

# Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND



## 2026 Events

- Field Clean-Up .....Saturday, April 11**  
Rain Date / April 18
- Spring Fly-In & Club Meeting .....Saturday, May 2**  
Rain Date / May 9
- Spring Float-Fly ..... May 16 & 17**  
Saturday & Sunday
- Summer Fly-In & Open House .....Saturday, June 20**  
Rain Date / June 27
- Warbird & Fun-Scale Event.....Saturday, July 18**  
Rain Date / July 25
- Fall Float-Fly .....September 12 & 13**  
Saturday & Sunday
- Fall Fly-In..... Saturday, October 3**  
Rain Date / October 10

*NOTE: The two Float-Fly event dates are now confirmed! The Swap Meet will be added to the schedule shortly.*

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

### FROM OUR PRESIDENT

## From the Flight Deck

From all reports, our recent Numb Thumbs event was well attended and had near perfect winter conditions. Peter Flanagan and Pete Sarvas had the path and flight deck area cleared of snow, Bill Lairsey supplied donuts and Elliott Randall provided hot coffee and Sarah's home-made cookies. Jason Kenny from EcoMaine plowed the road and parking lot for us as well as changed the gate combination for the 2026 season. Thanks to all of you who helped with a very nice day of winter flying.

Our AMA charter and the Gold Leader Club applications have been completed and are set to get into today's mail. Other than the swap meet (which is in the works), all dates for club events have been set including our two weekends of flying at the Kiwanis Beach in Standish.

During our February board meeting, we approved the grub treatment plan that Elliott has been working on with The Grass Geek. This multi-prong plan includes detaching, aeration and several applications of products over the season. The applications will be timed so that rain will "water them in" and the field will be ready to use as soon as the rain is finished.

The costs for this treatment is significant for our small, non-profit club. The Grass

Geek kindly offered to have payments spread over the course of the season which eases our burden significantly. We have started a separate fund drive to cover the costs, and we've already received donations from the board and members...which is encouraging. I hope each of you who is able can make a donation you help us control the grubs.

Interest in model aviation seems to be holding steady, if not increasing. Hopefully, presentations like what Dan DeSena facilitated last summer at the Thomas Memorial Library in Cape Elizabeth can be replicated at other venues this season to stir additional interest in the hobby. I look forward to getting out there soon to meet up with fellow members for the fun and friendship we share.

Thank you all for your support of model aviation and the Propsnappers!

*David Dyer*

**2026 President**  
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland



David Dyer



# Board of Directors Meeting

February 4, 2026 at Ray & Robin's Hobby Center

## CALL TO ORDER AT 5:30PM

**Meeting Minutes:** The January 7 board meeting minutes were approved as presented in the January newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Peter presented his January financial report and it was accepted. We have 31 senior members.

**AMA Charter Renewal:** With new ownership at the solar farm, David raised the question about who should be listed as property owner on our charter paperwork as we sub-lease from the solar folks. This is important for liability insurance. David will follow-up with the solar company to clarify who is to be listed.

David also requested input for adding multi-rotor (drones) as an activity to be included on our club listing on the AMA website as he felt it may be of interest to potential members. The board approved including multi-rotor on our listing, but stipulated that no FPV flying was permitted. This is consistent with our existing policy regarding FPV activities.

**Grub Issue:** Elliot gave a very thorough review of the updated grub treatment proposal provided by David Domingos (The Grass Geek). The outline requires that the club de-thatch the turf in early May. Peter Robbins has volunteered to spearhead that work with resources he has at his disposal.

After our de-thatch, the service provided by The Grass Geek will span from late May through early June and should not impact flying activities.

Based on his final proposal, the total cost for The Grass Geek program is \$2090. He has generously offered to accept regular payments over the course of the season to help us manage the cost.

After all discussion, the board voted to accept The Grass Geek proposal including his schedule and payment plan with the first payment due on May 1. The intent is to pay for this year's work via a separate fund-raising effort (*already in process...see the chart on page three*) so it won't impact our existing

budget, which is already quite lean. Thus-far, we have raised \$900 towards our 2026 goal, which is an excellent start...and we thank all members who have already contributed. The board is looking into what a "maintenance" plan will be for subsequent seasons as well as associated costs. More to come on that.

**2026 Gate Code:** The new gate code was determined and the locks for the gate, clubhouse, mower door and porta-potty will all be changed at our Numb Thumbs event. Elliott will also freshen the batteries on the electronic lock on the clubhouse front door.

## January President's Letter Response:

David discussed his January president's letter and a complaint received from one of our members. The member expressed strong concern regarding the political nature of one of David's comments in the newsletter. While the board understood David's intent was heartfelt, all agreed that our newsletter is not the vehicle to air political views and that we will curb this kind of discourse in future newsletters as well as at the field.

**Numb Thumbs Fly-In:** After brief discussion regarding the predicted weather for February 7, the board voted to move the Numb Thumbs event to the back-up date of February 14. We also reviewed plans for coffee and other refreshments as well as Peter Flanagan and Pete Sarvas coordinating snow blowing access up the hill and the pits.

**Club Federal ID Number:** Peter Robbins reviewed his research into a federal tax ID (TIN) for the club to facilitate AMA Site Improvement Grants. He agreed to take the next steps as AMA grant money could be essential for club improvements.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:31PM**

*Tony Blanchard*

**2026 Secretary**  
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

## 2026 Executive Board



**David Dyer**  
President

**CONTACT**



**Jim McCoy**  
Vice President

**CONTACT**



**Peter Robbins**  
Treasurer

**CONTACT**



**Tony Blanchard**  
Secretary

**CONTACT**

## 2026 Board of Directors

Elliott Randall  
Dan Rieger  
Peter Sarvas  
John Thibault  
Spike Enck (EX OFFICIO)

### SAFETY OFFICER

John Thibault

### WEBMASTER

Bill Lairsey

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim McCoy

### CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

Bill Lairsey

# Membership Meeting

February 4, 2026 at Ray & Robin's Hobby Center

## CALL TO ORDER AT 6:32PM

### Previous Meeting Minutes:

The January 7 membership meeting minutes were accepted as presented in the January newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Peter Robbins presented his financial report for January. After a couple of questions regarding the nature of the board reserve fund, Peter's report was accepted. We have 31 paid members.

**AMA Charter Renewal:** David reviewed our AMA charter renewal which is due in early March. He explained that there is some confusion regarding the name of the new owner of the solar farm who holds our sub-lease (they lease from Kimberly-Clark, who is the owner of our site). This is important for AMA liability insurance. David will follow-up with the new solar company and Kimberly-Clark to clarify how things are to be listed.

David also explained the board's decision to include multi-rotor (drones) as an activity on our club's listing on the AMA website as it may be of interest to potential members.

**Grub Issue:** Elliot Randall provided a review of the updated grub treatment proposal provided by David Domingos (The Grass Geek) which was approved by the board earlier this evening. Based on the final proposal, the total cost for program is \$2090. He has generously offered to accept regular payments over the course of the season to help us manage the cost.

The outline requires that the club de-thatch the turf in early May. Peter Robbins volunteered to spearhead that work with resources he has at his disposal. After our de-thatch, the service provided by The Grass Geek will span from late May through early June and should not impact flying activities.

The intent is to pay for this year's work via a separate fund-raising effort so it won't impact our existing budget, which is already quite lean. Thus-far,

we have raised \$900 towards our goal, which is an excellent start...and we thank all members who have already contributed.

### January President's Letter Response:

David discussed a member's complaint regarding some of the content in his January president's letter. The member expressed strong concern regarding the political nature of some of David's comments. David acknowledged that political content was not appropriate in our newsletter and that he will curb this kind of discourse the future.

**2026 Gate Code:** The new gate code was determined and the locks for the gate, clubhouse, mower door and porta-potty will all be changed at our Numb Thumbs event. Elliott will also freshen the batteries on the electronic lock on the clubhouse front door.

**Numb Thumbs Fly-In:** David announced that the board agreed to move the Numb Thumbs event from

February 7 to the back-up date of February 14 because of the predicted cold and windy weather on the original date. Peter Flanagan and Pete Sarvas will coordinate snow blowing access up the hill and the pits.

**Swap Meet:** Due to an unfortunate miscommunication, Dave Cyr scheduled our annual swap meet on the same weekend as our Spring Float-Fly. After some discussion, he agreed to suggest a different date to the Italian Heritage Center and will update our AMA sanction paperwork so that it will be listed in *Model Aviation*. Once we have confirmation from Dave, the date will appear in our event calendar.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:55PM

*Tony Blanchard*

2026 Secretary

Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

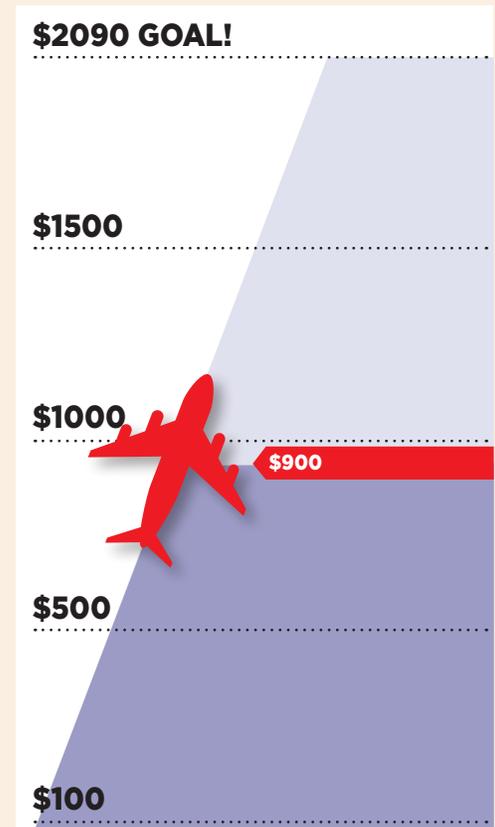
## Grub Treatment Fundraiser

The cost for dealing with those pesky grubs stands at \$2090. So far, we have received \$900 towards the cause...which is a fantastic start, but we need to close the gap.

If you haven't already done so, please consider making a contribution to the Grub Fund by cash or check at a club meeting or mailing a check (payable to Propsnappers, Inc.) to Treasurer Peter Robbins at the address below.

Thank You!

**Peter Robbins**  
38 Newtown Road  
Biddeford, ME 04005



FEBRUARY 4TH

# Club Meeting Show & Tell

Winter is typically a time for building new projects or repairing and/or updating models that require a little attention before the flying season heats up once again. At the end of our membership meetings, we often have a Propsnapper or two bring in something that they've been working on. Sometimes it's a finished project that they're proud of...occasionally it's a "work in progress" that needs some sage advice... and sometimes it's just an interesting model aircraft.

# Propsnappers Member Meeting

**Wednesday, March 4 • 6:30PM (NOTE THE 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...](#)



At our recent club meeting in February, Frank Maguire brought in his "Sallywag," an attractive, aerobatic, glow-powered, 40-sized low-wing sport model he built from *RC Modeler* magazine plans back in 2016. The 53-inch span model



Frank Maguire's "Sallywag."

was designed by veteran modeler Bob Wallace and was featured in the 1997 issue of the publication. Frank's version is covered with MonoKote and has an OS .46 for the engine.

Frank has built many planes over the years, and each one typically comes with an interesting story about the construction process and the success (or non-success) of flying the model. He's a wealth of knowledge about traditionally built models, and he's quite happy to lend his expertise to anyone interested in tackling a similar project.

Propsnapper member Dan DeSena is no stranger to unique projects, having tinkered with several challenging or unusual models. At the February meeting he presented his latest endeavor...a slope-soaring glider called "Alula-TREK."

The Alula-TREK by Dream-Flight is a very simple bird-inspired RC soaring plane designed to be assembled quickly with interlocking components that connect with rare earth magnets and requires no glue! It's made EPO foam and composite parts so it is lightweight and durable. It uses a micro receiver, two sub-micro servos and a battery pack.

Dan was excited about giving his new bird a test flight, but he'll have to wait until Mother Nature provides the right conditions for this slope-soaring model. He'll keep us posted on how things go!



Dan DeSena and his "Alula-TREK."

By all reports, our rescheduled Numb Thumbs event at Propsnappers Field on Saturday, February 14 was a success. We had great weather with plenty of fliers and planes as well as a few interested guests. Special thanks to Peter Flanagan and Pete Sarvas who provided snow blower services to clear the way from the parking lot and a “Tip-O-The-Wing” to Elliott Randall and Bill Lairsey for the hot coffee and snacks (thanks Sarah!) to keep everyone motivated.

The 2026 flying season has officially begun!

# 2026 NUMB THUMBS FLY-IN



# It's a Cinch!

I've learned over the years that model aircraft folks are generally pretty clever. The reality is that many times we have to come up with our own solutions to pesky challenges because our needs tend to be pretty specific to the hobby. One of the common challenges that modelers face is how to store our delicate aircraft.

Propsnapper Dan DeSena recently sent me this great idea for hanging his planes. According to Dan, "Just hook 'em by the tail...or gear...or prop. The cinch button (cord lock) makes it easy to raise or lower them to wherever height you want!"

The spring-loaded drawstring cord locks and spools of paracord are inexpensive and available on Amazon. *Thanks Dan!*



# OUT-AND-ABOUT Club Promotion!

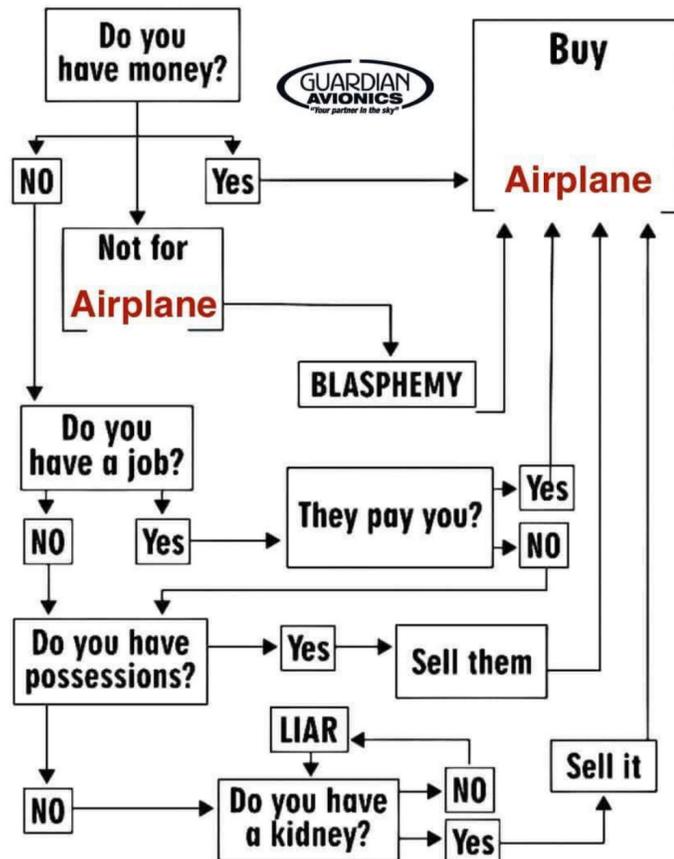
Attracting new members is one of the toughest jobs faced by just about every model aircraft club in the country. The Propsnappers are lucky to have Ray & Robin's Hobby Center as a home base, as the shop is a magnet for those folks who are interested in our great hobby. However, we still need to promote ourselves elsewhere.

My daughter snapped this photo at her local Hannaford in Portland. We created this small card last year with some striking photos of member's planes along a QR code linking to our website. The hope was that members would distribute these on community bulletin boards in stores and public places throughout the area. This particular example is perfect and clearly caught her eye.



We have plenty of these to share and I hope more members will grab a handful and put them up when they are out-and-about. I always have an inventory at club meetings, and I will be happy to mail a few to any member who requests some. Just email me...Jim McCoy...using the link above, and I'll send them along. *And, thanks in advance for helping us thrive!*

**Request Promo Cards!**



# 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](http://propsnappers.org) or click the link above.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER!

# Entrance Gate Procedure

**MONDAY THRU FRIDAY** - We are permitted to keep the gate swung open while we are flying. 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. Last one out locks the gate.

*In either case, make sure the padlock itself is **locked on the chain** at all times so it does not disappear. Thanks!*

# Membership Renewal Time!

A brand new flying season is right around the corner! So NOW is the perfect time to renew your membership.

**Our updated application is now easier to complete!**

The sooner we have a bead on membership levels, the better we will be able plan club

activities. Take a moment today to renew your Propsnappers club membership. It really does make a difference!

A membership application as well as links for the AMA and FAA are all easily available on our website homepage at [propsnappers.org](http://propsnappers.org). You can also click the red link below to go directly to the application.

We've updated the application to make it easier to complete. Simply download the document using the link, complete the info directly

[Club Application](#)

on your computer, print it out and then sign

and send it along with your check to our new treasurer Peter Robbins. Or... you can just print it out and complete it by hand...just like before. *Thanks, and let's start thinking Spring!*



This and many 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