

# Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

## View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

The morning of the Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly, Elliott and I arrived bright and early to set up and get the coffee brewing. There were also Sarah's homemade cookies, Munchkins, and David Cyr's American Chop Suey for sustenance. For those of you who were

unable to attend, the morning was crisp with clear blue skies, gentle winds and lots of SNOW! These ideal conditions attracted a good turnout of Propsnappers as well as interested guests. A father and his young son were excited to learn of our club and visit the field to enjoy the morning with us. They heard about the event from our Facebook post. A former member caught wind of our event at Ray & Robin's and came out with his daughter. He brought a plane that he recently brought out of retirement and asked permission to give it a go. He had current AMA, so after a brief discussion we gave him the green light. He had a bumpy, but successful flight. All guests left with a handshake, an application

and a brochure. Hopefully they will join the club and participate come warmer weather.

Every one of the public events we advertise brings the opportunity for public awareness of our club and attracts potential members. The most recent issue of *Model Aviation* (February 2025) contains an article entitled "How Clubs Can Succeed" penned by Grant Schulte. In it, the author describes the nature of his club, the Omahawks RC in Omaha, Nebraska. It is a brief article that explains how their membership has grown over the years. There have been a few more articles from the AMA recently that address the issue of increasing membership. All of these are worth reading for the insights they present.

One thing in common that all these articles describe is the necessity of having a welcoming, friendly and helpful membership who can share the fun and passion of flying RC aircraft. Another factor is having a safe and well maintained field and facilities. Having buddy boxes available for visitors to try their hand at flying is another key element to attract new members.

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## 2025 Events

- 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

*All dates have been confirmed for 2025.*

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



# Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, Tony Blanchard and Dan Rieger.

**CALL TO ORDER: 5:31PM**

**Board Minutes:** David called for approval of the submitted board meeting minutes for January 8, 2025. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ed reviewed the January 2025 financial statement and it was approved as submitted.

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

**President's Comments:** David noted the season was off to a grand start with the clubhouse batteries being replaced and ready for the season. Thanks to all who assisted in that matter.



## OLD BUSINESS

**2025 Event Schedule:** The Swap Meet is confirmed for Sunday, April 27 with David Cyr hosting as before. The Spring and Fall Float Fly events are awaiting confirmation from venue. Pete Pappas did indicate availability of his boat for both events based on tentative dates.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Membership vs Fiscal Calendar:** Membership has been running 12/01 through 11/31, however club bylaws state it shall run on the calendar year. David will discuss with Spike to understand why the deviation and if the fiscal year should run in parallel with the membership.

**Board & Member Meeting:** A question was raised regarding the need to have a board AND member meeting at each required occurrence. In many cases the agendas are identical. Those "board only" items can be discussed and voted on in a member meeting. It was proposed that a single meeting would offer time to discuss more topics or fewer topics in more detail. A board meeting can be called by any of the officers to discuss a specific issue and could likely be online.

**Indemnity Form:** David discussed the yearly indemnity form and stated it was required from each member yearly as it is part of the property lease agreement.

**Club Promotion:** Jim showed examples of a promotional piece he developed after receiving suggestions from the membership at the January meeting. Two different size cards were presented, a 3x5 and 4x6. After receiving feedback, he will add our URL and Facebook address to the front as it could be placed in a glass fronted display as does Hannaford.

## 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

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# Propsnappers Member Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER



why the deviation and if the fiscal year should run in parallel with the membership.

**Board & Member Meeting:** See the board meeting minutes for additional points of discussion. Members agreed to a single meeting in the future that would start at 6PM.

Simon will snow blow a path from the parking area to the clubhouse on the Friday prior.

**AMA Article Regarding Club Success:** Several board members discussed the AMA article regarding the success of the Omahawks R/C Club in Omaha, NE. David suggested the Propsnappers compares favorably to the articles in many ways. We will look to different advertising methods to promote the club and attract new members. Dan Rieger suggested we should ask the members for one or two ideas then consolidate and prioritize, this way we have a "Focused Plan" that can be addressed as capacity allows.

A member suggested the website be modified to have a "testimonials" page to help promote our successes and values. We might also include videos of events and aircraft "adventures."

**Field Gate Lock Combination:** The 2025 lock code has been established and will be provided to the landfill folks to change after the Numb Thumbs event. The new lock code will be displayed on our membership cards which will be sent out when lock change is confirmed.

**Newsletter Content:** Jim suggested adding more personal content to the newsletter by interviewing members regarding their interest in the hobby, likes and dislikes, etc. He also discussed members submitting photos of workshop areas, plane storage, etc. along with explanations of work performed.

**Hangar Sale:** Jeff Beuttell announced that he has a selection of planes he wishes to sell. All are in excellent condition as well as a couple still in the box. Those whose wives will allow then to have another plane should contact Jeff directly by [CLICKING HERE](#).

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:10PM

*Simon Willcox*

2025 Secretary  
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

## CALL TO ORDER: 6:30PM

**Members Minutes:** David called for approval of the member meeting minutes for January 8, 2025. The minutes were approved as submitted.

## Treasurer's Report:

Ed reviewed the January 2025 financial statement and it was approved as submitted.

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

**President's Comments:** David Dyer noted the season was off to a grand start with the clubhouse batteries being replaced and commented on the diminishing member numbers and ideas discussed in the board meeting to address this issue.

## OLD BUSINESS

**2025 Event Schedule:** The Swap Meet is confirmed for Sunday, April 27 with David Cyr hosting as before. The Spring and Fall Float Fly events are awaiting confirmation from venue. Pete Pappas did indicate availability of his boat for both events based on tentative dates.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Membership vs Fiscal Calendar:

Membership has been running 12/01 thru 11/31, however club bylaws state it shall run on the calendar year. David will discuss with Spike to understand

**Indemnity Form:** David discussed the yearly indemnity form and stated it was required from each member yearly as it is part of the property lease agreement. It was suggested having the club application and indemnity forms "online." Board to investigate.

**Club Promotion:** Jim McCoy showed examples of a promotional piece he developed after receiving suggestions from the membership at the January meeting. Two different size cards were presented, a 3x5 and 4x6. After receiving feedback, he will add our URL and Facebook address to the front as it could be placed in a glass fronted display as does Hannaford. It was also suggested that we add photos of other forms of aircraft to the front such as heli's and pipes. David will take samples to Hannaford for evaluation. Jim stated he has an associate that will print the final design at no charge.

Another promotional suggestion discussed was a sticker to affix to the front of AMA magazines and deposit them at local businesses where magazines are available in the waiting room. The sticker would contain club contact info such as our URL and Facebook page.

**Numb Thumbs Event:** A decision shall be made by noon on Thursday 2/6 as to proceeding as scheduled or postpone till February 15. Weather is a concern.

FEBRUARY 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 February gathering was no exception!

Pete Sarvas brought a "Cartoon Corsair" built from carved and shaped foam. Check out paper-replika.com or search YouTube for Julius Perdana if you're interested in building one yourself.

Jay Wiley's Balsa USA Sopwith Pup was a show-stopper with tons of detail and beautiful workmanship that Jay is known for.

Dan DeSena's work-in-progress is called "Mystery Man" by BMJR models. It is a re-work of a 1938 gas-powered free flight gull-wing design. Dan is modifying

it to electric RC and will keep us updated on his progress.

The design of Dan Rieger's Ansley Peace Drone was sourced from the YouTube channel *Experimental Airlines*.

Elliott Randall's 3-channel Cessna 180 was a kit from Mountain Models. He said it's best suited for a very smooth runway due to its light weight and small wheels.

Frank Maguire brought a built-from-plans scale French Robin monoplane. His models always have an interesting story behind them and this was no exception.

## Board Meeting

*Continued from Page Two...*

**Numb Thumbs Event:** A decision shall be made by noon on Thursday 2/6 as to proceeding as scheduled or postpone till February 15. Weather is a concern.

### AMA Article Regarding Club Success:

Several board members discussed the AMA article regarding the success of the Omahawks R/C Club in Omaha, NE. David suggested the Propsnappers compares favorably to the articles in many ways. We will look to different advertising methods to promote the club and attract new members. Dan suggested we should ask the members for one or two ideas then consolidate and prioritize, this way we have a "Focused Plan" that can be addressed as capacity allows.

**Field Gate Lock Combination:** Lock code has been established and will be provided to the landfill folks to change after the Numb Thumbs event. The new lock code will be displayed on our membership cards which will be sent out when lock change is confirmed.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:26PM

*Simon Willcox*

2025 Secretary  
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland



Got a project on your workbench that's finished or close to being done... or even a work-in-progress? Think about bringing it to a club meeting. We're all keenly interested in what our members are up to...whether it's an unusual project or something really basic.

WHERE MAGIC HAPPENS!

# Jay's Workshop

*I contacted Propsnapper member Jay Wiley recently to inquire if he would pull back the curtain on his workshop where he builds his models. As you can see, he graciously obliged!*

My shop is roughly half of our unfinished cellar with about 25' x 25' for building and storage. My primary building surface is a 3'x5' adjustable drafting board from my old work place. I also built a 2' x 8' workbench from lumber and old peg board. Parts storage is an assortment of shelf units, old entertainment units and re-purposed kitchen cabinets and tables. Model storage is a hodgepodge of wood scraps, dowels and shelf supports hung from the rafters.

The other part of the cellar is occupied by my 5-1/2' x 16-1/2' HO scale train layout plus storage for parts, supplies and kits. Another old kitchen cabinet is used for steam engine storage.

As you can see, every surface is a mess and covered in whatever project I'm currently working on. I do clear it off and sort things out once in a while!

*Thanks so much Jay!*



## Propsnappers Member Meeting

**Wednesday, March 5 • 6PM** ← **NOTE EARLIER TIME!**

**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...](#)



# 2025 ANNUAL NUMB THUMBS FUN-FLY

A truly wonderful way to kick off our 2025 season!



In early February each year, a group of hardy Propsnappers brave whatever Mother Nature conjures up to spend the morning blowing the dust off their planes. Some years we have grass to fly off of (occasionally frozen...so, kinda hard) and sometimes it's snow. Regardless of the conditions, it's almost always a great time for all involved and a nice way to start a new flying season.

This year our Numb Thumbs Fun-Fly was held on Saturday, February 8th. In the week prior, there was some concern we might need to reschedule due to wind. But it was decided to forge ahead and we were treated to a nearly PERFECT morning! Moderate temperature, a china blue sky and only a slight breeze. There was decent snow coverage for smooth takeoff and landings and very little ice that could make things challenging.

About a dozen pilots were in attendance and plenty of flying was enjoyed by everyone. With the snow, planes were able to fly using skis as well as floats. Several non-flying members came to take in the morning and we even had a few interested guests join us to check out our club, our facility and the hobby in general.

Big thanks to the folks that pitched in make the day happen. Simon Wilcox came the day before to snow blow a path up to our clubhouse, David Dyer and Elliott Randall took charge of brewing hot coffee and supply Dunkin' snacks, and Dave Cyr brought a crock of American chop suey to warm our insides.



GREAT OPPORTUNITY

# Cool Planes for Sale!

Propsnapper member Jeff Beuttell has quite the hangar full of aircraft that he needs to thin out, and he is hoping to pass them along to a good home at VERY reasonable prices. All are electric, and many come fully equipped with motor, ESC, radio gear and more. Below is a listing of what's available. And, yes...you are not imagining...there are multiples of the same model!

- Great Planes PT-19** Assembled & flown
- Hanger 9 PT-19** New in box, but provided complete with everything.
- Edge 540T** Two brand new, two flown
- E-Flite Extra 300** Practically new
- Funtana** One built & one still in box.
- Rockhobby MXS**
- P-51** Retractable wheels
- E-Flite Pulse XT 25E**
- Tower Hobby Sbach** Three are available, one is new. All three are 100% equipped (motor, esc, receiver, etc.).



Tower Hobby Sbach

Jeff indicated that he also has four transmitters, batteries and chargers that he would like to sell. Furthermore, if someone buys three or more aircraft, he'll include their choice of transmitter or battery or battery charger.

If you are interested and would like to get more detail on any of the planes listed, please call Jeff at 847-609-0381 or email him at [fshtow@aol.com](mailto:fshtow@aol.com) or by [CLICKING HERE](#).

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!*

## View from the Flight Deck

*Continued from page one...*

In my view, our club has all the positive qualities that are discussed in these articles. It just seems to come naturally to us. We all love to fly and share our experiences; we all enjoy hanging out together regardless of whether we are cleaning up the field in the spring or flying our planes on a warm summer day. If a guest or visitor shows up, we are happy to see them and are indeed welcoming. We are fortunate that we have developed this strong foundation and tradition over the years.

So, what about attracting more people to our club? The board and membership will continue to explore ways of reaching out to the public. This is both a challenge and an opportunity for all of us to share. The board's role will be to narrow the focus of options on what we can do and how we can implement our plans. From what Grant Schulte says in his article, "We're always willing to experiment and evaluate as we go. If something fails, no big deal. Learn, adjust, and try something else."

Finally...thanks to all of you who made the Numb Thumbs possible this year, with a big shout out to Simon for hauling his snow blower to the field and cutting a path up to the club house. I also want to thank Jason Kenny and his crew at ECO-Maine for plowing our driveway and parking area. Stay safe...and warm!

*David*

**2025 President**  
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland



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

# Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

The Propsnappers Club Bullsheet 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