



Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck...



Spike Enck

A warm welcome to a former member who at the time was a junior member and now rejoins the club as a senior member Murray Brayson. Please introduce yourself when you see him at the field or membership meeting.

As we approach the end of another club fiscal year, I want to thank the Board Officers and Directors for their service and dedication in steering the club in a very positive direction.

The events went as planned even though some adjustments needed to be done due to the weather. My hats off to those who ran the events this season...Peter Pappas for the float-flys, Dave Cyr for the swap meet, June open house was coordinated by David Dyer, scale fun-fly was managed by Tony Blanchard and (in advance) Mike Fasula for the awards banquet.

The year saw an end to the porta-potty crisis, solved with the purchase of our own unit. Thanks to Elliott Randall for his due diligence on that effort. Thanks also to Bill Lairsey for managing our training program for new students and those that needed a few flights to get back into the groove.

A special thanks goes to Jim McCoy who took up the challenge to be the newsletter editor and has made communication to members outstanding. He is also responsible for the club brochure that is given to prospective members.

We received approval for our FRIA designation for our home field from the FAA and our application for the Kiwanis Beach location is in the process. Membership increased slightly with nine new members joining us. Our financial position is strong and will be able to transfer \$500 into the Board Reserve for future capital needs. Progress can be seen on the Solar Farm project.

With election of Officers and Director in November, I wish to thank those who will continue to serve and those who will be stepping into those slots that will be vacant. Lastly, I want to thank all those members who have helped on work parties, helped out at the events and used the field.

November membership meeting on November 1st will be at Ray & Robin's Hobby Center at 6:30 PM. This is a key meeting as it will be election night for Officers and Directors. You were sent an email with an attached ballot which can be completed and either returned to Dan DeSena via email or in person at the

membership meeting. Hope to see you at the meeting, but if you can't make it get your ballot to Dan by October 31st.

By now, you have received a memo from me stating the dues for next year will be \$75 which represents a \$5 increase. The Board reviewed the proposed budget for 2024 before they voted unanimously for the increase. The memo outlined key issues that went into the decision, the most important was funding the Board Reserve to meet future replacement needs for our charging station and lawn mower.

I look forward to seeing you at the next membership meeting and our annual family banquet.

Spike

2023 Club Events

Club Meeting November 1
Family Banquet December 6

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



Board of Directors Meeting

10/4/23 AT 5:30PM VIA ZOOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Spike Enck, David Dyer, David Wend, Ed Ricker, Elliott Randall, Tony Blanchard, Jeff Beuttell, Dan DeSena, Bill Lairsey and Simon Wilcox.

CALL TO ORDER: 17:30

Board Meeting Minutes: All members present voted to accept the September board minutes as written.

Treasurer's Report: Ed presented the board with the October financials and reported that the club's membership was up to 55 seniors and 2 junior members.

GENERAL BUSINESS

President's Report: Spike reported that members might see the Solar Project trucks using Green Road. Spike recognized Tony Blanchard and Peter Pappas for their part in hosting a very successful Fall Float-Fly, which allow the club to donate \$250 to the Kiwanis Club after expenses. This is the sort of credential that helps the club earn its AMA Gold Leader Club designation. Spike mentioned that Mike Fasulo was working out the details with regards to the club's annual Family Banquet, scheduled for December 6th at the Portland Golf Club's restaurant.

Propsnapper 2024 Board Slate: Dan DeSena reported that there were takers for all board positions, yet anyone who wished to put their name forward should do so before the October member meeting. Ballots will be distributed via email and need to be returned to Dan on or before the next member meeting on November 1

2023-2024 Propsnapper Ballot

	Candidates	Write in
President	<input type="checkbox"/> David Dyer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Jim McCoy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Ed Ricker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Simon Wilcox	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board (vote for 4)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tony Blanchard	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elliott Randall	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Beuttell	
	<input type="checkbox"/> John Thibault	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Write in	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Write in	

Budget & Dues: Ed went over the annual budget. He explained that the only extraordinary expense was for the porta-potty (\$350) which included a hand sanitizer unit and a lock. In short, the club had net gains of approximately \$260 for 2023. At this rate, the club would be incapable of rebuilding the Board Reserve in time for the next mower replacement (6 plus years) without a dues increase. After some discussion the board voted unanimously to increase the member dues to \$75.

For the Good of the Club: Elliott discovered that the AMA distributes grants to clubs that purchase an automatic external defibrillator (AED) within two months prior to submitting the grant application. There is a limited amount of grant money available annually, so the timing of the purchase is important. Many of the board said they'd happily donate to the cause and suggested asking for donations from the membership.

MEETING ADJOURNED 19:15

David Wend, Secretary

2023 Executive Board



Spike Enck
President

CONTACT



David Dyer
Vice President

CONTACT



Ed Ricker
Treasurer

CONTACT



David Wend
Secretary

CONTACT

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

Member's Meeting

10/11/23 AT 6:00PM AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: 18:06 WITH 12 MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Treasurer Report: Ed presented the September financials and reported that the club's membership was up to 54 seniors and 2 juniors.

GENERAL BUSINESS

President's Report: Spike recognized Simon Wilcox as a new member returning to the sport after life's segways. Spike presented his pilot wings certificate.

Spike mentioned that Mike Fasulo was working on details for the club's annual Family Banquet, scheduled for December 6th at Portland's Riverside Golf Club's restaurant.

Propsnappers 2024 Board Ballot: Dan DeSena stated that according to club bylaws, as of this October meeting, the ballots for club officer and board positions were closed and that ballots

would be distributed to members via email. Dan thanked those who signed-up for positions and those who were returning. Members are invited to submit their votes to Dan via email or at the November 1st member's meeting.

2024 Officer Candidates

President: David Dyer
Vice President: Jim McCoy
Treasurer: Ed Ricker
Secretary: Simon Wilcox

2024 Director Candidates

Tony Blanchard, Elliott Randall,
Jeff Beuttell and John Thibault

Dues Increase: Spike spoke of the board's decision to increase the annual dues to \$75 in order to replenish the board reserve. Spike explained that all members would receive by email a detailed explanation by the 21st of the month. At this point Ed gave the budget details, justifying the board's decision to increase the dues by \$5 at this time.

FAA Registration Drone Zone: Elliott spoke of his interaction with AMA's Crystal Petersons, who shared a step-by-step instruction link on how to renew your FAA registration. When asked to register your devices, they are asking you to enter make and model of just one of your airplanes.

[FAA Instruction Link...](#)

Automatic External Defibrillator:

Elliott spoke of the AMA providing grants to clubs that have purchased an automatic external defibrillator (AED) within two months prior to submitting the grant application. There is a limited amount of grant money available annually, so the timing of the purchase is important. It was suggested to ask for donations from the membership.

Show & Tell: Marty Feldman brought in his in-process park size Aeronca Champ model of which he has done an amazing amount of work on in just two months. Great Work Marty!

MEETING ADJOURNED 18:55

David Wend, Secretary

Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, November 1 • 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...](#)



Club member Marty Feldman presented his 42-inch Aeronca Champ being built from Pat Tritle plans. We were all very interested in the project, especially the very delicate fabric he intends to use as a covering.



The skies over beautiful Watchic Lake in Standish were buzzing with all sorts of model aircraft on September 23 and 24 as the Propsnappers annual Fall Float-Fly was held with great success.

The two-day event was originally scheduled for the previous weekend, but unfavorable weather conditions were forecast so the organizers shifted the dates with cooperation of the Kiwanis Club. The new schedule worked out just great with Mother Nature providing a cool but beautiful Saturday and almost equally nice Sunday, although the winds on Sunday were a bit more challenging.

Planes of all sizes (both electric and glow-powered) were flown from the small beach-front location. Most models had floats, but a couple were amphibious...using their fuselage for flotation.

Tony Blanchard and Peter Pappas worked together to organize the weekend with Tony supplying transportation of Peter's rescue boat, which has been on-site for every float-fly in recent years. A few members needed to utilize the boat to retrieve their models which had become stranded for one reason or another. All planes were gathered up with no ill-effects, and everyone returned to shore more-or-less as dry as when they left.

This year we had several non-flyers make the trip to check out what flying off water is all about. We even had some family members in attendance including a couple of youngsters who thoroughly enjoyed seeing the models.

The Propsnappers schedules two float-fly events each season, one in the spring (usually in early May) and another one in September. If you're at all interested in seeing what it's like to fly off water, be sure to watch for the announcement of next year's events.



The Propsnappers Fall Fun-Fly

Much like our Float-Fly, our annual Fall Fun-Fly needed to be pushed back one week due to weather. However, the skies cooperated on October 14, and we enjoyed a lovely fall morning before the winds made things dicey.

Turn-out was good with about 18 members present and about a dozen planes on hand...both electric and nitro-powered. Folks enjoyed a fair amount of open flying over the course of the morning.

Dan DeSena coordinated a fun event he called the “Taxi, Loop and Land Game” where contestants needed to taxi through a simple course, take off and perform three loops then land nearest to a target situated in the center of the runway...all of which was timed with the goal to complete the course in as close to 2-minutes as possible. Pilots were given penalty points for NOT completing any of the tasks as well as factoring-in their overall flight time, with the lowest score being the winner. Peter Pappas was the clear winner (plus, he included a smoke show), however other scores were quite close.

Big thanks to all that came out for the morning and pitched-in to help with set-up and packing at the end. A special hats-off to Dan for creating and managing a fun contest, Dave Dyer for honchoing the hot dogs and snacks and David Wend for his delicious potato salad.



NAME	TIME	LOOPS	LAND	SCORE	TOTAL
DD	10	0	10	20	20
Elliott R.	10	30	0	16	6
Bill G.	10	0	30	4	78
P. Pappas	10	0	30	8	54
P. Apris	0	0	0	67	48
D. Dyer	10	0	30	28	30
					48

EARNING HIS WINGS!

Congratulations to Peter Robbins

An enthusiastic “tip of the wings” to Propsnapper member Peter Robbins who recently completed his flight training with Dan DeSena and received his Solo Certificate from Dan and Spike at the Fall Fun-Fly event on October 14.

Peter caught wind of the Propsnappers while doing some machine programming at Dan’s business. He overheard Dan and Elliott Randall talking RC (Elliott also works part-time for Dan) and he became interested. Peter had built and flew a balsa and nitro trainer for a short time about 25 years ago. And, according to Peter, “It flew great until it didn’t.” After beginning training with Dan, Peter found that a flight simulator was a helpful learning tool to reacquaint himself with RC and assisted a great deal when it came to hands-on training.

Because of his machine programming skills, Peter has become very interested in the sometimes confusing set-up of Spektrum radios. It all comes naturally to Peter, and he loves it!



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!

Hibernation for Our Porta-Potty

All members should be aware that our porta-potty will be fully pumped out and put to sleep for the winter on November 1st. It will remain closed until the warmer weather in May of next year. It will be secured with a keyed lock for the winter to avoid anyone using it when not in service... switching back to the combination lock next season.



Jetport Weather

Wondering what it's going to be like at the field tomorrow? Just bookmark the link below to see the latest info from the Portland Jetport.

[PWM Weather Conditions](#)



Bullsheel

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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.