

Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

Welcome to 2024!

January has traditionally been the coldest month of the year and there is not a lot of RC flying at the Propsnappers' field. Some of our members head south to avoid the cold and snow, while the rest of us experienced meteorological whip-lash in the first third of the month. Hopefully, we will have a few opportunities to fly this month. I like the idea of flying every month of the year and I encourage members to join me in this endeavor. Of course, we have our Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly on February 10th, so I hope to see many of you out for the solar coffee, treats and warm fellowship. The big question for me is, will I need skies, floats, or wheels for my trusty Cub. Perhaps by our next meeting we will know the answer!

The first members meeting of the year was held on the 3rd of January at Ray and Robbin's Hobby Center. We talked about the perennial goal of attracting younger members. This will be one of the goals I will be focusing on with the board, membership, and the AMA to see what else we can do to promote RC Flying in the greater

Portland area. Reaching out to other clubs in our immediate area and New England may be helpful in giving members more opportunities to fly at other locations. We can learn how other clubs are attracting new members and generally how they are operating post COVID.

The highlight of the meeting for me was Frank Maguire showing us his Balsa USA Excalibur kit that he has completed but not flown yet. It is a beauty!!! Frank also shared his involvement in RC planes over the course of his lifetime, which was a treat for all of us present.

I hope you are all well!

David

I grabbed this shot of Propsnappers Field on a foggy morning right after Christmas!



2024 Events

- Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly...** February 10
- Field Clean-Up**April 20
Raindate April 27
- Swap Meet**April TBD
- Field Opening Fun-Fly** May 4
Raindate May 11
- Spring Float-Fly** May 18
Raindate May 25
- Sumer Fun-Fly & Open House** June 22
Raindate June 29
- Warbird & Fun-Scale Event**July 20
Raindate July 27
- Fall Float-Fly** September TBD
- Fall Fun-Fly** October 5
Raindate October 12
- Fall Field Workday** October TBD
- Family Banquet & Awards Night**December TBD

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



Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3 AT 5:30PM AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliot Randall, John Thibault, Tony Blanchard and Jeff Beuttell.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:33PM

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

Treasurer's Report: Ed Ricker reviewed December 2023 financial statement. Several questions were asked, and answers provided by Ed. The December financial statement was approved as submitted.

Secretary's Report: Gate code will be changed after the Numb Thumbs event then 2024 membership cards can be emailed to paid members.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Defibrillator at the Field

- Will require 8 to 10 members to be CPR trained and certified with a cost of approximately \$85 to \$90 per person.
- Liability was questioned however Maine has a "Good Samaritan" law that protects against arrest and prosecution should efforts fail to revive the patient.
- Elliot Randall reiterated that grants/monies are available to assist in the purchase of the defibrillator however not guaranteed.
- Suggested the secretary poll the membership to determine the level of interest in having a defibrillator at the field and also the interest by the membership to pay for and become CPR certified.

NEW BUSINESS

David Dyer spoke about increasing youth involvement in the club. Several ideas were discussed including but not limited to: youth flying programs, Civil Air Patrol, Ace Camp, Camp Kaetcha, Ray & Robin's Hobby Shop flyer and youth oriented competitions.

Dates for 2024 Club Events

- Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly** / February 10
- Field Clean-Up** / April 20 (raindate April 27)
- Swap Meet** / April TBD
- Field Opening Fun-Fly** / May 4 (raindate May 11)
- Spring Float-Fly** / May 18 (raindate May 25)
- Sumer Fun-Fly & Open House** / June 22 (raindate June 29)
- Warbird & Fun-Scale Event** / July 20 (raindate July 27)
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- Fall Fun-Fly** / October 5 (raindate October 12)
- Fall Field Workday** / October TBD (likely be spontaneous as it involves minimal work according to Elliot Randall)

Request members to volunteer to chair events, which could be mentioned in the monthly newsletter. David Dyer will contact the Kiwanis Club president to firm up schedules for float-flies.

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

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Board Meeting

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NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Certificate of Waiver or Authentication

- David Dyer requested a list of pilots (Members) with FAA and AMA numbers. Ed Ricker will provide as this information already exists.
- In the event of a fly-away plane, information about the plane/event is required to be reported. This information includes certain plane geometry and characteristics as well as plane direction and altitude along with pilot information. It was suggested plane geometry and characteristics could be gleaned from the Internet as pilots know the model they are flying, pilot information is known and direction and altitude can be estimated.
- This document along with others are in a blue binder located in the club house at the flying field, all members need to know its location and what functions/reporting need to be performed in the event of a “fly-away” or visit by an FAA official
- Binder also includes a map of the flying field and its boundaries. General discussion ensued.
- This was suggested to be reviewed during some of the field events and also noted in the monthly newsletter.

Discussed how the clubhouse is getting over filled with various planes, etc. Suggested they be stored elsewhere. To be discussed during spring clean-up or other event at the beginning of the next flying season.

David Dyer closed the meeting with more words about youth involvement and asked we all spend some time thinking about how this may be accomplished.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:30PM

Simon Willcox
Secretary

Member's Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3 AT 6:30PM AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliot Randall, John Thibault, Tony Blanchard, Jeff Beuttell, Marty Feldman, Peter Sarvas, Peter Robbins, Roy Watson and Frank Maguire.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:32PM

November Meeting Minutes: All members present voted to accept the November member's meeting minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Ricker reviewed December 2023 financial statement. Several questions were asked, and answers provided by Ed. The December financial statement was approved as submitted.

Secretary's Report: Members in attendance confirmed receipt of previous months newsletter and correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed defibrillator at the field

- Will require 8 to 10 members to be CPR trained and certified with a cost of approximately \$85 to \$90 per person.
- Liability was questioned however Maine has a “good Samaritan” law that protects against arrest and prosecution should efforts fail to revive the patient.
- Elliot Randall reiterated that grants/monies are available to assist in the purchase of the defibrillator however not guaranteed.
- The secretary shall poll the membership to determine the level of interest in having a defibrillator at the field and the interest by the membership to pay for and become CPR certified.
- Suggested the monies may be better spend on a new first aid kit to replace the current one that is several years old and has not been restocked.

NEW BUSINESS

- David Dyer spoke about increasing youth involvement in the club. Several ideas were discussed including but not limited to:
 - Youth flying programs....how do we attract younger potential members?
 - Scout involvement was suggested and discussed by Frank Maguire who is involved in this organization. It was asked how scouts get recruited however they typically evolve through the cub scout program so not much can be gleaned.
 - David Dyer suggested to have modeling classes for simple construction planes and utilize a local gym or rec centre to fly and hold competitions.

Dates for 2024 annual club events established in the board meeting were reviewed.

Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly / February 10

Field Clean-Up / April 20 (raindate April 27)

Swap Meet / April TBD

Field Opening Fun-Fly / May 4 (raindate May 11)

Spring Float-Fly / May 18 (raindate May 25)

Sumer Fun-Fly & Open House / June 22 (raindate June 29)

Warbird & Fun-Scale Event / July 20 (raindate July 27)

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Member's Meeting

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NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Fall Float-Fly / September TBD

Fall Fun-Fly / October 5 (raindate October 12)

Fall Field Workday / October TBD (likely be spontaneous as it involves minimal work according to Elliot Randall)

Certificate of Waiver or Authentication

- David Dyer requested a list of pilots (members) with FAA and AMA numbers. Ed Ricker will provide as this information already exists.

- In the event of a fly-away plane, information about the plane/event is required to be reported. This information includes certain plane geometry and characteristics as well as plane direction and altitude along with pilot information. It was suggested plane geometry and characteristics could be gleaned from the Internet as pilots know the model they are flying, pilot

information is known and direction and altitude can be estimated.

- This document along with others are in a blue binder located in the club house at the flying field, all members need to know its location and what functions/reporting need to be performed in the event of a "fly-away" or visit by an FAA official.

- Binder also includes a map of the flying field and its boundaries. General discussion ensued.

- This was suggested to be reviewed during some of the field events and also noted in the monthly newsletter.

- Phone number to call in the event of a "fly-away" is in on the glass bulletin board on the club house wall.

Miscellaneous Items

- The on-going vole problem at the field was discussed and agreed that Dan Desena has that under control and for the most part the club leaves that issue to Dan to lead.

- Discussed setting up a video meeting

solution for the board meetings to include those members that may be out of the local area. To be discussed further and investigated by the board.

- Frank Maguire presented his Balsa USA Excalibur plane he built from basic kit and discussed why he chose to build this particular model. It has no rudder controls and has twin vertical stabilizers which makes it unusual. It is nitro powered and Frank hopes to fly it this coming season. Frank is now starting the build of an Ultimate Biplane from just plans.

- David Dyer shared his progress on a small Guillow's Piper Cherokee balsa model powered by rubber. The basic airframe is complete and now needs covering and finishing. David also showed a beautiful cribbage board he had recently crafted.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:20PM

Simon Willcox

Secretary



Long-time member Frank Maguire brought his recently completed Balsa USA Excalibur model for the show-and-tell portion of our meeting. Built from a kit, this glow-powered, 52-inch wingspan plane is unique in that the twin rudders are fixed. Frank has not flown his new bird yet, but we hope for a full report when he does!



David Dyer presented his rubber-powered Guillow's Piper Cherokee. This is his first stick-and-tissue build and he is well underway and getting close to the covering portion of the project. Looks great, Dave!

PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

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!



Saturday February 10

9AM-1PM • Propsnappers Field

Green Road off Running Hill Road in Scarborough, ME

- **Donuts & Hot Solar Coffee**
- **AMA / FAA Required**
- **Other Clubs Welcome!**



VISIT PROPSNAPPERS.ORG FOR EVENT DETAILS & DIRECTIONS

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!

Propsnappers Member Meeting



**Wednesday
February 7
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...](#)



Bullsheel

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

The Propsnappers Club Bullsheel 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.

