

Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

This past month I have received two phone calls from family members of RC plane modelers who are trying to find out how they can “get something for” the unfinished or unstarted model plane kits. Both of the kits in this case come with gasoline or nitro engines. Some of you will recall the widow who brought her deceased husband’s collection of kits and planes to our clubhouse two years ago. If my memory serves me right, I think Simon pieced together a couple of those and has flown them (when the engines were running smoothly (-):

Each of these family members has a sad story to tell about the modeler who can no longer work on their planes because of poor health or death; the caller just wants to find someone to pass these on to rather than toss them out. They are also interested in getting a fair price for the items. For some of these family members swap meets and social media sales may not be an option. My heart goes out to these people, and I

wish I could help them out.

We are all aware of how the evolution of technology leaves older applications to fall by the wayside and become obsolete. One interesting thing to me is that outdated technologies become crafts that people enjoy today. Think about the antique steam engines that people lovingly restore and exhibit, or printing using individual letters set in a frame as lines of type ready for the printing press. My point is that gasoline and nitro engines as well as model building in general are becoming kinda obsolete, as ready-to-fly foam electric models have become the norm. We don’t need to build a plane if we want to fly these days. I think this furthered the decline in model building.

I wonder if we are missing an opportunity to attract new members. Perhaps the Propsnappers and other clubs should be more involved with the model building aspect of our hobby and promoting that to the community in addition to flying. According to the AMA, the first organized RC Flying club evolved in the early 20th century by a young

Continued Page Four...



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

**Maine Ace
Academy Thursday, August 7**

Details to come

Fall Float-Fly September 13 & 14

Saturday & Sunday

Fall Fun-Fly Saturday, October 11

Raindate October 18

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

**RAY &
ROBIN'S**

HOBBY CENTER

Propsnappers Member Meeting

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



- It was noted that the entire RC industry is seeing a downturn, especially the aircraft sector.

- Continue efforts to generate interest at the younger level to be handled by a member group or committee.

- The target group for new members is males from 35 years old to retirement age as they are more

likely to have the funds and time to actively participate in the hobby.

David announced that our AMA Gold Leader club status has been confirmed for 2025.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:01PM

Members Minutes: David called for approval of the member meeting minutes for February 5, 2025. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Ed reviewed the February 2025 financial statement and it was approved as submitted. Current member roster stands at 34 paid members

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

President's Comments: David opened the meeting with comments regarding the future success of the club. He referenced recent articles in the AMA magazine and highlighted the following areas:

- Need to increase the member count.
- Communication with other local RC clubs.
- Community participation.
- Member retention.
- The Propsnappers need 50 members per year to sustain the present quality of the club.
- Suggestion to hold 50/50 and prize raffles at the yearly events to subsidize member count as was done in the past.

OLD BUSINESS

Entrance Gate Our field gate combination has been changed. This year's combination can be found on the lower left corner on the back of your member card.

2025 Event Schedule Swap Meet was confirmed for Sunday, April 27 with David Cyr hosting once again.

Club Promotion Jim McCoy showed further developed promotional ideas suggested in January 2025 meeting. The community billboard promo card design is 4x6 with our website, Facebook address and QR code linked to our website. Various aircraft types are shown on the front and a brief



Continued on Next Page...

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

March Club Meeting Minutes

Continued from previous page...

description of our club is on the back. A magazine sticker was also presented to affix to front of AMA magazine to then be placed at local businesses where magazines are available for reading while in the waiting room. We will have quantities soon for distribution to members who in turn can post in local establishments. Jim reiterated there will be essentially no cost for this material. Ray LaBonte mentioned discussions with AMA at the district level regarding a yearly or half yearly publication to be focused on recruitment.

There was a suggestion to post videos of flying events and activities on Facebook. Concern was raised from a member regarding junk posts on the club Facebook newsfeed. This was identified to originate from Facebook.

Further discussion regarding generating interest at the youth level; Stem/Robotics, Civil Air Patrol, Scouts, Ace Academy and Big Brother/Big Sister programs were all mentioned.

Jim McCoy stated he would reach out to local clubs to promote camaraderie and cross-promotion of events to help target a greater audience.

Models for Sale Jeff Beuttell has a selection of planes he wishes to sell. All are in excellent condition with a couple still in their box. If interested, email Jeff directly by [CLICKING HERE](#) to meet-up and see the planes.

NEW BUSINESS

Daryl from Kingsfield ME has a few items to sell including a Carl Goldberg Anniversary Cub kit. Recommended items to be bought to the swap meet.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:05PM

Simon Willcox

2025 Secretary
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland



March Show & Tell

ABOVE: Bill Lairsey brought his little "Swift 100" from a Steven's Aero micro kit. It's fully aerobatic, but only in calm winds. He said it was a tricky build with fragile parts and "old hands."

ABOVE RIGHT: Pete Flanagan's 1/3 scale Nieuport 28 from a Balsa USA kit. It's covered in Oratex fabric in the color scheme of Sumner Sewall, Maine's first WWI Ace.

RIGHT: Pete Sarvas' F-22 Raptor is made entirely of 6mm fanfold from Home Depot. It has a one meter span and is driven by an electric pusher prop. Pete says it flies surprisingly well!



Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, April 2 • 6PM ← **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...](#)



View from the Flight Deck

Continued from page one...

woman who was building model airplanes and was seeking like-minded individuals. If completing a model we have built feels good, then piloting a plane you have built must feel even better. From what I have seen at our meetings, we have some very talented model builders.

So, what about the unfinished or never started kits and the various items that come with these offerings? What if clubs in our area, identify modelers who are willing to "adopt" and complete these planes with the nitro and gasoline engines? What if our clubs encourage people to dig out their grandfather's or parent's old planes and engines and helped them restore these for static display or to fly again?

It may draw more attention to model aviation if local schools, libraries, or other institutions had two or three hand-built models on display. One could have promotional material with these models; for example "If you can build it, you can fly it" at the Propsnappers RC Club. Or, "Fixed wing drones, build a kit to enter your future in aviation." "Take hold of your future,

learn to fly" "Building planes together builds friendships: Go to Ray and Robbin's Hobby Center for help getting started in modeling." "Build a model plane with your child and you have built memories for a lifetime".

I guess this is basically an attempt to think outside of the box, and I have Ray from the hobby center to thank for planting this seed in my brain. He mentioned the other day that interest in modeling has fallen off dramatically and that customers interested in the hobby are looking at the ready to fly foam planes. We all know this. When I bought my first Carbon Cub SE trainer 5 years ago; building a kit was not even on my radar.

Let's talk about these ideas. One of my pleasures at visiting Ray and Robbin's is seeing the beautiful models hanging overhead. Perhaps they should have a model kit being built by staff as part of their store's display?

Thank you all for your membership and participation.

David

2025 President
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 - 9AM

Field Clean-Up

It's time to get the field in shape for another season of flying! Last year the process took just a couple of hours with help from a great crew. Please bring rakes, shovels, tampers, buckets, work gloves and your usual sense of humor.

As in the past, we'll need to tidy-up what Mother Nature did over the winter months as well as re-position the pilot stations and field benches for the coming season. We'll also need to fill the numerous vole holes on the runways.

Plan to be at the field between 9 and 9:30AM and we will use the following Saturday, April 19 as a rain date.



SEW IT GOES...

A Little-Known Bit of Aviation History

This little gem from a page called "Ohio Proud Generations" showed up in my Facebook feed recently.

This is Ida Holdgreve. She was born in Delphos, Ohio in 1881. In her 20's she moved to Dayton to look for work. She saw an ad in the paper that advertised for "Plain Sewing Wanted." She was an excellent seamstress so she answered the ad. It was, in fact, an ad for "Plane Sewing Wanted" by Orville and Wilbur Wright. Ida became the head seamstress at the Wright Brothers Airplane Factory, sewing the cover for the fuselage, wings and rudders. Despite her work with airplanes Ida did not take her first airplane ride until 1969 at age 88.

There was a neat article in Smithsonian Magazine recently where an aviation writer credited Ida with being the "first female American aerospace worker."

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!

PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB
OF GREATER PORTLAND

SWAP MEET



SUNDAY, APRIL 27
9AM-NOON

**Italian Heritage Center
Parking Lot**

**40 Westland Avenue
in Portland**

Behind Shaws at the Westgate
Shopping Plaza on Congress

Clear out those "under used"
models, engines, supplies and
other gear and make room for
something new!

BUY! SELL! TRADE!

Visit [OUR WEBSITE](#) for details.



*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