



Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

View from the Flight Deck...



Spike Enck

I am sad to announce that Propsnappers member Ed Crooker passed away on December 28, 2022.

Ed was no stranger to those who were flying this past summer and fall as he took advantage of every clear day to get several flights in to improve his flying skill. Ed joined the

club several years ago and dropped out to spend time with his grandson racing slot cars. He returned this year determined to get his wings, which he did. He also was appointed Safety Coordinator. Ed, you will be missed.

On a positive note, the Numb Thumbs event went off as planned on February 11. My thanks to Eco Maine for plowing the road into the field as well as the parking lot and to Peter Flanagan who cleared the path and surrounding area with his trusty snow blower. Coffee and donut holes were provided to get the morning off to a good start. At lunchtime we were treated to Dave Cyr's beans and hot dog dish that his wife Ellie was kind to prepare. About fourteen members attended plus a prospective new member and young flyer

from the Skystreakers. The day provided clear skies with a wind chill of about twenty-six degrees along with windy conditions...you might say that flying was very challenging. The only successful pilot was Dan DeSena who somehow managed to land his plane safely. A good time was had by all regardless!

As mentioned before, the gate and clubhouse lock combination was to be changed after the Numb Thumbs event. However, when the Eco Maine crew went to plow a clear path thru the gate, they noticed that the combination lock was missing, so they put a key lock on. A new combination lock was put on in time for the Numb Thumbs event with the new 2023 combination. For those who have paid their 2023 dues (to include the renewal application and indemnity form) your new membership card sent recently by David Wend has the current combination on it. As of the end of January, we have 34 paid members. Don't let yourself be locked out of the field, get your dues and paperwork in soon to Ed Ricker, Treasurer so you won't miss a day of flying!

Ray and Robin's Hobby Center is not open on Wednesdays, however Ray makes a special effort to make it available for our Board and Membership meetings.

Unfortunately, membership attendance at meetings is sparse at best which is probably due to not providing programs of interest to the membership. Show and tell is always a highlight, but I need to know what topic would bring you out to a meeting. Please send me an email with your thoughts.

Wheels up,

Spike

See the
entrance gate
update on
page 5.

2023 Club Events



Field Opening Fun-Fly.....	May 6
Spring Float-Fly.....	May 6 & 7
Summer Fun-Fly.....	June 24
Warbird Event.....	July 22
Fall Float-Fly	September 16 & 17
Fall Fun-Fly	October 7
Swap Meet	TBD

Visit our events page...



Board of Directors Meeting

2/1/23 AT 5:30PM AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Spike Enck, Ed Ricker, Tony Blanchard, Elliott Randall and Jim McCoy

CALL TO ORDER: 5:35PM

Board Meeting Minutes - The minutes from the January board meeting were unanimously accepted as written in the January Bullsheet.

Treasurer's Report - Ed Ricker presented the current financial statement to the board. All members present voted to accept the his report as read. Ed also indicated that club membership was at 34 paid members. Elliott suggested that we consider doing more raffles (50/50, etc) and contests to raise funds for the board cash reserve to anticipate future capital expenses or maintenance. Members agreed that this was a good idea, however no official action was taken.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Spike announced the sad passing of club member Ed Crooker on December 28. Ed had recently accepted the position of club safety coordinator. It was agreed to ask John Thibault if he would be interested in the post, and he has agreed.

Our AMA charter, FAA registration and letter of intent with the Portland Jetport are all in the renewal process. Spike will provide us with an update at the next meeting.

Our 2023 event schedule is being finalized. The spring float-fly was re-confirmed to be May 6 & 7 based on other activity at Watchic Lake. It was decided that the summer fun-fly on June 24 will be once again open to the public with details on promotion, etc. to come as the season progresses. It was suggested that members bring back-issues of hobby magazines to have on hand for potential new members to take home with them to promote interest in the hobby. We are looking for coordinators for several of our events this season, so please contact Spike for details.

Spike updated the board on the planned solar farm construction on the property adjacent to our field. Construction is slated to start late this spring or early summer. We also learned that they will utilize a recently purchased piece of land as an access point to Route 22, eliminating the need to use our entrance road and therefore reducing the impact of construction traffic near our parking area.

Elliott brought up the need to level our clubhouse as it is shifting due to the settling of the landfill soil. Several methods were discussed including asking the landfill/solar companies or the mowing contractor to lend a hand with their machinery. We might also use jacks and patio blocks to do the lifting manually. Elliott also indicated the need to have some fill material on-hand to stabilize the building after we shift it into place. No action was taken, but we agreed to discuss this further.

There was discussion regarding holding future board business meetings via Zoom which was accepted.

Spike requested that we all consider topics and ideas to bolster member meeting attendance.

Jim McCoy presented club sign options for our new porta-potty and one was selected. It will be facilitated by a resource of Ray Labonte and installed when it's warmer.

MEETING ADJOURNED 6:25PM

Submitted by Jim McCoy on behalf of David Wend

2023 Executive Board



Spike Enck
President

[CONTACT](#)



David Dyer
Vice President

[CONTACT](#)



Ed Ricker
Treasurer

[CONTACT](#)



David Wend
Secretary

[CONTACT](#)

2023 Board of Directors

Jeff Beuttell Elliott Randall
Tony Blanchard Jim McCoy
Dan DeSena (EX OFFICIO)

FIELD MARSHALL
John Thibault

WEBMASTER
Bill Lairsey

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Jim McCoy

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR
Bill Lairsey

Member's Meeting

2/1/23 AT 6:30PM AT RAY & ROBIN'S HOBBY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30PM WITH 9 MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Meeting Minutes - The minutes from the January membership meeting were unanimously accepted as written in the January Bullsheet.

Treasurer's Report - Ed Ricker presented the club's current financial statement. All members present voted to accept the his report as read. Ed also indicated that club membership was at 34 paid members.

GENERAL BUSINESS

We have a new member for the year, Peter Sarvas from Sacco. Welcome Peter!

Spike announced the passing of club member Ed Crooker on December 28 at the age of 61. Ed was a former member that returned as a Propsnapper for the 2022 season. He flew as often as possible

and attended many of our events. Ed will be missed.

Members were updated on the solar farm construction on the property adjacent to our field. Construction is slated to start late this spring or early summer. We also learned that they will utilize a recently purchased piece of land as an access point to Route 22, eliminating the need to use our entrance road and therefore reducing the impact of construction traffic near our parking area.

Our AMA charter, FAA registration and letter of intent with the Portland Jetport are all in the renewal process. Spike will provide us with an update at the next meeting. He also reminded the membership that our AMA charter

distinguishes us as an FAA recognized Community Based Organization (CBO) which affords us the advantage of not having to fly with a remote ID device.

The spring float-fly was re-confirmed to be May 6 & 7 based on other activity at Watchic Lake. It was decided that the summer fun-fly on June 24 will be once again open to the public with details on promotion, etc. to come as the season progresses. We are looking for coordinators for several of our events this season, so please contact Spike for details.

We discussed the date of the annual swap meet with Dave Cyr who has helped to coordinate the event with the Italian Heritage Center in Portland. Dave will let us know shortly what date will work best for the all parties.

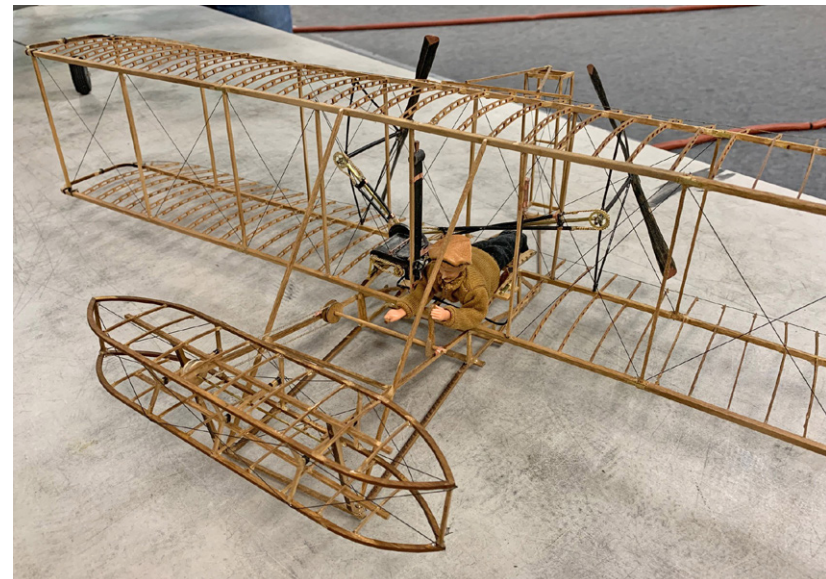
MEETING ADJOURNED 7:10PM

Submitted by Jim McCoy on behalf of David Wend



At the end of our membership meeting, Elliott Randall shared his recently-completed SIG Rascal. Built from a kit, Elliott added ailerons and also modified the battery compartment using hard foam and Velcro straps. The build had its challenges, especially the wing...which he recently worked on to eliminate a slight warp which caused some unintended banking. Elliott said he's pleased with the way it flies, especially in its ground manners. It lifts off super quick and is well behaved on final.

Meeting Show & Tell



Dave Cyr treated us once again to one of his unusual and highly-detailed static models. This time he brought a 1903 Wright Flyer built from a kit. The plane was left uncovered to show off all the intricate wood components and fittings. He explained what it was like to work on such a delicate project as well as the clever use of jewelry findings to replicate the belts and pulley systems. Dave is hoping to find a museum (like Owl's Head) that will display his model along with other aviation artifacts. Rightly-so, as this is quite a work of art!

Propsnappers Member Meeting



Wednesday, March 1 • 6:30 PM

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 (formerly exit 10) of the Maine Turnpike. Enter the building through the main doors and then proceed to the right and down the steps.

[Map & Directions...](#)

Numb Thumbs 2023
FUN-FLY
Saturday, February 11



Dan's DC-3 Project Update

In the March 2022 issue of *The Bullsheet*, Dan DeSena shared details on a 60-inch span DC-3 project he's been working on. The Brodak kit calls for fixed main landing gear, but Dan wanted to install scale-like retracts to challenge himself as well as improve the look of the model in flight.

Dan created a wonderful YouTube video (link below) detailing the design, construction and function of his gear in action. Do yourself a favor and take a few minutes to watch this video. Not only is it interesting, but it may inspire you to take a stab at some new challenge in your next project.

[See Dan's Video Here...](#)



**RC
DC3
GEAR!**

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.

2023 Entrance Gate Update

Now that we have completed our first event at the field for 2023 year, I want to review our arrangement with Eco Maine as it related to the entrance gate to the field.

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!

Membership Renewal Time!

So, what are you doing to prepare for the 2023 flying season? Other than our hardier members who strap skis or floats to their models and fly off the snow, Propsnappers Field is pretty quiet this time of year. For the club, what is really important for you to do RIGHT NOW is renew your membership. The sooner we have a bead on membership levels, the better we will be able plan club activities for the spring and early summer.

So, 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.

Yearly dues are \$70 with youth memberships being free. A one time initiation fee of \$10 is assessed for new members. Flight instruction for all members is free...can't beat that!

Members must also join the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and receive a registration number from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Downloadable Propsnapper club membership applications as well as links for the AMA and FAA are all easily available on our website homepage at propsnappers.org or click this link.

[Club Website](#)



Bullsheel

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

The Propsnappers Club Bullsheel newsletter is published approximately six times a year to keep members up-to-date on club activities. Comments, suggestions and contributions of content are welcome. Please feel free to [EMAIL THE EDITOR](#).

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

