



Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

It appears that Fall is starting to cool down as we get our planes ready for the final flying event of the season. The following was prepared for the October 1 board and membership meetings, and I wanted to share it with you in this issue of our newsletter.

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We have had another season of active member participation with plenty of good flying conditions for us to enjoy our hobby.

When I drive down from Bath to spend some precious time flying, I don't have to worry about unpleasant personalities or off-putting criticism about my abilities. Unfortunately, in this current world of political surrealism, the traditional values of respect and compassion for all are being replaced with hate and falsehoods. We are all affected by the current political/social rhetoric, and the toll it is taking on our traditional social norms and values.

Organizations like ours that value and respect positive and meaningful

relationships need to exist and grow in these uncertain times. The intent of the Propsnappers has primarily been to procure and maintain a safe place to fly. We are organized around democratic principles and rules that govern how we provide that place on an ongoing basis.

It may be that we not only provide a safe place to fly; but we also offer an oasis of sanity and valuable interpersonal interactions that are good for our psyche and soul. Each one of us are responsible for the viability of the Propsnappers if we desire to maintain this oasis. Every person who volunteers to help with an event or maintain our site is helping to keep the Propsnappers moving into the future. The same is true for everyone who greets visitors and encourages their interest in model aviation.

Today we will have a slate of officers and board members to consider for our vote. One of those positions is for the presidency. I had hoped that having served two years as president I could give someone else the opportunity to hold this office. As it turns out, no one was interested in running, I am happy to fill the position once again, partly because I get to work with all of you and



2025 Events

Annual Family Banquet & Awards Night

Wednesday, December 3

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

Next Club Meeting Wednesday, November 5

[See page 3 for details...](#)

the enjoyment of our times together. One suggestion to encourage future involvement is to have board interns who shadow officers and learn how each role functions. Perhaps this would make it easier for members to picture themselves in the role of treasurer, secretary, vice president or president.

In the coming year, we each need to consider ways we can help the Propsnappers grow and function as the oasis we have thankfully become.

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Board of Directors Meeting

October 1, 2025 at Ray & Robin's Hobby Center

CALL TO ORDER AT 5:36PM

Treasurer's Report: Ed reviewed our September 2025 financial statement which was approved as submitted after some clarification regarding the intent of the board reserve funds. Our current membership stands at 41 paid members.

Board Elections for 2026: Spike reported that all executive committee and open board seats have candidates in place for our upcoming elections.

President David Dyer
Vice President Jim McCoy
Treasurer Peter Robbins
Secretary Tony Blanchard

Board of Directors

Elliott Randall Dan Rieger
 Peter Sarvas John Thibault

Ballots will be distributed to the membership at least 10 days prior to the next membership meeting. Please return your ballots as instructed as soon as possible. Results will be announced at the November 5 club meeting.

2026 Dues: There was a lot of discussion regarding club income, expenses and the possibility of a modest dues increase for 2026 to remain viable. It was agreed to increase membership dues to \$80 (a 5-dollar increase) and put more effort in fund-raising (like 50/50 raffles and aircraft auctions) to help offset increasing operational costs. Our 2026 budget will be based on a membership count of 45 members versus the 50-member estimate we have used in previous seasons.

Field Maintenance: Spike reported on his discussions with the paper company and the solar company regarding the mowing of the mound surrounding the flying field. At the moment, we have no idea when (or if) the high vegetation will be cut down.

Spike asked board members to be proactive in maintaining our lease arrangements. Elliott offered to take point on contacting the property ownership.

Lawn Mowing: At the moment, we do not have anyone willing to be responsible to mow our field in 2026. The board will continue to work towards a solution to this important task.

Float Fly: Tony reported that the weather was almost perfect for the float-fly. There was discussion about trimming it back to a one-day event, but the consensus was that keeping it unchanged is preferred. Big thanks again to Peter Pappas for volunteering his boat for model rescue services as well as his portable grill for lunch.

Fall Auction Results: Tony reported the results from our recent Propsnappers Fall Auction. Below are the winners and their bids:

Elliot Randall Sportster (\$50)
Bill Lairsey Edge #1 with Radio (\$125)
Walt Stinson Superstar ARF NIB (\$100)
Randy Williams Edge #2 (\$75)

Outside of Auction:

John Thibault Turbo Timber (\$150)
David Dyer Concendo (\$50)

In the end, donations totaled \$550 towards the club treasury. Big time thanks to all who participated, especially Simon Wilcox and Jeff Beuttell for donating airplanes!

President's Comments: David spent a few moments discussing how organizations like ours promote a spirit of cooperation and friendship within our membership. He emphasized the need to foster involvement in our club's operation to guarantee that we continue into the future...especially promoting new leadership from within our ranks. See his *President's Letter* on page one for more detail.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:31PM

Tony Blanchard

2025 Interim Secretary
 Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

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's Meeting

October 1, 2025 at Ray & Robin's Hobby Center

CALL TO ORDER AT 6:31PM

Meeting Minutes: The minutes from our 9/3 membership meeting were approved as presented in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Ed reviewed our September 2025 financial statement which was approved as submitted. Current paid membership is 41 with several additional junior members.

Board Elections: Spike listed the slate of candidates for our upcoming elections.

President David Dyer
Vice President Jim McCoy
Treasurer Peter Robbins
Secretary Tony Blanchard

Board of Directors

Elliott Randall Dan Rieger
 Peter Sarvas John Thibault

The membership voted to accept the slate. Ballots will be emailed 10 days prior to the next membership meeting. Results to be tallied by Spike and Jeff Beuttell and winners will be announced at the November 5 club meeting.

2026 Dues: Ed presented the board's decision to set membership dues at \$80 for 2026 (a 5-dollar increase). We will closely monitor spending and put more effort into efforts like 50/50 raffles and auctions) to help offset increasing operational costs. Membership was supportive of the initiative.

Lawn Mowing: We discussed the need to find a member (or members) to mow the field for 2026. Ed reviewed the requirements as well as his technique over the past two seasons. We discussed scheduling a mower training session in the spring as well as the \$1400 stipend paid to the individual.

At the end of the discussion, James Ingalls offered to be the primary mower and Elliott Randall said he would be willing to serve as alternate. More discussion to come as the 2026 season gets closer, but thanks to James and Elliott for stepping-up!

Field Maintenance: Spike reported on his discussions with the paper company regarding the mowing of the mound surrounding the flying field. At the moment, we have no idea when (or if) the high vegetation will be cut down.

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David Dyer Concendo (\$50)

Donations totaled \$550 towards the club treasury. Big thanks to all who participated, especially Simon Wilcox and Jeff Beuttell for donating airplanes!

Fall Float-Fly: Tony thanked Peter Pappas and Dave Dyer for helping to facilitate the event. The weather was almost perfect, with the lake being "like a mirror." Elliott mentioned that a

young family came out to the lake after attending the Cape Elizabeth library event, expressing interest in the hobby.

Fall Fly-In: Bill Lairsey reviewed preparations for the fall fly-in at the field on October 11. He is hoping to include some competitive events.

Flight Training Update: Bill also reported on his new student, 13-year-old Nathaniel Bliss who is accompanied by his dad Eric who indicated that he might also be interested in training.

Banquet: David reminded us of the upcoming Family Banquet & Awards Night on December 3 at Riverside Golf Course in Portland. Stay tuned for details and registration info.

Zoom/Teams Coverage: John Thibault suggested that we make an effort to broadcast our membership meetings via Teams or Zoom for those that can't attend. James Ingalls indicated that it would not be difficult to accomplish.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:15PM

Tony Blanchard

2025 Interim Secretary
 Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

Propsnappers Member Meeting

Wednesday, November 5 • 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.





FALL 2025 Float-Fly

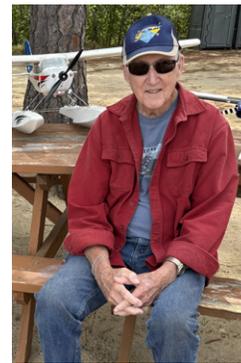


The weekend of September 13 and 14 turned out to be picture-perfect for our annual Propsnappers Fall Float-Fly at Watchic Lake in Standish. Several members enjoyed the ideal conditions on both days at Kiwanis Beach and took to the skies with all sorts of models as well as an RC speedboat courtesy of Will Pierson! We even had two families with children come out to see the planes...always a treat.

Most models used the usual pontoons for flotation, but there were several amphibian aircraft. A couple of glow-powered models took to the air as well.

Thanks once again to Tony Blanchard, Peter Pappas and David Dyer for working together to organize the event. Peter brought his very much appreciated rescue boat as well as his grill to cook-up some lunch.

We're planning another float-fly event in the spring as well as again next fall. It's always a fun time and worth the drive even if you attend just to watch.



Fall Fly-In

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11



About a dozen pilots and several additional members took advantage of this exceptional October morning to enjoy some fall flying and conversation. The air was warm and calm and the sky was nearly cloudless, so conditions were everything we could imagine for our last flying event of the 2025 season. Ed Ricker worked hard earlier in the week to make sure that the field and pit area were mowed and groomed. Bill Lairsey, John Thibault and Tony Blanchard coordinated the coffee, food and drink to be sure nobody went hungry or thirsty.

To help make things more interesting, Bill Lairsey devised some friendly competition before lunch that consisted of a timed flight and spot landing event that he oversaw. Winners were Elliott Randall for the timed flight competition and James Ingalls came in first on the spot landing component. Both gentlemen received an extra "solar hot dog" at lunchtime for their effort and skill.

The balance of the day consisted of relaxed open flying with mostly electric models (plus one glow-powered plane). Randy Williams flew his RC electric para-glider, which was pretty cool to watch given the calm winds and perfectly blue sky.



View from the Flight Deck

Continued from page one...

Finally, thanks to all of you for your membership and support of the Propsnappers in the many ways that you have done in the past, the present and into the future.

No sooner had I finished composing this statement my mail arrived, which included the current issue of *Model Aviation* (Vol51/#10). I encourage all of you to read the article *Clubs Struggle to Gain/Retain Membership* by AMA President Rich Hanson. Hanson's comments hits the nail on the head regarding our current situation regarding membership and leadership development. With some effort, I think our club can adapt to the realities of the changing times. We just need to find a way for the public to understand the value and benefits of our hobby.

First of all, we need to address the accessibility of our membership meetings. This topic was brought up again at our last meeting. The issue in my mind is how do we hold a meeting at the Hobby

Center and have it available in real time on member's home computers? James Ingalls commented that this was very achievable, so over the next few weeks I want to have a volunteer from our board work with James to help make this happen. I believe this will improve communication and cohesiveness within the club.

Another thing we should address is creating an online payment platform for new and renewing members. We are still firmly embedded in a 20th century snail mail system.

Finally, our year-end *Family Banquet and Awards Night* is coming up on December 3rd and I encourage all of you to attend. This is a very enjoyable time with great food, beverages and super prizes! Our very own Ed Ricker will be the master of ceremonies once again for the raffle and prizes. Bring your spouse or friend and enjoy the evening.

Thank you all for another great year.

David Dyer

2025 President
Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland

Valuable Donation!

Some of you may remember that in April of 2025 the Propsnappers received a donation of a cut-to-size piece of King StarBoard from **Jake Brokofsky of Brokofsky Woodworks.**



It was used as a replacement for the worn-out top of one of our rolling field worktables. This 3/4" thick HDPE material is extremely durable and should last many seasons for us.

Well, Elliott Randall reports that Jake has donated the rest of the full sheet of StarBoard for our use. He even supplied it cut-to-size once again as it's pretty tough to trim with standard saws.

A full sheet of this material is super expensive, so we certainly could never afford such a top-of-the-line product without Jake's thoughtful consideration.

Be sure to check out [Jake's website](#) if you're interested in custom cabinetry, built-ins, custom furniture or even a custom kitchen.



**BROKOFSKY
WOODWORKS**

Jake Brokofsky
207.415.7999
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www.brokofskywoodworks.com

IMPORTANT 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. Last one out locks the gate.

*In either case, make sure the padlock itself is **locked on the chain** at all times so it does not disappear. Thanks!*



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

Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

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.**



AMA Gold Leader Club • Chapter 871