



Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck...



Spike Enck

I would like to welcome three new members to our club. Steven Gehrs from Cornish who was a member of the RC Gulls in Bangor before moving into our area, Mark Reynolds from Portland and junior member Cole Stinson from Gorham. Please introduce yourself to these new members

when you see them at the field.

The rain held off long enough at our June 24th open house for members to get a few flights in and despite the predicted rain there were a good number of members and guests. Dan DeSena supervised a timed flight and spot landing competition with the winner being Bill Lairsey for being the closest to the mark (guess we will keep him on as head instructor). The solar hot dogs were a hit for both old and young and many thanks to David Wend for the potato salad and Chrissy Pierson for her broccoli salad. Special thanks to David Dyer for overseeing the preparations and to all the folks who helped with the cooking and set-up to make it another great event.

The Warbird Fun-Scale event on July 22nd took place under the direction of Tony Blanchard. Plenty of sunshine and light winds brought out a good attendance with folks from Massachusetts and New Hampshire making the trip. Planes included a trainer with USAF insignia, Jay Wiley brought two of his warplanes, and Will Pierson had a EDF F-14. David Dyer cooked up solar hot dogs and David Wend brought his now-famous potato salad. Our resident photographer, Ann Blanchard, was busy recording the event for our Facebook page. Another excellent day at the field!

On August 3rd, the Propsnappers once again hosted the ACE Academy campers for an hour-long discussion on RC flying and were given buddy-box time with Bill Lairsey's trainer. Campers spend two weeks traveling to various aviation events throughout the region and had just come from a scale float plane experience. All five campers agreed that it was much easier to fly the full-scale float plane than one of our RC models!

The club recently received a donation from Laurel Dufton as part of a celebration of life for her son John Dufton who passed away on December 3, 2022 at the age of 41. John was a member of the RC

Gulls club in Bangor, learning to fly at the age of eleven. For those who enjoy restoring planes, there are two in the clubhouse that require some tender loving care as well as an assortment of balsa wood. All are available for the taking.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the fall float-fly at Kiwanis Beach at Watchic Lake in Standish on September 16th and 17th. Peter Pappas will chair the event this year. For those who haven't been to one of our float-fly events, it's a great time whether you fly or come as a spectator.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the field.

Spike

2023 Club Events

Fall Float-Fly September 16 & 17
Fall Fun-Fly October 7
Family Banquet December 6

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



EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Attention All Propsnappers

by Dan DeSena

It is hard to believe, but elections for 2024 Propsnappers club officers



are just around the corner! Nominations for all four executive positions are being accepted now and until the October

member's meeting, so please consider running for a Propsnappers office. Experience is truly not necessary, just the desire to help out. Not only will you find it rewarding, but you will be instrumental in shaping the future of YOUR favorite model aircraft club!

Please [EMAIL ME](#) (Ballot Committee) or any current officer or board of director to express your interest in participating or to get more details on the process. Thanks, and I hope that you will consider getting involved!

AMA Gold Leader Club

On August 9, we successfully renewed our Gold Leader Club status with the Academy of Model Aeronautics. To be considered a Gold Leader Club, we must meet the following six criteria:

1. Clubs must have been chartered by AMA for a minimum of five years.
2. Club membership must be open to all AMA members and not limited to a certain number.
3. Clubs must develop and post Safety and Operational Rules at their flying sites.
4. Clubs must file a copy of Safety and Operational Rules at AMA Headquarters.
5. A club's flying field must have separate areas for fliers and spectators, clearly marked as such.
6. The AMA Safety Code must be posted and visible at the club field.



2023 Executive Board



Spike Enck
President

[CONTACT](#)



David Dyer
Vice President

[CONTACT](#)



Ed Ricker
Treasurer

[CONTACT](#)



David Wend
Secretary

[CONTACT](#)

Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, September 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...](#)



2023 Board of Directors

Jeff Beuttell Elliott Randall
Tony Blanchard Jim McCoy
Dan DeSena (EX OFFICIO)

FIELD MARSHALL
John Thibault

WEBMASTER
Bill Lairsey

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Jim McCoy

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR
Bill Lairsey



Cole Stinson is pictured with his very proud grandfather, Propsnapper member Walt Stinson.

Welcome Our Newest Flyer!

Congratulation to new member Cole Stinson for earning his pilot's wings on August 17! Cole is 12 years old and lives in Gorham with his mom, dad and two dogs. He joined the Propsnappers earlier this summer and began training with Chief Instructor Bill Lairsey using a Horizon Hobby Aero Scout he purchased at Ray and Robin's Hobby Center. His training took six sessions over the course of two months. In addition to earning his wings, Cole also has an Amateur Radio Operators license (as does his father). Cole's grandfather is long-time Propsnapper Walt Stinson, who always accompanied him to training sessions. Cole will receive his official Propsnappers Pilot's Certificate at the club's Family Banquet on December 6.

If you see Cole at the field in the next few weeks, please be sure to give him kudos for a job well done!

Flying Field Update

A big thank you to Elliott Randall for taking time away from flying to tackle some of the heavy overgrowth that was sprouting up along the runway earlier this summer. The thistles, in particular, were getting pretty robust and could significantly damage any aircraft that happened to wander into them. Elliot's secret weapon was a powerful, long-reach weed-whacker fitted with a very sharp saw blade. A traditional string trimmer would have been no match for this heavy growth as the thistle stalks were quite thick and very woody.

There's also talk about taking another "whack" at the recent growth adjacent to the first pilot station to open up the view of the field from the clubhouse.

Thanks also to Tony Blanchard volunteering his truck to transport Elliott's machine as it's actually too big to fit in his car!

We'd also like to report that it appears the vole population has been kept at bay so far this season thanks to the work party efforts in the spring and Dan DeSena's on-going "vole mace" treatments. Those little critters can cause a great deal of damage to the field turf if left unchecked. So, it is vital that we keep a lookout for any new evidence of their activity.



Ace Academy Returns

The Propsnappers hosted our first Ace Academy Camp visit since the pandemic on August 3. This year, we had five

participants with an average age of 12 to 18, which is a bit older than in the past. After reviewing the basics of RC

model dynamics, cadets flew about five minutes each on a buddy-box with Bill Lairsey and Peter Flanagan. Several cadets mentioned continuing in aviation with interest in both military and airline flying.

Spike Enck, David Dyer and Walt Stinson were on-hand to help out and keep the line going for the flights.



Propsnappers Open House

Regardless of all the preparations and promotion, Mother Nature delivered a very questionable forecast for the Propsnappers open house event on June 24. I think we'd all agree that this reduced the turn-out for the day... especially for the general public. But even with the predicted showers and overcast sky, we managed to squeak out a decent morning of flying, demonstrations and a general good time with several pilots, planes and a respectable number of family and friends present to cheer us on.

The competitive exercise for the day was a timed flight and spot landing event coordinated by Dan DeSena. Several members gave it a go with Bill Lairsey coming out on top with the high score. Bill also helped several folks get turns on the buddy-box, which was especially fun for a few of the youngsters in attendance. Our solar hot dogs were quite popular (as usual) and a big thank you to David Wend for supplying potato salad and Chrissy Pierson for bringing broccoli salad...all delicious! David Dyer did a great job with set-up and preparations for the day.

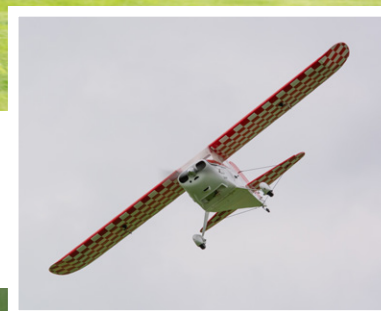
For our first open house since the pandemic, it successful even with questionable weather.



Warbird & Fun-Scale Event

by Tony Blanchard

Thanks to all who donated their time on July 22nd to make our first combination Warbird and Fun-Scale event a success. The day went down without a hitch and the weather cooperated with it being pretty much wind free all day with the sun eventually coming out. Spike had the field and parking lot looking awesome as usual. Lunch was great thanks to Dave's skills with the solar hot dog cooker. We even attracted a couple of guys from Massachusetts who brought some nice looking planes. One guy showed up with a trainer, but at least it had USAF insignias on it. Will brought a little EDF F-14 with wings that sweep back and forward (wow!). Jay Wiley showed up a whole gaggle of models. We even had some gas and nitro planes keeping us awake with the noise! The donation container looked pretty full so hopefully we didn't go in the hole too far. Thanks again guys!



PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FALL 2023

Float-Fly

**Saturday
AND
Sunday!**

**September 16 & 17
9AM-2PM**

**Kiwanis Beach on Watchic Lake
Off Route 25 in Standish, ME**

- **Come to Fly...Come to Watch!**
- **AMA/FAA Required for Pilots**
- **Pilot Landing Fee is \$10 for One Day, \$15 for Both Days**



VISIT **PROPSNAPPERS.ORG** FOR EVENT DETAILS

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!

Donated Planes Are Available

John Dufton was a member of the RC Gulls club in Bangor, learning to fly at the age of eleven. Unfortunately, John passed away at 41 years of age in December of 2022 and left his RC planes and gear with his mother, Laurel Dufton. Laurel stopped by the field during our open house and dropped off John's collection for us to distribute. We have sorted through things and kept a few planes and a box of balsa in the clubhouse. Anyone interested should feel free to take any or all the items in hopes of putting them to use.



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.

