



Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

We held the first board and membership meetings of the year on January 8th and we got off to a flying start! Within a week we had new batteries installed in our club house.

Elliott Randall took the lead in researching the cost of replacement batteries and having the manpower available to get the beasts installed. Big thanks to all who helped!

On January 14, Simon Wilcox presented the board with his work on the ACSM software program that will streamline a good deal of the administrative tasks necessary to run our club. Thanks Simon, for all the work you've been doing with the program's creator to make the software suit our particular needs.

The dates for our club's flying events have been established, and of course our first event is the Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly on Saturday, February 8th. I hope you will take a break from your usual winter routine to come out and fly while enjoying some doughnuts and our world-famous solar coffee!

There are just a couple of months before the weather warms and flying season picks up again. As you all know, this gives us time to work on projects have been on the back burner. Some of you might be working on a new model or repairing dinged ones. Recently, I dusted off my flight simulator and started practicing.

We've started the new year with several people interested in joining the Propsnappers, and I hope this will lead to new memberships. One thing we all can do is help people understand that members of AMA sanctioned clubs with a FRIA designation are bound by very explicit rules to ensure the safety of aircraft, crews and passengers. We are not operating drones in a manner which would threaten the safety of first responders or interfere with their work. Safety of our pilots and the public has always been our top priority.

That's my brief view from the chilly flight deck...hope to see you at the field on February 8th!

David

2025 President
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland



2025 Events

- Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly** **Saturday, February 8**
Rain/Snow Date February 15
- Field Clean-Up** **Saturday, April 12**
Raindate April 19
- Swap Meet*** **Sunday, April 27**
- Field Opening Fun-Fly** **Saturday, May 3**
Raindate May 10
- Spring Float-Fly*** **May 17 & 18**
Saturday & Sunday
- Summer Fun-Fly & Open House** **Saturday, June 21**
Raindate June 28
- Warbird & Fun-Scale Event** ... **Saturday, July 19**
Raindate July 26
- Fall Float-Fly*** **September 13 & 14**
Saturday & Sunday
- Fall Fun-Fly** **Saturday, October 11**
Raindate October 18

**Indicates an event date that's still tentative... stay tuned.*

Visit our events page...



Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, John Thibault and Spike Enck (Ex Officio).

CALL TO ORDER: 5:30PM

Board Meeting Minutes: David called for approval of the submitted board meeting minutes for November 6, 2024. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Ed reviewed the December 2024 financial statement and it was approved as submitted.

Secretary's Report: There was no secretary's report.

President's Comments: David thanked all board members for making 2024 a successful and memorable year for the club.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Event Schedule: David presented his recommendation for the 2025 Propsnappers event schedule. After some discussion, it was approved pending confirmation of the Swap Meet date and coordination of the Float-Fly schedule with our contact at the Kiwanis. See page 1 of this newsletter for the event schedule as it stands now.

Event Cancellation Policy: There was discussion regarding the timing of event cancellations as last year we had some last minute decisions that inconvenienced both members and guests. It was agreed that the decision to cancel Saturday events (which most are) shall be determined no later than the prior Thursday at noon. Cancellation notices will be sent via email to all club members as early as possible and posted on the club Facebook page.



Hobby Shop Burt: Burt is in the process of moving to Connecticut and has asked if he can share our swap meet table to shed some RC equipment and has offered a % of the sale price to the club. Board agreed he would be most welcome to use the swap meet to sell his gear. David Cyr and David Dyer will be manning the table at the very least.

Green Road Field Batteries: Elliott reported a couple weeks ago that one of the two solar storage batteries in the clubhouse had failed. He recommended to the board we replace both batteries with same and do so immediately. The board voted to approve his request and expenditures as proposed. Elliott will coordinate the effort.

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2025 Executive Board



David Dyer
President

[CONTACT](#)



Jim McCoy
Vice President

[CONTACT](#)



Ed Ricker
Treasurer

[CONTACT](#)



Simon Willcox
Secretary

[CONTACT](#)

2025 Board of Directors

Tony Blanchard Dan Rieger
Elliott Randall John Thibault
Spike Enck (EX OFFICIO)

SAFETY OFFICER
John Thibault

WEBMASTER
Bill Lairsey

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Jim McCoy

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR
Bill Lairsey

Propsnappers Member Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, John Thibault, Dan Rieger, Spike Enck, Bill Lairsey, Dan Desena, Frank Maguire, Pete Robbins and Wayne Bell.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30PM

Member's Meeting Minutes:

David called for approval of the submitted members meeting minutes for November 6, 2024. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Ed reviewed the December 2024 financial statement and it was approved as submitted.

Secretary's Report: There was no secretary's report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Event Schedule: David presented his recommendations for the 2025 Propsnappers event schedule. See page 1 of this newsletter for the event schedule as it stands now.

Event Cancellation Policy: David reviewed the board's discussion regarding the timing of weather-related event cancellations as last year we had some last-minute decisions that inconvenienced both members and guests. Going forward, the decision to

cancel Saturday events (which most are) shall be determined no later than the prior Thursday at noon. Notices will be emailed to all club members as early as possible and posted on the club Facebook page.

Hobby Shop Burt: David shared the news that Burt is moving to Connecticut and that he asked if he can share our swap meet table to shed some RC equipment. Burt has offered a % of the sale price to the club. Members agreed he would be welcome to use the swap meet to sell his gear.

Green Road Field Batteries: Elliott explained to the members that one of the two solar storage batteries in the clubhouse had failed. He reviewed his recommendation that we replace both batteries with same and do so immediately. The membership agreed with the board's decision to approve his request and expenditures as proposed. Elliott said he would coordinate the effort with Tony's help (and others).

Field Lock Combination: David announced that the 2025 lock code will be implemented at the Numb Thumbs event on February 8. The new code will be displayed on 2025 membership cards to be sent out the week before the event. This code will operate the lock on the main gate, the clubhouse and the portapotty (come warmer weather).

Propsnappers Logo: Jim announced his intent to update/refresh the club logo as the existing logo file is an old format that does not allow for or scaling. Jim recommended recreating the logo in type file that will allow change without loss of resolution or geometry whilst also offering options to refresh the design. He explained that options will be presented to the club for feedback.

Promotional Cards: Dan Desena suggested we consider creating small promotional cards to be posted in local businesses, supermarket bulletin boards, etc. to create interest for new membership. Each existing member would be given a handful of these cards to post in their local area. Cards would promote the club, activities, events, training and social values. Members agreed that this would be worth pursuing and Jim offered to create an example to share with the club.

Club Application & Indemnity Form: John Thibault raised a question about our annual requirement of submitting a club application and indemnity form. He asked if this was really necessary or could our renewal process be simplified. It was agreed that the process will be reviewed and discussed in future meetings.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:55PM

Simon Willcox

2025 Secretary
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

Time to Renew Your Propsnappers Membership!

We all know that Propsnappers Field is super quiet this time of year. However (believe it or not) a brand new flying season is right around the corner!

I know, you're likely busy assembling that new plane you got for Christmas...or maybe getting a little woozy with the smell of CA as you make those much-needed repairs on the plane you damaged at the Fall Fun-Fly. It's all great stuff to be doing when the weather is too cold to fly.

Something else you can do while you are letting epoxy cure is take a moment to renew your Propsnappers club

membership. It really does make a difference as the sooner we have a bead on membership levels, the better we will be able plan club activities.

A 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 to the right go directly to the application. Simply download and print both pages, complete the info and return them to Ed Ricker along with your check. *Thanks, and let's start thinking Spring!*

[Club Application](#)

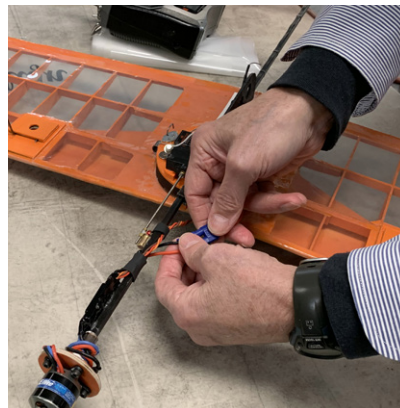
JANUARY 8 MEETING SHOW & TELL Member Projects

The highlight of our club meetings is often the opportunity to see the projects that members are working on...and the January 8th gathering was no exception!

Dan DeSena presented his “Miss Align” project which he cooked-up using a scavenged wing found at the clubhouse, square carbon fiber tubes, pieces of light coroplast sheets and odds-and-ends he had in his shop. The model is covered with a clear office lamination material he discovered. The most unique feature is a clever mechanism he designed that allows the wing to shift position while in flight... adjusting the center of gravity!

Frank Maguire showed his sport plane built entirely out of coroplast and a plastic drain pipe. He sourced the plans on the Internet a while back.

A recently completed stick-and-tissue model was David Dyer’s contribution. Built from an Dumas kit, his rubber-powered de Havilland Canada DHC-2 Beaver will be flown free-flight on a calm day once the weather is warmer.



Modeling History From Across the Pond

Thanks to Propsnapper Secretary, Simon Willcox, for sending me this photo and memory penned by Rodney Willcox, his 90-year-old father. It describes his modeling experience post World War II in Lincolnshire, UK (north of London).



This photo is of the Spalding Model Aero Club (Lincolnshire, UK), I am guessing not long after the end of WWII, which would meet in the fields to the west of Spalding towards Cowbit (West Alloe) and fly model planes. That land became

the Girls High School playing fields and are now a housing estate. This generally was on a Sunday afternoon when the winds (at least below the tree line) were somewhat calm.

The power supply for the models was

mainly twisted rubber bands, although there would be some sail planes which were pulled aloft by various methods including running like hell or pedaling a bike while holding onto the string with one hand, steering the bike over the grass field with the other and praying. The trim

would be set for the plane to fly in a circle which sometimes worked, but generally did not due to the typical upper winds (above the tree line).

This would result in an extended search or chase to recover the plane which often disappeared in the Cowbit Wash or the North Sea. The whole experience was somewhat disappointing at times as those planes took several weeks to build with the limited materials we had

available in the late 1940's (balsa, horse glue, tissue paper and dope) as the UK was on rationing thru 1953.

My oldest brother Anthony (Tony) was a club officer, and he would build his (and my) planes in the workshop above the old stables at Winsover Road. I would help or hinder depending on the point of view. Tony had some beautiful models and built his first (very rudimentary) radio control sailplane in the late 40's. It was a single channel system he built himself from plans obtained from a magazine advertisement.

Tony was a pilot in WWII training in Florida, USA on AT-6 Texans before flying Spitfires. He only flew Spitfires for a few months before heading to Canada in 1943 to train on Avro Lancasters which he flew for the remainder of the war with 625 Squadron out of RAF Kelstern.

The only people I recognize are Mr. Pask who owned the model shop in the Crescent (fifth man from left with no tie) and myself (fourth boy from left, on ground).

Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, February 5 • 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...](#)





Make These Homemade Skis!

Propsnapper member Tony Blanchard created plans and assembly instructions a couple of seasons ago for these nifty homemade skis for your .40-.60 size aircraft. They would make for an easy weekend project to put you in great shape for the Numb Thumbs event!

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

- Cut out the center rib from 3/16" or 1/4" birch plywood.
- Cut out the 1/32" birch plywood pieces per instructions. Note the grain directions.
- Butt glue the two cross-grain pieces.
- Draw guide lines down the center of

[Download Tony's Full-Size Plan Here](#)

the cross grain piece(s) to aid in alignment of the center rib.

- CA glue the cross-grain piece(s) centered on the center rib. It should bend easily since it is being bent cross-grain.
- Glue the long-grain bottom piece onto the cross-grain pieces. Use CA and accelerator.
- Round the front of the ski.
- Waterproof the skis with paint or polyurethane.
- Make the torque rod parts and solder together. File a well positioned flat on the airplane's axle to maintain ski alignment.
- Another option is to fasten a light extension spring (Ace Hardware) to the front tip of the ski and to the base of the landing gear. Then a flexible wire from the rear of the ski and to the base of the landing gear. The spring in the front will allow the ski to tip downward and the wire in the back will keep the ski out of the propeller and hold the ski in proper orientation.

PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

2025 NUMB THUMBS

FUN-FLY



RAIN/SNOW DATE
FEBRUARY 15

Saturday, February 8
9AM-1PM • Propsnappers Field
Green Road off Running Hill Road in Scarborough, ME

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

Whether you have skis, floats or wheels...everyone is welcome to shake off the winter blues with great friends and flying!



VISIT PROPSNAPPERS.ORG FOR EVENT DETAILS

ELLIOTT LEADS THE CHARGE!

Clubhouse Storage Battery Replacement a Success

A little over seven years ago, The Propsnappers elected to install solar panels and two large deep-cycle electrical storage batteries at our clubhouse for on-site electrical power to charge aircraft batteries. This also allowed us to have lighting and the ability to cook for our events (AKA...our world-famous solar hot dogs). The system has worked pretty flawlessly with little maintenance other than the watchful eye of club member Elliott Randall checking the health of the battery cells and occasionally adding water. On December 28th however, Elliott noticed the battery monitors were totally dark...not a good sign! After consulting with Tony Blanchard and Pete Sarvas later that day, it was determined that a bad battery was the culprit.

Now these batteries have a useful lifespan of about five years. The fact that we got seven seasons out of the originals is surprising, especially given that they have been exposed to the extreme temperature swings we get here in Maine. The units themselves are not cheap, and they weigh an awful lot. Elliott looked into what it would take to replace just the bad unit, but quickly determined that the effort to replace one made a great case for replacing both at the same time...knowing that the other battery was probably on borrowed time. After presenting his findings to the board on January 8th, he received the green light to swap out the units.

Elliott thought that having the ground frozen - but not snow covered - would make it possible to drive a vehicle up the hill to deliver the new batteries and remove the spent ones. This is why there was some urgency to get the job done before Mother Nature made it more difficult. Also, we certainly wanted power available for our Numb Thumbs event in February.

Wasting no time, a work party was quickly assembled for Saturday, January 11. Tony Blanchard volunteered his truck to pick-up and deliver the new batteries as well as carting the spent ones back to Ed's Batteries for recycling. Pete Sarvas was on-hand to lend his electrical skill to transfer all the wiring. Tony's son Nico and Peter Pappas offered to do the heavy lifting and figured how best to maneuver the old units off the shelf in the clubhouse.

"We had the whole job done in the space of just an hour," Elliott commented, "proving that many hands make light work!" He continued, "Thanks to everyone involved, we will have five, six or seven more years of trouble-free charging, hot coffee and solar hot dogs!"



Elliott cleans the terminals of the new batteries before installation to assure a good connection.



With the old batteries removed, Pete Pappas and Tony's son Nico carry the new ones into the clubhouse. These units are HEAVY!



Pete Sarvas methodically connects the new batteries into the system. Everyone was happy to see the volt meters light up when the last wire was attached.



On a very cold, gray January morning, club members Pete Sarvas, Pete Pappas, Tony Blanchard and Elliott Randall pose with the high-tech device used to finagle the old batteries off the shelf in the clubhouse. Not pictured is Tony's son Nico who needed to leave before the photo was snapped.

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](http://propsnappers.org)

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!

Board of Directors Meeting

Continued from page two...

AMA Gold Leader Club Program: David Dyer raised questions regarding this program and related communication from AMA. Spike agreed to review and discuss with David in the upcoming days.

Field Lock Combination: The 2025 lock code has been established and will be implemented at the Numb Thumbs event on February 8. The new code will be displayed on 2025 membership cards which will be sent out the week before the event. This code will operate the lock on the main gate, the clubhouse and the porta-potty (once operational come warmer weather).

Propsnappers Logo: Jim presented some ideas to update/refresh the club logo as the existing logo file is in an old format that does not allow for modification or scaling. Jim recommended recreating the logo in a new type file that will allow change without loss of resolution or geometry whilst also offering options to refresh the design. These options will be presented to the club for feedback.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:30PM

Simon Willcox

2025 Secretary
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland



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

Bullsheel

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

The Propsnappers Club Bullsheel newsletter is published 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