-minute drive from the field. I work four days a week at Cooks Corner Hannaford in Brunswick, so I will not be able to be at the field as often as Spike was. I do expect Spike will continue to drop in, and he will continue mowing our field. Other members check on misc. things at the site. Elliot will continue with battery maintenance for the solar panels. Bill Larsey continues as our chief flight instructor. John Thibault will continue as our safety officer. Besides myself, the new board officers are: Jim McCoy, vice president; Simon Wilcox, secretary; and Ed Ricker returns as treasurer. The directors this year are Jeff Beuttell, Tony Blanchard, Elliot Randall, John Thibault, and our Ex Officio is Spike Enck.

With all the work that has been done to ensure continued use of our field both as a lessee and as a FAA authorized FRIA site, we now have a chance to focus energies on some new goals this coming year. Various members have told me that when I come to the field to fly I should have a goal for what I want to accomplish that day. The idea is that through disciplined practice we will improve our skills. My goal as Propsnappers president is to not attempt to fix something that is not broken. However, I'd like to leave the club with improved financials and increased membership (including students, and women). Another goal is to work with Bill Larsey and

his instructors to help beginner pilots transition to more intermediate skills. One thing I have learned this past year is how enjoyable, relaxing and helpful it is to hang out by the club house just talking and flying.

We will have our first board and member meeting on January 3, 2024 at Ray and Robin's. Our event schedule will be set including the upcoming Numb Thumbs in February. So, stay tuned for those dates and times.

For those who were unable to attend the annual Awards Banquet, we had a very enjoyable evening. Hopefully next year you will be able to attend the party. I need to apologize to David Cyr for not thanking him for the excellent video presentation he put together for the diner. It was a perfect complement to the festivities.

I hope we all have a safe and healthy New Year, with lots of calm days to fly.

David

2024
Events



**Annual Numb Thumbs
Winter Fun-Fly**

Saturday, February 10 (tentative)

Watch this space in the next issue for the full 2024 events calendar!

RAY &
ROBIN'S

HOBBY CENTER

Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, January 3 • 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...](#)



Important Field Updates

Effective December 9, 2023 the FAA Fixed Site Airspace Authorization (AA) became effective for our Green Road location and replaces our Letter of Agreement (LOA) with PWM. This five page document is now located in the club house in a blue three-ring binder and must be kept on location at all times should we be required to prove that we are a designated site per the FAA.

In addition, on the bulletin board you will find Exhibit A of our sublease with BD Solar Larson, LLC that shows the no-fly zone. Please review this to make sure all pilots are in compliance with the sublease.

Membership Renewal Time!

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

Whatever you do to prepare for another flying season...build, repair or read back issues of *Model Aviation*... take a moment today to renew your Propsnappers club membership. It really does make a difference.

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, [2024 Club Application](#) complete the info, then sign and return to Ed Ricker along with your check. *Thanks, and let's start thinking Spring!*

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

2023 Family Banquet and Awards Night



The cocktail hour was a bit like hanging out at the clubhouse...only we were better dressed and could drink!



Sarah Randall enjoying her holiday rose along with Ann and Tony Blanchard, Bill Lairsey and David and Priscilla Wend.



Out-going club secretary David Wend with his wife Priscilla. David served the club well for the past two years.



Bill Lairsey presented a pilot's certificate and wings to Cole Stinson with his proud grandfather, Walt Stinson, by his side.



Cole was very excited to accept the evening's raffle grand prize by way of Tony Blanchard!

Nearly 40 members and guests attended the annual *Propsnappers Family Banquet and Awards Night* at The Club at Riverside Golf Course in Portland on Wednesday, December 6. The festivities started at 5:30PM with a cocktail hour followed by a delicious buffet dinner and desert as well as announcements and presentations. Ed Ricker honchoed the raffle while wearing the evening's most holiday-themed attire. Raffle prizes included several hobby shop gift cards as well as a grand prize of a Horizon Hobby T-28 Trojan model provided by Ray Labonte from Ray & Robin's Hobby Center.

Spike Enck reviewed the year's accomplishments and thanked the 2023 board and volunteers for helping to create a very successful season. Our new president, David Dyer, spoke about the incoming slate of board members and his hopes for a great year to come.

Club Chief Instructor, Bill Lairsey, congratulated several members who earned their pilot's wings this season. He presented a pilot's certificate and wings to 12-year-old Cole Stinson who was in attendance with his grandfather and club member, Walt Stinson. Bill also announced that Tony Blanchard will be stepping up to offer flight training next season in addition to himself, Elliott Randall and Dan Desena.

So, who won the raffle grand prize? That depends on how you look at it. Tony Blanchard had the winning ticket, but gifted the plane to our new young pilot Cole Stinson while enroute back to his seat. Needless to say, Cole was surprised, excited and thankful all at the same time. *Thanks Tony!*

Special thanks go to Jessica Meyer and her staff at The Club at Riverside for providing the wonderful meal and beautiful venue once again this year. David Dyer arranged for the holiday rose gifts for all the ladies in attendance. The evening's video presentation was created by Dave Cyr. Plus, a grateful "tip of the wings" to Spike Enck and Mike Fasulo for coordinating the entire event so flawlessly.

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!

2024 Numb Thumbs FUN-FLY



It doesn't matter if you have skis, floats or wheels... everyone is welcome to shake off the winter blues with great friends and flying!

~ TENTATIVE DATE ~

**Saturday
February 10**

**9AM-1PM
Propsnappers Field**

Watch your inbox for confirmed event details right after the New Year!



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 of content are welcome. Please feel free to [EMAIL THE EDITOR](#).

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

