



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

The grass on the field is starting to dry out from the summer heat and limited rainfall; and I realize again how quickly our flying season seems to go by. However, we still have the few months to enjoy the quiet and beauty of Propsnappers Field before we wind down

for the winter months.

We've had several successful flying events this season with good turnout and favorable weather. Admittedly, there were some close calls in the weather predictions, and I hope it has been helpful to have the "fly/no fly" decisions on the Thursday prior to the events.

Thanks, in part, to Jim McCoy posting other clubs' events in our newsletter, we have had more of our members attending these. Also, we've seen members from other clubs attending our events. Our Summer House Fly-In and Open House drew the attention of a variety of guests including parents with their children. It was a real pleasure to have them with us for the day.

This season has also been a time of progress for those of us who have been struggling to spend more time flying and less time repairing after we have repeatedly flown our planes into trees or the ground. I self-identify with this as my skills at refurbishing wrecked foam planes have seen impressive gains; I am just as happy to use those skills on a more occasional basis in the future.

In my studies of Psychology, (former lifetime...perhaps outdated but still relevant), we learned about the stages of development in humans as we go through our lives. Each stage we achieve helps prepare us for the next one we must take on. As a parent, my children went through other stages as well, like being finally able to sleep through the night, or getting over the colic pain that had me walking the house in the middle of the night with my screaming infant daughter in my arms. Just when I thought (after a month or so) I could not possibly get through another day of the wailing, it magically stopped! Life moves on to the next challenge.

This sounds like my experience of flying model aircraft. By finally following the advice of my club mentors, this summer



2025 Events

Fall Float-Fly September 13 & 14
Saturday & Sunday

Fall Fly-In Saturday, October 11
Raindate October 18

**Family Banquet
& Awards Night Wed, December 3**
Details to Come

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

Next Club Meeting
Wednesday, September 3

See page 3 for details...

I weaned myself off of SAFE and began to really fly my airplane for the first time in 4 years. Like many things, if you want something badly enough you will continue to try despite the difficulties, expense,

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Propsnappers Board Meetings

The board of directors met online via Teams twice this summer to discuss on-going club business as well as coordination of our summer events.

June 10, 2025 Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER AT 5:38PM

Member Minutes: David called for approval of the submitted member meeting minutes for May 2025 meeting. The minutes were approved and submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Ed reviewed our May 2025 financial statement which was approved as submitted. Our current member roster stands at 38 paid members as of this meeting.

President's Comments: David opened the meeting with a discussion regarding the types of data that might be helpful in understanding the club's financial situation. Some suggestions:

- Year-to-year comparison by month
- Cash balance & income by month
- Running balance by year, month or quarter
- Snapshot at predefined points in the year

It was determined that given our expenses each year, we break even at about 50 members. Historically, we have seen the following trend when membership is measured in June:

- June 2022 – 55 members
- June 2023 – 50 members
- June 2024 – 48 members
- June 2025 – 38 members

Event Host Definition: David asked for clarification of this role. Many definitions were discussed and resulted in the following description:

The event host (organizer) has responsibility for the entire event and achieves the result by performing the required tasks themselves or by delegating tasks to other club members.

Summer Fly-In & Open House:

Elliott Randall volunteered to organize the 50/50 raffle and John Thibault offered to stock the food and beverages. Jim McCoy will handle the directional signage on-site. Ed Ricker will check the inventory of club brochures and magazine decals at the clubhouse. David offered to handle the piloting games such as a timed event, a spot landing contest and/or a pylon taxi challenge. It was suggested we have 3 games spread out over the morning hours. Jim noted he has sent emails and promotional material to our neighboring clubs. He also proposed a paid Facebook ad to go up on 6/10 at a cost of \$50. This expense was approved by vote.

Skystreakers High Wing Fly-In:

It was discussed that Propsnappers members need to support neighboring club events so they will in turn support ours. Bill Lairsey and Jim McCoy are planning to attend this June 14 event, but a couple more members would be ideal. Jim said he will continue sending notices to club members for local events.

Propsnappers Training Program:

Peter Sarvas has one student at this time and Bill Lairsey is working with existing club members to better their piloting skill.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:30PM

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

Board Meetings Continued...

July 16, 2025 Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER AT 5:32PM

Member Minutes: David called for approval of the submitted member meeting minutes for May 2025 meeting. They were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Ed reviewed our June 2025 financial statement which was approved as submitted. Current member roster stands at 40 paid members as of this meeting.

President's Comments: David opened the meeting with a discussion regarding our executive board for next season. At the moment, the positions of president, treasurer and secretary will be open and available for a member to step up to fill. In addition, David said that Ed Ricker will no longer be available to fulfill the mowing responsibility as he has for this season.

Ace Academy Update: This annual event will take place August 7th at 1PM with Dave Dyer hosting along with Bill Lairsey and others. Bill will administer buddy-box training for those teens in attendance.

Field & Clubhouse Maintenance: Elliott Randall indicated that we are in pretty good shape at the moment but there are items that will need attention in 2026.

Civil Air Patrol: We were approached earlier this season by the Maine chapter of the Civil Air Patrol to allow

Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, September 3 • 6PM ← **NOTE THE TIME!**
Downstairs at Ray & Robin's Hobby Center

West Falmouth Crossing Plaza
 65 Gray Road
 Falmouth, ME 04105

[Map & Directions...](#)

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.



their members to utilize our field for drone training as part of their regular curriculum. It was discussed at this meeting that all CAP participants would need to become AMA members, FAA registered and Propsnapper members. The CAP proposed joining as a group (rather than individuals), but that does not conform to our bylaws or lease contract. General consensus of the board is to "let sleeping dogs lie" and not engage in any further discussion with the CAP on this request.

Warbird& Fun-Scale Event: Dave Dyer will trim weeds at the Green/Running Hill Road as they significantly impede visibility when pulling onto Running Hill Road.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:10PM

Simon Wilcox

2025 Secretary
 Propsnappers RC Club
 of Greater Portland

View from the Flight Deck

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self-doubt, etc. So, thanks to all of you who encouraged me, taught me, offered advice, searched for my downed planes; and generally helped me accept the learning curve with humility and humor. Life is good and The Propsnappers are fortunately part of my life.

So, on a final note about stages and changes, we have several changes coming

up that we need to address as a club. The executive board will be changing for next season following the November elections. Simon Wilcox (secretary), Ed Ricker (treasurer) and myself as president will not be returning to our offices. Fortunately, Jim McCoy has offered to fill in for Simon after he leaves for Ireland in September until the elections when a new secretary will be selected.

Ed will also be giving up his paid

position of mowing the field on a weekly basis. This opens up a great opportunity for someone who might be interested in earning some money for a good cause!

Well, that's it for now...looking forward to some cooler weather and seeing you on the field.

David Dyer

2025 President
 Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

Summer Fly-In AND Open House



Propsnappers Field was quite busy on June 21st for our annual Summer Fly-In and Open House. The event attracted lots of our members, dozens of planes, family, friends and several folks from neighboring clubs. With the weather being almost perfect, everyone was able to enjoy plenty of stick time including many who had their first taste of RC flying courtesy of Bill Lairsey and his buddy-box-equipped trainer.



As with any of our events, there are always a multitude of tasks that have to be attended to in order to have a successful day. Thanks go out to David Dyer for overseeing things, Ed Ricker for making sure the grounds were neat and trimmed, Elliott Randall for honchoing the 50/50 raffle, John Thibault to keeping everyone fed with our solar-powered hot dogs and all the other members who arrived early in the morning to help with set-up.



[More photos here...](#)



July meant it was time for our annual Warbird & Civilian Fun-Scale Fly-In, and this season was no exception. A good turn-out of members made for an enjoyable morning and early afternoon. There was an interesting mix of military aircraft (mostly WWII vintage) and “sort-of scale” civilian planes on the flight line, and many took to the sky multiple times throughout the day.

Standouts were Peter Flanagan’s 1/3-scale Cub, Bill Lairsey’s Focke-Wulf 190, Tony Blanchard’s P-51D and Pete Sarvas’ Corsair. It was good to see former Propsnapper Bill Reeve in attendance with his P-47 razorback.

[More photos here...](#)

[Plus...see the video!](#)

Thanks to all who came out for the day and especially the folks that helped with set-up and lunch. Special kudos to Tony Blanchard for once again volunteering to be event coordinator and Ann Blanchard for putting together the video for us!



PROPSNAPPERS FIELD ~ JULY 19

WARBIRD & CIVILIAN FUN-SCALE FLY-IN

Two ACE Camp Days a Success

The Maine ACE Camp is a day camp in which youngsters between 12 and 16 are introduced to many different aspects of aviation. They learn through classroom instruction, hands on activities and field trips. ACE stands for Aviation Career Education and they are co-sponsored by the FAA along with many other organizations.

The Propsnappers had the pleasure of hosting two different ACE chapters this year. The Mid-Coast chapter (based at Brunswick Executive Airport) stopped by on August 7 with about 14 campers and the Seacoast Chapter (based at Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport) were in attendance on August 14 with another 14 youngsters. Both sets of campers were given an orientation of our hobby and the mechanics of what makes a model aircraft fly. They each then get a chance at the sticks for some flight time on a buddy-box.

Propsnapper President David Dyer, along with members Bill Lairsey, Peter Sarvas, Spike Enck and Frank Maguire were on-hand both days to welcome these enthusiastic youngsters to our field and provided a brief taste of what model aviation is all about.



Around the Patch

RC Bushpilots of Southern Maine / Arundel, ME

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

Saturday, August 23 - Bushpilots Open House

Field access is across the road from mailbox number 327 on Curtis Road in Arundel. Drive through the pit and up the small hill. The field entrance is to the right.

RC Aces / Hampton, NH

[WEBSITE](#)

Saturday, September 13 (Raindate 9/14) - RC Aces Summer Auction

Set-up and viewing 9AM with the auction at 11AM. Food and drink available.

Kennebec Valley Model Aviators / Sydney, ME

modelaviators.org

Sunday, September 14 - Swap Meet at Lafluer Airport

Please visit the individual club links for full details on their events.

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 case, make sure the padlock itself is locked on the chain so it does not disappear. Thanks!

PROPSNAPPERS

FALL 2025

Float Fly

September 13 & 14
9AM-2PM

Kiwanis Beach
on Watchic Lake

Off Route 25 in
Standish, ME

- Come to Fly...Come to Watch!
- AMA/FAA Required for Pilots
- Pilot Landing Fee is \$10 for One Day, \$15 for Both Days



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