



FAA RECOGNIZED  
IDENTIFICATION AREA

# Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

## View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

**Hello everyone!**

We've had an active flying season so far, and there are more events to come before we take down the windsock. Although there were a couple of rain delays and winds that were sometimes too high for comfort, we all enjoyed ourselves.

At our public events we welcomed several curious folks and gave them insights into our particular passion.

Ed has been doing a fine job mowing the field. Simon turns out to be very handy at small engine repair and is now helping maintain the lawn mower. He's also been working on us having a working weed trimmer to help with grooming.

Despite being very hot and muggy this July, many members have continued to enjoy flying at Prodsnappers Field. We have welcomed new members and Bill has awarded solo certificates to a few novice pilots. All-in-all, it has been a good first half of our season.

During the recent warbird fly-in, Spike and I had the pleasure of awarding long-

time member Laird Spaulding an honorary membership from the board of directors for his years of dedicated service to our club. He was the head flight instructor for several seasons and taught many members how to fly. Laird is also a skilled builder and helped repair many damaged planes for members over the years.

Now, as August arrives, there are several opportunities for model aviators in our region. Perhaps the most ambitious event will be held over four days at the Sky Streakers field in New Gloucester from August 1-4. You can visit their website to find details about what they're planning (see the flyer elsewhere in this issue). Flight teams from Horizon Hobby and CARF models will be putting on shows, which I am really looking forward to seeing.

The Prodsnappers can still look forward to the Fall Float-Fly on September 14 and 15 as well as the Fall Fun-Fly on October 5. Please add these dates to your calendar and join us at these events.

This fall, we are also planning to attend to some needed maintenance on our club house. In a few weeks, we will be posting dates and details about the work and how members can help. There was great membership participation for our spring

clean-up day and I hope we will have a good turn-out for this coming work day as well.

*Continued On Page 3...*



## Upcoming Events

### Fall Float-Fly

September 14 & 15

Saturday & Sunday

Kiwanis Beach / Watchic Lake in Standish

### Fall Fun-Fly

Saturday, October 5

Raindate October 12

### Family Banquet and Awards Night

Wednesday, December 4

The Club at Riverside - Details to Come

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





# Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024 VIA ZOOM

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, Tony Blanchard, Jeff Beuttell, John Thibault and Spike Enck.

**CALL TO ORDER: 5:35PM**

**Board Meeting Minutes:** David called for approval of the submitted board meeting minutes for May 1st, 2024. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ed reviewed June 2024 financial statement. He Reported 48 paid active members for 2024 as of the end of June 2024. The June 2024 financial statement was approved as submitted.

**Secretary's Report:** Tony Blanchard donated a gas trimmer to the club. Simon will sort out a fuel leak and deliver to the clubhouse along with a gallon of 50:1 Trufuel.

**President's Report:** David reported the flying field is looking good. Ed stated the mowing is likely the best we can expect with the equipment we have and the undulations that exist in the field.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Honorary Membership:** Spike previously nominated Laird Spaulding to receive an honorary lifetime membership. The board agreed, and Jim will format a certificate and frame. It was proposed that we present it to Laird at the warbird event. Spike will contact Laird to make the invitation.

**Propsnapper Logo:** Discussion tabled until September meeting.

**ACMS:** Discussion tabled until September meeting.

**Big Brother/Big Sister:** Youth program efforts have not generated interest as expected. No youths have signed up for the proposed training program to date. Simon will work with board members to reformat the program offering for 2025.

**Civil Air Patrol:** David reported there had been no communication beyond what was previously reported and as such we have no Cadets signed up for pilot training.

**Youth Involvement:** John to review what information the AMA has to offer on this subject. It was suggested that John contact member Yury Kuznetsov as he has had some experience in this area.

**Warbird and Fun-Scale Fly-In:** Assignments for the day were discussed and reviewed. Tony has everything under control.

**Ace Academy:** Scheduled for August 1. David will forward information as it becomes available.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Maintenance:** Leveling of the clubhouse was discussed as an important priority. A tractor with forks was suggested as the best and safest way to lift the structure whilst installing new supports. In addition, deck staining, siding replacement as well as repair of plane preparation tables and stands were reviewed. Elliot will lead this effort and identify all items required/organize a work party and schedule

**Sky Streakers Event:** Sky Streakers are hosting a "State of Maine RC Fly-In" August 1 thru 4. (see the flyer in this issue)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:11PM

*Simon Willcox*  
Secretary

## 2024 Executive Board



**David Dyer**  
President

[CONTACT](#)



**Jim McCoy**  
Vice President

[CONTACT](#)



**Ed Ricker**  
Treasurer

[CONTACT](#)



**Simon Willcox**  
Secretary

[CONTACT](#)

## 2024 Board of Directors

Jeff Beuttell      Elliott Randall  
Tony Blanchard    John Thibault  
Spike Enck (EX OFFICIO)

**SAFETY OFFICER**  
John Thibault

**WEBMASTER**  
Bill Lairsey

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**  
Jim McCoy

**CHIEF INSTRUCTOR**  
Bill Lairsey



## EARNING HIS WINGS Congrats to Wayne Bell!

It's a safe bet that every one of us remembers the day that they officially soloed their model aircraft. Well, new member Wayne Bell had his big day on July 9 when he earned his wings under the training of Propsnapper head instructor Bill Lairsey.

Wayne is originally from Lincoln, England and relocated to the US in 2000. He works in research and development for IDEXX Corporation in nearby Westbrook, which made it very convenient to schedule early morning

training sessions with Bill. Wayne had no previous model aircraft experience, but did race RC trucks for a while. He presently lives in Kennebunkport with his wife Susan.

"I had five or so lessons with Bill, who was a great instructor!" said Wayne. "The process was pretty straightforward, however I wasn't really expecting this to be an early morning pastime!" When asked about what he'd like to do now that his basic training is complete, Wayne responded, "I'm not sure what type of flying I want to do. But for now I just want to get comfortable and then try different things. Anything more advanced is a bit down the road."

Wayne said that he found the Propsnappers through a simple Google search for RC flying clubs.

Congratulation to Wayne for achieving this important milestone. Please be sure to introduce yourself if you cross paths with him at the field.

## LAIRD SPAULDING

# Honored for Years of Club Service

Laird Spaulding of Scarborough has been a modeler since the 1960s when he learned to build and fly control-line planes. He became involved in RC in the 1980s, about the same time he joined the Propsnappers. Over the ensuing seasons, he became a fixture in our organization, lending his experience to dozens of newbie pilots as an instructor and mentor...often offering to repair his student's pranged trainers so they could continue their lessons.

Laird was granted an honorary lifetime membership by Spike Enck and David Dyer at our recent warbird and fun-scale event on July 20. He serves and an inspiration for all of us to look for ways...big or small...to give back to this wonderful hobby that we all enjoy.



# Propsnappers Member Meeting

**Wednesday, September 4 • 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...](#)



## View from the Flight Deck

*Continued from page one...*

Finally, I want to thank the entire board of directors who have been working hard behind the scenes to keep the Propsnappers a fun and safe place to gather and fly our planes. Jim McCoy, our vice-president, deserves recognition for all his graphic work promoting the club to our members and the general public.

As always, I look forward to meeting-up with members at the field while enjoying a couple hours of flying and friendship.

*David*

2024 President  
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland



# SPRING 2024 Float-Fly



It was chilly and overcast, but that didn't stop several of our members from enjoying our Spring Float-Fly on May 18 and 19 at Kiwanis Beach on Watchic Lake in Standish. This event is always a nice departure from our usual experience at Propsnappers Field. Peter Robbins gave it a whirl for the first time with a Carbon Cub on floats. Club President David Dyer also gave it a go for the first time under the direction of Bill Lairsey. We even had a scale cabin cruiser named "Gi Gi" take a turn on the lake thanks to Dave Cyr.

Thanks go to Peter Pappas and Tony Blanchard for putting the two-day event together. In addition to flying, Peter generously offered to tote his rowboat to the beach to act as a rescue craft as he has for several years.

*Stay tuned for details for the fall edition of our float-fly event that's coming up on September 14-15. Always a good time whether you come to fly or watch.*







SUMMER FUN-FLY  
AND OPEN  
HOUSE



Planning for an event that's open to the general public instead of just club members has a whole set of additional challenges... not the least of which is coping with Mother Nature. This year's Summer Fun-Fly and Open House was originally scheduled and promoted to take place on June 22. However, with foul weather predicted, we decided to reschedule to our published rain date of June 29. This may have hurt the attendance some, but it did not dampen our enthusiasm as plenty of flyers, several family members and folks from the community still came out for the day.

Ed Ricker worked hard earlier in the week to get the field ship-shape for the day (thanks Ed!) and lots of members pitched-in that morning to set-up the pit area to receive guests. Planned competition was forgone, so open flying was the mode of the day. Bill Lairsey offered buddy-box time on the club trainer to anyone interested. Our solar hot dogs were delicious as usual and enjoyed by everyone in attendance as were the chips and cold drinks.

Thanks go to everyone that participated in planing, set-up and take-down....with a special "tip-o-the-wings" to Bill Lairsey who gave 100 percent to make sure that all bases were covered!





# WARBIRD & CIVILIAN FUN-SCALE FLY-IN



Other than some occasionally challenging wind gusts, our Warbird and Civilian Fun-Scale Fly-In on July 20th had a nearly perfect mid-summer day to have fun in the air. Tony Blanchard honchoed the festivities as he has done in the past and David Dyer, Elliott Randall and Bill Lairsey helped with food and drinks. There were lots of beautiful military and scale aircraft of all types to enjoy.

Visit our website [PHOTOS PAGE](#) to see all the wonderful photos shot by Ann Blanchard. Thanks Ann!





AN AMA DISTRICT 1 EVENT

# THE STATE OF MAINE RC FLY-IN

Celebrating 50 Years of the Sky Streakers Radio Control Club



**AUGUST 1-4, 2024**

Sky Streakers Field / New Gloucester, Maine

- Four Days of Family Fun
- Model Aircraft of All Types
- Flight Demonstrations & Night Flying
- Food & Camping Sites Available

**GUEST  
APPEARANCES**

Team CARF-Models USA  
Team Horizon Hobby

For more information, visit the events page at

**WWW.SKYSTREAKERS.ORG**



# Weed Warriors!

Earlier this season...before our landlord mowed the property surrounding our field...the grass, thistles and bramble became so high that it became difficult to see the ends of the runway from the pilots stations. On June 14, Tony Blanchard and Elliott Randall heard the call and leapt into action. Using heavy-duty brush cutters, they cleared the offending weeds and restored our sightlines. *Thanks guys!*



# WAY-BACK MACHINE Share Your Experience!

How many of us took their first fledgling trips into the wild blue yonder with this classic blue-and-yellow plastic control-line model? I remember saving up holiday tips from my paper route in order to purchase a Cox PT-19 trainer at the local hobby shop. Those newspaper earnings were also essential in being able to buy the quarts of glow-fuel that fed the tiny .049 "thimble-drone" engine. I still proudly have the scars from that really sharp nylon propeller! It took lots of flights learn how to fly in circles without getting dizzy. Frankly, I'm not sure if I could do it today.

What was YOUR first plane? What got you interested in model aircraft to begin with? Email me (Jim McCoy) via the contact link above and let me know!

**CONTACT**

# 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.

**Learn to fly.**

For just a few dollars... That's all it costs to learn many of the basics of flying when you pilot a Cox PT-19 Flight Trainer. And you'll enjoy every thrilling second of your flight training, from take-off to advanced maneuvers to smooth landing. Powered by an instant starting, dependable Cox .049 engine, the control line PT-19 features an exclusive adjustable thrust angle that can be set for superior stability when you begin your flight training. And gradually increased for more daring aerial maneuvers. Check loading! Gladly everybody has at least one! No problem. The exclusive Cox rubber band assembly lets the plane come apart without breaking. They are quickly reassembled if for your next flight.

The Cox PT-19 Trainer comes complete with student and instructor pilot figures, control handle and lines. 22" wingspan.

Sign up for training now. Get your PT-19 at your favorite toy, hobby or department store. L. M. COX MFG. CO., INC. 1565 East Wilshire Ave., Santa Ana, California 92705. A subsidiary of Leisure Dynamics, Inc.

**COX**

**LEVEL FLIGHT:** The basic step in becoming an experienced model pilot is to master the level flight. The PT-19 has a special "level" setting. Just to make these first steps easy for beginners.

**WINGOVERS:** As your starting skill improves, do half of the circle loop, circles, half loop circles. This excites a perfect wingover.

**CLIMBS AND DIPS:** Also level flight-maintained, climbing and descending maneuvers include the "wingover" fly to have, climb, control.

**LOOPS:** And more advanced flight-maintained, climbing and descending maneuvers include the "wingover" also exciting your wings with the basic flying skills shown on each page.

Send 25¢ for a full color brochure of Cox powered planes, cars, rockets and accessories. Address Dept. FM7



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