

Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

Hopefully you have been enjoying the exceptional flying weather this summer; although the lack of rain unfortunately has left our field somewhat crispy! Perhaps the drought conditions will gradually ease as we head into fall. This summer I have been

at the field usually once a week, and often there are other members using the field as well. It seems that compared to the past year or two more of us are using the facilities and getting in quality "stick time."

August was busy for the Propsnappers! We hosted the ACE program on two afternoons this year with approximately 30 high school students flying with Peter Savas and Bill Larisey using buddy boxes. Spike, Frank Mcquire, and myself were tasked with keeping the flow of students moving so that everyone who wanted to fly had an opportunity. It is always interesting to talk with ACE students about their interest in aviation and for some, their experience of flying model aircraft.

The second event in August was held at the Cape Elizabeth Public Library and was arranged by Dan Desana. We had a good turnout of our membership, who brought planes which we displayed in a library function room. We hoped for a larger community showing, however those who did come enjoyed seeing the models and the conversations with our members. Thank you Dan and all who participated.

Probably my favorite event is coming up on Saturday the 13th and Sunday the 14th when the Fall Float-Fly will be held at the Kiwanis beach in Standish. Tony Blanchard and Peter Pappas host these two days of flying off the water at a beautiful pond setting. Get your pontoons on and come out to enjoy a day or two on the beach. Those of you who are planning to attend will also have a chance to get some good deals at the Annual Lions Club Yard Sale which takes place at the entrance to the campground. The Float-Flys are in fact fundraisers for the Standish Kiwanis Club Beach. All the proceeds, minus any Propsnappers costs, go to them and we get the use of the beach in return. Good for all!!

As our flying season winds down, the election of board members is approaching.



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, October 1

See page 3 for details...

Spike, our Ex-Officio, will be putting together a slate of candidates for us. He will have more to say about this process and the need for members to "step-up" to run for open positions. I have served one year as vice-president and two years as the president of the Propsnappers. I had been a member for one year and received

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Membership Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2025 at Ray & Robin's Hobby Center

Vice President Jim McCoy chaired this meeting in Dave Dyer's absence. Tony Blanchard stepped in to perform secretary duties as Simon Willcox is in the process of moving to Ireland and recently resigned his position.

CALL TO ORDER AT 6:03PM

Minutes: Jim requested approval of the minutes for the May 3 member meeting (at the field) as well as the June 10 and July 16 board meetings held via Zoom. All were approved as submitted in the May and Summer Bullsheat issues.

Treasurer's Report: Ed reviewed our August 2025 financial statement which was approved as submitted. Our current membership stands at 41 paid members. Ed commented that we need at least 50 members or we risk dipping into the treasury. He suggested watching our pennies and perhaps scaling back the Family Banquet in December.

President's Comments: Jim welcomed former Propsnapper Vini Bancalari back to the club. He also informed us that long-time member Bruce Morse had taken ill and was once again in the hospital. Our condolences to Bruce and we wish him a speedy recovery.

OLD BUSINESS

Summer Events: Jim reviewed the summer events (Summer Fly-In & Open House, Warbird & Fun Scale Fly-In, the two Ace Camps and our recent model display at the Cape Elizabeth Library). Spike commented that the ACE Camps were both successful as the students seemed to really enjoy the experience even though the second event was cut short due to a thunderstorm. Dan Desena coordinated the library event and thought it went well, although attendance was light and he didn't see much potential for attracting new members. It served as community outreach for us, however... so we will keep our eyes open for similar opportunities at other venues.

Other Area Clubs: Jim mentioned the upcoming Skystreakers fun-fly on

Sunday, September 7 and encouraged our membership to participate. He also commented on the recent open house at the RC Bush Pilot field in Arundel, indicating that they are developing a nice facility and were pleased that we stopped in to see them.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Events: Jim confirmed that all arrangements were in order for our September 13 & 14 Float-Fly. David Dyer will be on-hand to collect the fees and Peter Pappas will have his rescue boat available. Tony Blanchard is coordinating the event along with Peter. There will not be any food provided, so be sure to bring your own lunch.

Our Fall Fly-In happens on October 11 with a 10/18 rain date. We discussed using this event as an opportunity to auction the planes and gear that Simon donated to the club. Details on the event and auction will be forthcoming.

Jim reminded members that our Family Banquet and Awards Night is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3 at The Club at Riverside Golf Course. Details as we get closer to the event.

Maintenance Discussions: Elliott confirmed that the high grass and overgrowth on the mound surrounding our field will be mowed sometime in September. Be mindful of the tractor's location when flying.

Several members commented that the voles are out of control again. Dan DeSena is concerned the critter repellent may be useless and therefore not worth the expense (he recently completed a fresh application of the Vole Mace). He suggested we test the effectiveness by skipping a year and measuring vole activity to determine if the granules truly make a difference. We will discuss this further over the winter months.

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2025 Executive Board



David Dyer
President

[CONTACT](#)



Jim McCoy
Vice President

[CONTACT](#)



Ed Ricker
Treasurer

[CONTACT](#)



Tony Blanchard
Interim Secretary

[CONTACT](#)

2025 Board of Directors

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

SAFETY OFFICER
John Thibault

WEBMASTER
Bill Lairsey

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Jim McCoy

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR
Bill Lairsey

Member Meeting Continued...

There was discussion regarding the need for maintenance on the clubhouse or other areas as we head into the colder weather. Elliott felt that most items could wait until the spring and that our late-fall "shut-down" could be accomplished efficiently with just a few members participating. He agreed to let the board know when he thought he would be doing the work. He also said that the solar panels and batteries would be fine over the winter but he would look into the battery health throughout the cold months just to be sure. There was a suggestion to clean the surface of the solar panels.

Ed Ricker recently learned that our porta-potty has not been serviced all summer. We had the understanding that it was on a monthly schedule, but in reality it was up to us to request a clean-out. The good news is that it is still in good shape do to our combination lock preventing passer-bys and workmen using our facilities...and we saved the cost of the monthly maintenance. Ed will straighten out the communication issues with the vendor.

Thanks to Simon's efforts over the summer, our mower is in fine shape and we saved the expense that usually went to the equipment company. He recently changed the oil, fixed a small oil leak and did a general once-over. Elliott has offered to continue looking after the equipment for the foreseeable future.

With Ed stepping down from the mowing duties (thank you Ed!) we will need to find volunteers or perhaps a single member to do the work as a paid position as it has been in the past.

Board Elections for 2026 As president ex officio, Spike has been responsible for our election process for the past two years. He spent several minutes reviewing the process and reminding us that we will approve the slate of nominations at our October meeting. He will then distribute ballots via email to the membership for voting, which will be tallied and finalized at our November membership meeting.

Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, October 1 • 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...](#)



Spike announced that Jim McCoy requested to remain as vice president and Tony Blanchard indicated he would run for secretary...serving in that role for the interim. During the meeting, Peter Robbins indicated he is interested in becoming our treasurer. Positions yet to be filled are president and an open board seat.

Members are encouraged to consider running for the open positions as it's a great opportunity to bring fresh ideas into the organization and have fun in the process.

Loose Ends Jeff Beutell still has several models and gear that he would like to donate to good homes. He brought a nice "Edge" type aircraft to the meeting which went to a grateful member. Jeff will also donate a new-in-the-box model for the banquet raffle. Please contact him at 847-609-0381 if you are interested in hearing what he has available.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:09PM

Tony Blanchard

2025 Interim Secretary
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

View from the Flight Deck

Continued from page one...

my pilot's certificate from Dan DeSena. When Dan first talked to me about running for office. My initial thought was "I have only been a member for one year; I don't have enough knowledge of the club or the model aviation hobby to be credible or useful." Dan insisted that the board needs new members along with seasoned members because of the fresh insights and experiences that newer members bring to the table. I first served with Spike in his last term as president, his patience and guidance really helped me grow during that year. Spike has continued to be a mentor during my two years as president, and I valued his help and wisdom. So my message is; if you decide to run for an open position, you will be supported and helped along the way. Propsnappers are like that.

My best to all of you.

David Dyer

2025 President
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

DAN DESENA REPORTS

Propsnappers Community Outreach!

On August 22, the Propsnappers hosted a demonstration at the Thomas Memorial Library in Cape Elizabeth. Sasha Kohen (Community Engagement Librarian) and Allyson Frick (Family Engagement Manager) welcomed the club to their excellent venue with ample space, numerous sturdy tables and...hot and cold refreshments!

Member showing their airplanes and answering numerous questions from the attendees included David Dyer, Frank Maguire, Elliott Randall, Dave Cyr, Spike Enck, Peter Flanigan, Bill Lairsey, Dan Rieger and Dan DeSena.

There was a wide assortment of models including a 2.5m glider, a quarter-scale Piper Cub, a Guillows stick and tissue model, a canard with a pusher motor, a performance 3D plane and even several static DaVinci models. Elliott dazzled the spectators with a micro-heli performance and Spike had the great idea of connecting a receiver and servo sans airplane to demonstrate how stick movement at the transmitter results in motion at the control surface. It was a good look at what happens “behind the curtains” and many younger attendees found this fascinating.

The showstopper (and perhaps this was predictable) was Dave Cyr’s screeching, flapping, pterodactyl which drew wide eyes, some concern, and plenty of laughter from the group of onlookers.

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The Propsnappers thank Dan DeSena for helping to coordinate this event as well as those members that took the time to display their models. Special thanks go to the staff at Thomas Memorial Library for being such wonderful hosts.



[See the Video Here!](#)



ATTENTION BARGIN HUNTERS!

Propsnappers Fall Auction



The Propsnappers have received a few items from our membership that were donated with the intent that proceeds will help fund club maintenance and other projects. Items will be awarded to the best offer and no reasonable offers refused.

Offers should be submitted by end-of-day on Tuesday, September 30 by emailing Tony Blanchard at tblanchard@earthlink.net.



Great Planes Sportster (with spare fuselage) is set up as electric with motor, ESC, servos and Spectrum receiver all ready to go...just bind and fly!

Great Planes Edge 540T is complete with motor, ESC, Spectrum receiver and servos. Plane has been assembled but not flown.

New-in-box Hobbico SuperStar 40 trainer is designed for .40 or .46 glow but could easily be converted to electric. This is a fantastic first...or second...plane that will help any pilot transition to more advanced models.



PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FALL 2025

Float-Fly

September 13 & 14
9AM-2PM

Saturday
AND
Sunday!

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



VISIT PROPSNAPPERS.ORG FOR EVENT DETAILS

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!

Want to Help Our Club?

The Propsnappers By-Laws call for the membership to nominate candidates to the ballot for officers and directors at our October member meeting. The approved ballot is then sent to members before the November membership meeting...which is election night. The new board takes over on December 1, 2025.

There are two vacant slots that need to be filled for 2026. The first is the position of president and the second is a director (board member).

When each of us joined the Propsnappers, your only thought was either learning to fly or increasing your experience level while having fun in a great hobby. By now, hopefully you realize that it takes volunteers to maintain our field, our clubhouse and to run our many events. These tasks rest with our officers and directors.

If you ask any former president or director, they will say that they never considered serving in leadership when they first joined. But all would admit they came to understand the need to pitch-in and help our club maintain continuity. It's a fun and rewarding experience, and a wonderful opportunity to work with a great group of individuals to ensure the future of RC flying at our site.

So, how do you take the next step? Simply **EMAIL SPIKE or a call him at 207-240-7246 indicating your interest in securing the future for the Propsnappers RC Club!**



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.**



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