

# Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

## View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

Spring has been a very busy time at Propsnappers Field getting everything ready for the 2025 flying season. We started off on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with our Spring Fly-In. Mother Nature graced us with a few hours of perfect conditions between some early downpours

that returned around noontime.

We've had so much rain recently that opportunities to fly have been limited. I had the good fortune of flying with Bill Lairsey this morning. The sun was out and there was a good breeze coming straight down the runway. Bill coached me through three battery packs with my Turbo Timber Evolution without a mishap!

Way back in 1972, I drove my BMW R-60 from Vancouver, British Columbia, to my home outside of Boston. I generally drove 500 miles a day from dawn to dusk. During this trip I learned some good lessons; one of these was if it wasn't fun any longer it was time to stop and take a long break. After a good rest and a bite to eat my

mind and body were refreshed and I would set off again with the spirit of adventure and fun restored.

You have all probably felt discouraged with your RC flying skills at times, especially with the loss of a plane. This disappointment may be why some choose to leave the hobby or at least consider giving it up. For me, the "I'm not having fun" thought came to me as I had become so nervous about crashing. I was feeling like a nightmare Zombie Kamikaze pilot who gets to crash repeatedly. The idea of leaving the Propsnappers just was not an option, so the only avenue to get out of my nightmare was to go back to flying with an experienced member until I could have fun flying on my own again.

This maybe too autobiographical, but this issue has seriously affected my view of the flight deck. One thing about our club is members offer their help when help is needed. Several of you have offered and given me help, which I do appreciate. I decided to work primarily with Bill for consistency.

So, getting back to today...with the wind coming down the runway, and Bill coaching me along. I was nervous but



## 2025 Events

**Summer Fly-In & 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 Fly-In .....Saturday, October 11**

Raindate October 18

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

it was a ton of fun, and that's how it should be...out on the field, flying with friends and landing safely with grins on our faces.

Thanks to all of you and happy Spring!

*David*

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





# Propsnappers Member Meeting

SATURDAY, MAY 3 PRIOR TO OUR SPRING FLY-IN AT PROPSNAPPERS FIELD

## CALL TO ORDER: 9AM

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

**Treasurer’s Report:** In Ed’s absence, David reviewed April 2025 financial statement for the members present. The statement was approved as submitted. Current roster stands at 34 paid members.

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

**President’s Comments:** David opened the meeting by thanking all involved for the spring field maintenance work and preparation for todays event. He also thanked James Ingalls for bringing his tractor to the field to move the loam and pull the roller. David suggested that James make a note on his yearly calendar as that is a lifetime responsibility. He thanked Simon for servicing the tractor and trimmer.

The Swap Meet was a wet one and f or the most part a wash, however a few deals were made

David discussed the club’s financial sustainability with current membership levels. He will ask Ed to prepare some visual graphs/charts with regards to membership levels, average seasonal expense, comparison to varying member count.

The Propsnappers need 50 members each season to sustain the present quality of the club and allow for the rebuilding of the board reserves to pay for large capital expenses as they arise. In May of 2024 we had 40 paid members, this year we have 35! Public outreach, a membership drive and contacting lapsed members was all discussed.

Our Spring Float Fly is coming up in a couple weeks. David will contact Peter Pappas to confirm his availability with the rescue boat. He will also

contact Eva at the Kiwanis to confirm all arrangements.

**Safety Officer Report:** John Thibault noted there were no safety concerns reported over the 2024 season. He reviewed the location and use of emergency numbers including the “Fly Away” procedure. He reminded everyone of the first aid kit location and content. Everyone was encouraged to speak up when seeing any safety violations so they may be addressed in a positive way. “Safety is everyone business.”

**Training Officer Report:** Bill Lairsey noted that new member Brian Cohen is our single active student at this time. Pete Sarvas is the instructor.

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## LOCAL CLUB EVENTS

### Sky Streakers High Wing Fly-In on June 14

All are encouraged to make the trip especially if you have not yet visited their flying field. Anyone with AMA and FAA can fly at the event (see the flyer elsewhere in this issue).

### Sky Streakers AMA IMAC Event

July 18, 19 and 20 at their New Gloucester flying site. The Propsnappers will not reschedule our Warbird & Fun Scale event on the 19th even through our events conflict on one day.

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**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:30AM TO GET TO FLYING!**

*Simon Wilcox*

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

## 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



# Rolling Right Along!

At our field work party each year, we typically end the process with club member Bruce Morse (or his son) rolling the sod on our field using their tractor and our two-ton concrete roller. If we had any topsoil delivered, Bruce would also move the pile from the parking lot to the field where we easily distribute it by bucket or wheelbarrow.

Bruce had health issues this year that prevented him from helping as he normally would. Enter new member James Ingalls from Buxton, who saw David Dyer's email looking for assistance and eagerly offered his help in the form of a truck, trailer, tractor and his time. James made quick work of the dirt pile and came back the next day to hitch-up the roller and take care of that project with ease. Big kudos go to James for offering to help his new club with such an important task.



## Around the Patch

### HIGH WING FLY-IN

Saturday, June 14, 2025

9am to 3pm

Skystreaker's R/C Club Field

website; [skystreakers.org](http://skystreakers.org)

Intended for planes such as Cubs, Taylorcraft,  
DH Beaver, Cessna 170 and the like

Free and Open to All with AMA  
sign-up at the field required  
(in association with the swap meet)

Gas Grill will be out, bring your food to cook  
Charging station for your batteries

contacts: Peter Flanagan [spits@maine.rr.com](mailto:spits@maine.rr.com) or  
Eric Guilmet [gebuilders207@gmail.com](mailto:gebuilders207@gmail.com)

#### Sky Streakers / New Gloucester, ME

[skystreakers.org](http://skystreakers.org)

6/14 - High-Wing Fly-In & Swap Meet (see flyer to the left)

7/18 - 20 - Tom Chabot IMAC Competition (three days)

9/7 - Old-Style Fun-Fly (date is tentative)

#### RC Bushpilots / Waterboro, ME

[Facebook](#) or [EMAIL](#)

8/10 - Club Picnic

Open House - date pending

#### Kennebec Valley Model Aviators / Sydney, ME

[modelaviators.org](http://modelaviators.org)

6/8 - Fun Fly at Club Field

7/13 - Glider Fly-In

8/10 - Picnic & Glider Fly-In

9/14 - Swap Meet at Lafluer Airport

**I will update this listing as information becomes available. Please check-out the individual club website links for full details on their events.**



SATURDAY, MAY 3 AT PROPSNAPPERS FIELD

# The Spring Fly-In Starts Our Season!



**Finding a day this spring with sunshine and calm winds** has been like finding a hen's tooth in a pile of straw! On the morning of Saturday, May 3 however, the fog and clouds cleared, the sun shone and winds were light...perfect conditions for flying model airplanes.

By 8:30 planes were in the air as members arrived for our member's meeting. John Thibault went over the club's safety rules and Bill Lairsey updated us on the new student pilots. Thanks were offered to all who helped get the field ready, particularly James Ingalls, Simon Wilcox and Ed Ricker.

A few folks showed up expressing interest in joining the club. I always enjoy meeting potential members and talking about model aviation. As always, they were warmly welcomed by club members and left with flyers and applications in hand.

Our delightful weather conditions lasted until noonish when the rain arrived in force. We could see the advancing squall line in the distance so everyone had time to get everything packed up and put away!

Regardless of the weather challenges, the event had a good turn-out and we all enjoyed the casual comfort of flying, talking and enjoying our "World Famous" solar hot dogs (it's a small world). John Thibault was responsible for the food and cooking (thanks John!). We received \$112 in donations, which gave us some net income for the day.

Finally, thanks to Jim McCoy for his promotional work in advance of the Fly-In. Jim has also been working with Bill Lairsey to update our website photo library so members can view all the event photos as well as download and share any they wish.

Thanks to all who participated, and helped make our brief window of flying a success.





SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 17~18

## Spring Float-Fly

In what has become typical so far this Spring, the forecast for our Float-Fly weekend made for a tough call. The decision was made late in the week to proceed as planned, and in the end everyone had a great time. Saturday was overcast, misty and chilly, but we had a good turn-out of pilots and guests and a decent amount of flying was had by all. Sunday saw blue skies and sunshine, but wind made it challenging. Members had a great time regardless, and plenty of planes made it into the air.

If you've never attended, Kiwanis Beach on Watchic Lake in Standish is an excellent location for flying float planes or amphibians. For many seasons now, we have had access to the beach once in the Spring and then again in the Autumn.

Thanks go to club President David Dyer for securing permission from the Kiwanis and filing the sanction paperwork with AMA for both events this year. Tony Blanchard and Peter Pappas were coordinators once again and did a wonderful job. Peter has been kind to bring his rescue boat for many seasons, and it was put to good use throughout the weekend. He also served as our chef, cooking-up some great hot dogs at noontime.

***Be sure to watch for information regarding our Fall Float-Fly on September 13 and 14!***





# 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.

## 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!*



*It was a nice surprise at the Float-Fly to get a visit from long-time Propsnapper Bruce Morse on Saturday. Pictured in the center with Peter Pappas (left) and Tony Blanchard (right), Bruce has been out of commission with some unexpected health issues. We all wish Bruce luck in his continued recovery and hope to see him again at our upcoming events.*

## Don't Make This Your Last Issue!

With our flying season heading into prime time, NOW is the time to renew your membership for 2025 if you haven't done so. You must be in good standing as of June in order to continue receiving our newsletter and event information. Even if you don't fly that often, we could really use your continued support to maintain the facilities and programs that so many members count on year after year. Use the link above to download an application and renew today!

[Club Website](#)



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

# Bullsheet

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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](#).



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