

Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

I know that crashing planes is part of the learning curve we all go through. From the number of times I have crashed, I hope that I am approaching the top of that impressive curve and can (for the most part) go home with my plane intact. There is no doubt that I am learning how to repair foam planes, and that is good. Necessity being the mother of invention!

Another critical aspect of flying (beyond the manipulation of the flight controls) is awareness of my plane's position in relation to the surrounding environment. Things such as trees or my model's position as I line up a final approach. These are other aspects of flying that I am improving upon.

One thing I had not considered as a factor is my attention span and how quickly my old brain can react when I'm in trouble. I have problems holding attention and can become easily distracted. This season I've noticed that I will step to the flight line with a plan to practice touch and goes or flying the pattern with two or three landings. What transpired was less disciplined then hoped and often resulted in a stall close to

the ground following some failed attempt at an aerobatic loop, roll or even trimming the plane.

Many of us have had issues holding our attention while flying at one time or another and crashed as a result. However, my attention problems are unique to me, and I need to develop ways of keeping focused while flying. That said, there is one simple strategy we can do as a club.

When a pilot steps to the flight line to prepare for takeoff, he or she should be alone unless he/she is required to have a spotter or requests a support person. This is not a time for someone to begin a conversation or give last minute advice, as well intentioned as it may be. We should be totally focused on our flight plan, and for me that requires some deep relaxing breaths to clear my mind. I tend to turn off my car radio when I get into a tight traffic situation for the same reason, I need to concentrate on the matter at hand. Airlines over the years have realized that any non-essential discussion in the cockpit when the crew lands or takes-off increases the chances of an incident.

I know we can't have a formal rule about this because we all enjoy talking and supporting one another at the field. However, please be mindful that when a

pilot is preparing to fly or in flight, they need their undivided attention to be on their plane.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for another successful season. Our Fall Fun-Fly (no surprise) was a lot of fun. Weather conditions were in flux as a front moved through, but we were left with clear skies and acceptable winds. We had 7 guests who enjoyed some flying and our hospitality. It was a fine event. Thanks to Bill Lairsey for managing the food and to all the club members who helped make the day enjoyable.

Stay tuned for board elections and the Family Banquet and Awards Night coming on December 3rd!

David

2024 President
 Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland



Upcoming Events

**Family Banquet
 and Awards Night**
 Tuesday, December 3

REVISED
 DATE

The Club at Riverside - Details to Come

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



Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024 VIA ZOOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Dyer, James McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, John Thibault, Tony Blanchard, Spike Enck and Bill Lairsey.

CALL TO ORDER: 5:38PM

Board Meeting Minutes: David called for approval of the submitted board meeting minutes for September 4, 2024. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Ed reviewed September 2024 financial statement and it was approved as submitted.

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

President's Comments: A check for approximately \$240 would be sent to the Kiwanis as a result of the two float-fly events.

OLD BUSINESS

Club House Maintenance: The club house is looking good since being leveled. Some settling has occurred but was expected. Still more work to be done on front and sides but that can be done with levers and jacks. Elliot thanked all involved, Spike for taking the photos and Tom for providing the truck. Elliott was thanked for coordinating the effort.

Other Maintenance: The condition of the plane prep stands was discussed. No staining is required as they are built with pressure treated lumber. Bill Lairsey will spearhead an effort to stain the clubhouse deck. Dave will follow-up.

SCMS Software: Simon presented benefits it can offer and the board voted to approve implementation.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Fun-Fly: Scheduled for October 5th. Weather looks to be favorable.

2025 Officer/Board Nominations: Spike advised the nominations for 2025 will be the same as 2024 except for Dan Rieger stepping into the board opening left by Jeff Beutell who will resign at the term end. Nominations shall be emailed a couple weeks prior to the November 2024 member meeting. Votes can be emailed back to sender or members can vote at the November meeting. Spike called for approval of the nominations as submitted and they were approved.

Porta-Potty: Elliott advised that our porta-potty shall be winterized on October 16th and locked for the season.

Family Banquet & Awards Night: Scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, December 3rd (note change of date from what was previously discussed). Confirm we have the entire upstairs reserved as before.

November Board Meeting: Shall be at the hobby shop starting at 5:30pm on November 6th as Officer/Board member voting for 2025 will occur. Ed Ricker suggested we start using Microsoft Teams instead of Zoom for future remote board meetings to be rid of the 40 minute time restriction.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:09PM

Simon Willcox

2024 Secretary
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

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 Beutell 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

Member Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024 AT PROPSNAPPERS FIELD

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Dyer, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, Bill Lairsey, Roy Watson, Will Pierson, Peter Robbins, Peter Sarvas, Dan Rieger, Frank Maguire, Walt Stinson, Cole Stinson and Ron Czikowsky (guest).

CALL TO ORDER: 9:15AM

Board Meeting Minutes: David called for approval of the member meeting minutes for September 4, 2024. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Dave provided a summary report in Ed's absence

Secretary's Report: Simon provided overview of the ACMS software the club will be implementing.

President's Comments: David thanked board members for the work they are doing.

OLD BUSINESS

Bent Prop Award: Simon was the recipient this month for his crash involving a Great Planes Sportster which ended up with a two piece fuselage.

Float-Fly: Ended the year with a donation to the Kiwanis of approximately \$240. Dave thanked the Sky Streakers member and kids for retrieving his plane from the tree.

Club House Leveling: Elliott thanked all who participated. Additional leveling along front and side will be needed, but that should be nothing compared to what was need to level the rear.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Nominations: Spike advised the nominations for 2025 will be the same as 2024 except for Dan Rieger stepping into the board opening left by Jeff Beutell who will resign at the term end. Nominations shall be emailed a couple weeks prior to the November 2024 Member meeting. Votes can be emailed back to sender or members can vote at the November meeting. Spike called for approval of the nominations as submitted and they were approved.

Porta-Potty: Elliott advised the membership that the porta-potty

combination lock has been removed and unit shall be winterized on October 16th and locked for the season.

Family Banquet & Awards Night: Scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, December 3rd (note change of date from what was previously discussed).

November Member Meeting: At the hobby shop starting at 6:30pm. Voting shall occur for 2025 Officers and Board Members and will be the last membership meeting of the year.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:33AM

Simon Willcox

2024 Secretary
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

2024
Family Banquet and Awards Night

Tuesday
December 3

The Club at Riverside

Riverside Golf Course
1158 Riverside Street
Portland, ME

Watch for details and a reservation form to arrive to your inbox soon!

REVISED DATE

Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, November 6 • 6:30 PM

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.



Fall Fun Fly



DAVID DYER

The Prosnappers were out in force with several guests to enjoy flying, camaraderie and the rapidly changing Maine weather on October 5 for our annual Fall Fun-Fly.

Our October member's meeting kicked-off the day at 9AM. We had Cole Stinson, our youngest member, wringing the snot out of his Aero Scout and our oldest member (I think) Frank Maguire enjoying the flying and catching up with members. Bill Lairsey hosted the event and came with all the hot dogs and fixings needed for the solar hot dogs. John Thibault, our safety officer, became our chief cook and bottle washer. Several other members helped with the set up and closing down afterwards.

The venerable Bent Prop award was presented to Simon Willcox at the member's meeting for a recent mishap with one of his nitro flyers. To be fair, if I had waited to the end of the morning, the award would have remained with me. I crashed my Turbo Timber hard (but repairable) midway through the morning.

We had several guests...two couples who joined us from their home field in Vermont and three other folks arrived just to check out our club and watch the flying. Everyone enjoyed the day and the flying.

A big thank you to all who came, and I look forward to next years flying season!



Clubhouse Leveling A Success!

Wow...the old adage about "many hands making the work go quicker" was certainly on display at the Prosnappers work party on Saturday, September 28. Great planning and some helpful engineering skills made it possible for us to re-level our clubhouse once again after years of settling.

Kudos to Elliott Randall for pulling together the plan and resources...and Simon Wilcox for offering the use of his big tractor and skillful operation of the machine to lift the building just enough to slip in the necessary blocks and timber. Many thanks also to Tom Jordan for making the numerous trips to pick-up the trailer, load the tractor, deliver it to the field and take it back home to Simon. We really appreciate it Tom!

Everyone pitched-in seamlessly and efficiently, and our shed is good once again for many more seasons. Thanks guys!

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!

Winter Project Patiently Waiting Just for You!

As it tends to happen every so often, the Propsnappers are in possession of several planes that have been passed along to us from folks who have left the hobby for one reason or another.

This month, we're featuring this Bristol M1 monoplane that's been partially completed. The work looks pretty decent and most of the parts are in the box...including cowling, plans and other documentation. Just eye-balling it, I think it could be completed for e-power or a small glow engine.

If there's any chance you might be interested in giving this project a new lease on life, please contact Simon Willcox via email using the link below.



[CONTACT](#)



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