

# Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

## View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

For those of you who may not be aware, a significant number of grubs have found a home under the turf of our field and pit area. These grubs are a source of food for birds and critters who dig up the turf to get at their tasty treats. In other words, they wreak havoc with our turf and require a concerted effort to rid them from our site.

Fortunately, Tony Blanchard, Elliott Randall, Pete Sarvas and others raised the alarm, and with a group of volunteers took initial action to help restore what they could and quantify the extent of the damage. Randall Williams brought his tractor to pull the roller to tamp down and level the field. Elliot Randall found a local turf specialist, whom he met with at the field, and came up with a treatment plan for the control of the grubs.

This issue was discussed at our recent member's meeting, where it was decided to wait until spring to deal with this situation, at which point we will determine the best course of action.

I want to thank everyone who took the initiative to respond quickly to this problem. We are fortunate to have such caring members who clearly work towards the betterment of the Propsnappers.

Speaking of caring members, Jeff Beutell has been downsizing his collection of model planes over the past year. He donated two of his fine planes for our recent auction, which were quickly bid on and sold. Now Jeff has offered two more models as raffle prizes for our annual awards banquet on December 3rd.

Jeff has shown us a charitable way of downsizing our collections of planes. Perhaps at our events we could hold auctions for planes donated by members, with proceeds going to the club. These are tax deductible donations! A big thank you to Jeff for his ongoing support of the Propsnappers and the contributions he has made and continues to make.

On a final note, please register for our annual awards dinner on December 3rd! This is a relaxed and fun time to get together with fellow Propsnappers and guests and to enjoy the hospitality and delicious food and cash bar provided by Jessica and her crew at Riverside Golf Course. Ed Ricker will once again be



## 2025 Events

### Family Banquet and Awards Night

Wednesday, December 3

See page 3 for details...

**Download the  
Registration Form!**

the master of ceremonies for the raffle of Ray & Robin's Hobby Center gift cards as well as Jeff's donated planes. The new board members will be introduced, and I will have my president's citations to present.

Thank you all for making the 2025 season another positive and memorable experience. I look forward to our 2026 season starting with our Numb Thumbs Fly-In in February!

Best wishes and see you at the banquet!

*David Dyer*

2025 President

Propsnappers RC Club of Greater Portland



# Member's Meeting

November 5, 2025 remotely via Teams

## CALL TO ORDER AT 6:30PM

**October Meeting Minutes:** The minutes for the October 1 board and member's meetings were accepted as presented in the October newsletter.

**Board Elections for 2026:** Spike reviewed the results of our board elections for the 2026 season. With 11 members responding, the new board will be as follows:

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

## Board of Directors

Elliott Randall Dan Rieger  
 Peter Sarvas John Thibault

Congratulation to all that participated. The new board's tenure starts at the beginning of our fiscal year on December 1.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ed reviewed his financial report for October and it was accepted as presented. We ended the month with 42 paid senior members.

**New Member Welcome Packet:** Tony Blanchard explained the need for a more formalized welcome packet to be given to new members to acquaint them with the club, the field procedures as well as general safety guidelines required by AMA and FAA. He found that each new recruit received information on an "ad-hoc" basis and that it was time consuming for him to pen a new email each time he introduced us to new members. He and Jim McCoy will work on creating this document and they will present their suggestion in early 2026.

**Grub Issue:** Tony, Ed and David explained the discovery of serious turf damage at Propsnappers Field caused by animals foraging for grubs (*see article on page 4*). Elliott Randall contacted a turf consultant who was willing to survey the damage and offer possible solutions. Unfortunately, Elliott was not able to access the online meeting and offer his

thoughts. It was determined that efforts at this point of the season would not be effective, therefore further discussion on this situation was tabled until the January meeting.

**Proposed Field Sign:** Jim McCoy described a proposed sign to be posted at the field to remind members to secure the charging station, lock the clubhouse and porta-potty and lock the entrance gate as they leave. Elliott Randall suggested this signage after responding to several instances of these items being neglected, putting our field at risk for vandals. This proposal will be explored further in the spring.

**Automated Email System:** Tony explained some of challenges he discovered in the ACMS club management system put in place by his predecessor. A couple of confusing transmittals were sent to the membership in error because they were scheduled months ago. Tony has updated the system to eliminate this issue in the future.

**Banking Credentials:** The board voted in favor of transferring access to the club's bank account to Peter Robbins - our new treasurer - effective on December 1 when he takes office.

**Family Banquet & Awards Night:** David reviewed the preparations for our annual *Family Banquet & Awards Night* to take place on December 3 at The Club at Riverside. There will be a cash bar starting at 5:30 and a delicious buffet dinner begins at 6:30. In addition to an awards presentation after the meal, we will have a raffle for several prizes including two aircraft donated specifically for the event. *Please see the registration form on page 3.*

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:13PM

*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

# 2025 Family Banquet and Awards Night



**Wednesday, December 3**

**The Club at Riverside**

Riverside Golf Course  
1158 Riverside Street  
Portland, ME 04103  
.....

**Cash Bar at 5:30PM**

**Buffet Dinner at 6:30PM**



▼ Please detach and return this completed form with your payment ▼

Don't miss this opportunity for you, your spouse and family to celebrate the Propsnappers 2025 season in style with food, drink, great conversation and exciting awards!

Tickets are once again just \$32 per person and can be reserved by **completing the coupon below and put it in the mail with your check by Monday, November 24.**

**Don't delay, make your reservation today!**

Contact David Dyer at 207-664-9050 or dsdyer1948@gmail.com if you need more information.

2025 Family Banquet & Awards Night

## Reservation Form

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ x \$32 = total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND**

Tickets are \$32 per person

Please complete this form and return it with your check (payable to Propsnappers, Inc.) to the address below:

**Peter Robbins  
38 Newtown Road  
Biddeford, ME 04005**



*Please mail by Monday, November 24...Thanks!*

## FLYING FIELD UPDATE

# Our Pesky Grub Challenge

If you've been to Propsnappers Field recently, you no-doubt have seen the wide-spread turf damage on both the field and the pits area. It was first noticed in late October by Ed Ricker during his regular mowing, but very quickly the damage spread further and other members arrived to see large chunks of turf disturbed. Several theories for the culprit have been suggested from turkeys and crows to skunks and our old friends the voles. We've determined the damage is clearly created by some animal (or animals), but the root cause is the presence of grubs under the turf which are a delicacy for several critters who dig and scratch the grass to find their meal.

We've dealt with this problem in the past, but it was on a more localized and smaller scale.

Several members took the initiative to tamp down the overturned turf in an effort to salvage the grass. New member Randy Williams even transported his tractor to the field to utilize our concrete roller to flatten the ground once more (thank you Randy!). Unfortunately, these efforts have been only temporary solutions.

Elliott Randall found a local resource named The Grass Geek willing to come out and survey the situation. He confirmed that grubs were the problem and offered a multi-step solution as well as the associated costs. The board reviewed the proposal and decided that any action taken now would have limited effectiveness and tabled the discussion to our meeting in January. At that point, we will develop a plan to deal with this situation in the spring once the grubs become active once again.



# It's Membership Renewal Time!

With most folks starting to prepare for the holidays, Propsnappers Field gets pretty quiet this time of year. However, believe it or not, a brand new flying season is right around the corner! So, NOW is the perfect time to renew your

**We've updated the application this year to make it easier to complete!**

membership. The sooner we have a bead on membership levels, the better we

will be able plan club activities.

Whatever you do to prepare for another flying season...build, repair or read back issues of *Model Aviation*...take a moment today to renew your Propsnappers club membership. It really does make a difference!

A membership application as well as links for the AMA and FAA are all easily available on our website homepage at [propsnappers.org](http://propsnappers.org). You can also click the red link below to go directly to the application.

We've updated the application this year to make it easier to complete. Simply download the document using the link below, complete the info directly on your computer, print it out and then sign and return it along with your check to our new treasurer Peter Robbins. Or...you can also just print it out and complete it by hand...just like before. *Thanks, and let's start thinking Spring!*

**Club Application**

**THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND**  
**2026 Membership Application**  
 NEW MEMBERSHIP OR EXISTING MEMBER RENEWAL

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE AN "X" IN THE BOX FOR YOUR SELECTION.  
☐ **\$80 Adult Membership**  
☐ **\$10 Field Assessment**  
☐ **\$FREE Youth Membership**  
 APPLIES TO NEW MEMBERS ONLY  
 18 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER BEFORE JULY 1, 2026

Yearly dues are \$80 for adults with youth 18 or under being free. A one-time fee of \$10 is assessed for new members. Those joining after September pay a full years dues and are credited for the following season.

All club members must have a current membership with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). The AMA membership application can be found at [modelaircraft.org/membership/enroll](http://modelaircraft.org/membership/enroll).

Members must also register as a Recreational Flyer (drone) from the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** at a cost of \$5.

The FAA also requires that all members take the TRUST Test...a simple questionnaire on safety and basic guidelines. The test is administered by the AMA and you can read about it on the **AMA site**. Once you're all set, **simply take the test** and download your TRUST Card.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL ENCLOSED**

**AMA MEMBERSHIP #** \_\_\_\_\_ **EXPIRATION DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Join or renew your AMA membership at [modelaircraft.org/membership/enroll](http://modelaircraft.org/membership/enroll)

**FAA REGISTRATION #** \_\_\_\_\_ **EXPIRATION DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Join or renew your FAA drone registration at the **Federal Aviation Administration**

I hereby apply for membership in the Propsnappers R/C Club. For my safety and the safety of others, I agree to abide by all club rules and field procedures as a member of the club.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please print out and return this completed form and mail it along with your check (payable to Propsnappers, Inc.) to our treasurer at the address to the right.

**A signed Release & Indemnity Agreement (page 2) MUST accompany your application!**

**Peter Robbins**  
 38 Newtown Road  
 Biddeford, ME 04005

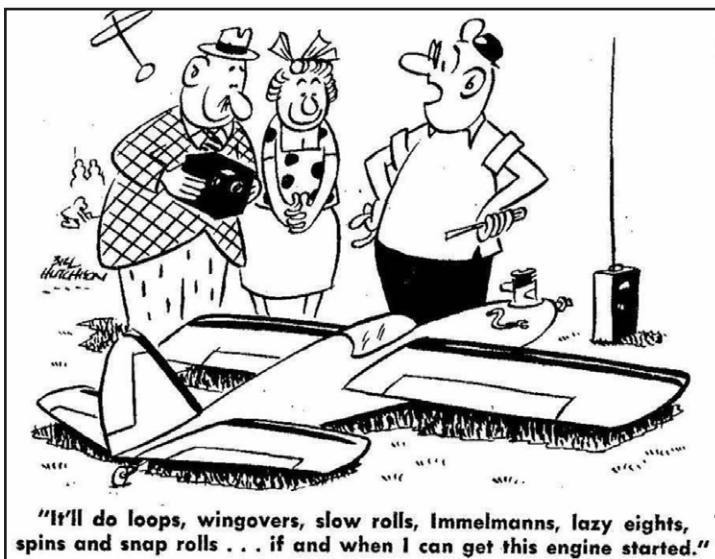
**AMA**  
 AMA Gold Leader Club  
 Chapter 871

**FAA**  
 OUR FLYING SITES ARE  
 FAA RECOGNIZED  
 IDENTIFICATION AREAS

## Propsnapper's Project is Featured in Print!

The current issue of AMA's *Model Aviation* features a beautiful Sopwith Pup constructed from a Balsa USA kit by Propsnapper Jay Wiley. You may remember Jay's model from meeting show & tell in February or the newsletter that month. His project can be found in the "Focal Point" section of the magazine, on page 44.

Those who have seen Jay's handiwork know that he is quite the craftsman, and puts a great deal of time and attention into each of his projects. The Pup is impressive both because of it's size as well as all the incredible detail from nose to tail. *Congratulations Jay!*



# 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.

## 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!*

# Kadet Senior for Sale

I received this notice from Mark Duval at one of our neighboring clubs, the RC Bush Pilots. I've seen the model in person and can attest that it's a beautiful plane and flies like a Sig Kadet should... smooth and gentle.

According to Mark, "It's been flown a great deal this summer and is a very forgiving flyer. The engine is an OS 60FP with a different carburetor and remote needle valve. It runs well and is in excellent condition. The aircraft has 5 servos. It was modified by the previous builder and has a span of 88" (the original is 78"). Smooth landings are always easy. Asking \$135."



I have to admit that as one of the last Propsnapper that flies glow-power, this one is very tempting...I just don't have a spot in my hangar at the moment. However, the design lends itself well to an electric conversion and would also be a nice introduction to a balsa-constructed model for some lucky member.

[If you're interested, please contact Mark at \[duvalfamily1@spectrum.net\]\(mailto:duvalfamily1@spectrum.net\).](#)



*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