

# Bullsheet

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROPSNAPPERS R/C CLUB OF GREATER PORTLAND

FROM THE PRESIDENT

## View from the Flight Deck



David Dyer

On Saturday, May 4th, the Propsnappers officially opened the 2024 flying season with our Spring Fun-Fly. The weather was very favorable with light winds and overcast sky. The week before we had our workday to fill vole holes and other preparations for the season. The mower was serviced, and Elliot had the main runway ready for action on the morning of the Fun-Fly. Bruce Morse gave us the use of his son and tractor so that the field was rolled after the vole holes were taken care of.

First of all, thank you to everyone who helped out with the field and to everyone who helped set up the Fun-Fly. From my perspective, everyone had a fine time being together and flying. Bill Lairsey brought a buddy box with him, and I took advantage of the opportunity to practice flying without the use of safe mode.

We have had a few new members joining as the warmer weather has (barely) arrived.

I welcome their enthusiasm and interest in the Propsnappers. In *View from the Flight Deck*, I have talked about how fortunate we are to have the kind and supportive individuals who make up this club. Another attribute that stands out to me is how well we pull together to take care of things that need to be done. There is a generosity of spirit that is evident when we get together. Of course, flying model planes is a source of pleasure which is infectious, and good for our mental wellbeing. When we get together we benefit from one another's sense of accomplishment, and share in the disappointment when we crash our planes. Some of us may prefer to fly alone, which is something I like to do because there are fewer distractions and no witnesses to my misadventures. Despite this preference, nothing can replace the fun and camaraderie of flying with a bunch of fellow Propsnappers.

Happy flying everyone, be it alone, or with other members. One last thing, invite a friend who might be interested in model aviation, maybe they will end up learning to fly.

Thank you all,

David

## Upcoming Events

### Spring Float-Fly

May 18 & 19

Saturday & Sunday

### Summer Fun-Fly & Open House

Saturday, June 22

Raindate June 29

### Warbird & Fun-Scale Event

Saturday, July 20

Raindate July 27

### Fall Float-Fly

September 14 & 15

Saturday & Sunday

### Fall Fun-Fly

Saturday, October 5

Raindate October 12

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

RAY &  
ROBIN'S

HOBBY CENTER

# Board of Directors Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024 VIA ZOOM

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, Tony Blanchard, Jeff Beuttell and Spike Enck.

**CALL TO ORDER: 5:39PM**

**Board Meeting Minutes:** David called for approval of the submitted board meeting minutes for April 3rd, 2024, meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ed reviewed April 2024 financial statement. He reported 41 active members for 2024 as of the end of April. The April 2024 financial statement was approved as submitted.

**Secretary's Report:** Youth sponsorship program thru Big Brother/Sister program contact on PTO. However, feedback is expected the week of May 6th with regards to a couple potential candidates. The program likely would not start till end of May as that is when school is out for the summer.

Regarding an IT solution for hybrid club meetings. Working with company IT group to define equipment required. The goal is to have solution for start of meetings in September.

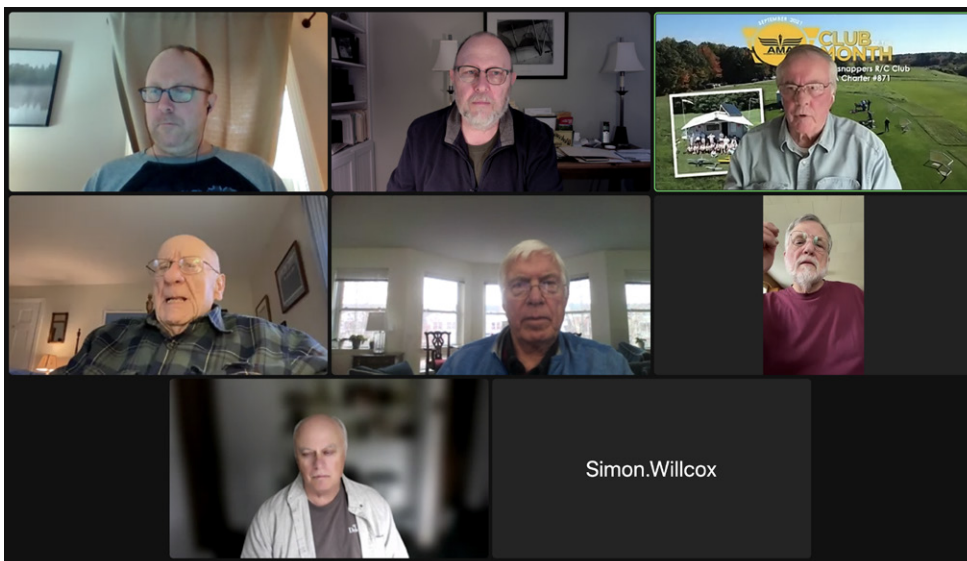
John Zappia, short term member from years past has donated a Sig Kadet Senior. His hope is that someone in the club will restore and fly the plane once more. He would like to stop by and see her fly if all works out. He is planning to get back into the hobby so a potential member in the future. He also donated a Balsa USA Bristol MR1 partial kit/partially built if anyone is up for the challenge.

**President's Report:** Emails were sent to last year's members that have yet to renew for 2024. Two members indicated they likely will not renew due to moving or health. None that were contacted had concern about the club function, operation, field or otherwise.

PRCC will host Ace Academy in August at the field. David will review the class program prior to their visit and update the board accordingly.

David concerned about his communication effective and asked that all identify anything he could improve.

*Continued next page...*



## 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 Beuttell      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

## Board Meeting

*Continued from previous page*

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Spring Field Cleanup

- Vole damage has been repaired.
- A new windsock is hung and weather-vane oiled...Elliot will procure another windsock to have on hand.
- 20+ members turned out for the event.
- A special thank you to Bruce Morse and his son for loan and transportation of the tractor to assist in the event.
- David cleaned the parking area.
- Porta-potty is in service for the season.
- Mower is serviced and ready for pickup...invoice is approximately \$350.

#### Maintenance Requirements

- One assembly table will need a new top at the end of the season...Elliott has the material.
- Clubhouse deck will need to be stained this year.

#### Swap Meet

- Good turnout with 12+ sellers and out of state club participation.
- Heavy rain came at 10:30am thus event ended early.

#### Spring Fun-Fly

- David will bring hot dogs, buns, soda and ice.

- Elliott will bring condiments except for chopped onions which Tony will bring.

- Trash bags are already in the club house.

- Tony offered to create a checklist of items needed for such event so we don't have to go thru the process of remembering (and potentially forgetting) what is needed.

#### Spring Float Fly

- Event does not need to be sanctioned by AMA as it is the club's registered second flying site.
- David will be on-site to collect the landing fees...\$10/day and \$15 for both days.
- Spike suggested to have a member list on hand.
- Need to have a sign-in sheet and be sure to have plenty of \$5 & \$10 bills for change.
- David will contact "Eva" the Kiwanis local representative.

#### Update to Solo Certificates

- Jim emailed new format for review, comments received...format updated.
- An editable file would be preferred so the instructor can update with student's name otherwise Jim will have to update and distribute.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Training Program

- Elliott currently has one student.

#### Honorary Membership

- To be awarded to a past member that had significant positive impact on the club and its members.
- Recipient does not pilot planes but participates in club meetings and events
- Spike nominated 2 such past members.
- Jim will format a certificate and member card then send to each recipient.

#### Lawn Mowing Contract

- Spike injured his leg earlier this year, and therefore is unable to perform the field mowing for this season.
- Ed has agreed to undertake the task and plans to cut the grass late Thursday mornings.
- Any change to that schedule will be communicated in an email to members as it is known.
- Spike suggested a meeting at the field the review the equipment and methodology mowing the field to obtain best results.

#### ACMS Software

- Joe Horvath did not call into the discussion as planned...discussion to be rescheduled.

#### Mower Maintenance

- Elliott raised the question of mower maintenance cost.
- Simon offered to perform the service for parts/material cost. He will also pick-up and return mower to site.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:37PM**

*Simon Willcox*  
Secretary



*Some of the hearty work crew from our April 27 Propsnappers Field clean-up day. On what turned out to be a beautiful day, all our yearly chores were accomplished quickly and several members had the opportunity to get in a few flights.*

# Member's Meeting

**SATURDAY, MAY 4 AT THE FIELD**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Dyer, Jim McCoy, Ed Ricker, Simon Willcox, Elliott Randall, John Thibault, Tony Blanchard, Jeff Beuttell, Bill Lairsey, Roy Watson, Will Pierson, Peter Robbins, Peter Flanagan and Dan Rieger.

**CALL TO ORDER: 9:15AM**

**April Meeting Minutes:** David called for approval of the submitted minutes for April 3rd, 2024 member meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** None submitted.

**Secretary's Report:** Youth sponsorship program thru Big Brother/Sister. Feedback is expected the week of May 6th with regards to a couple of potential candidates. Likely would not start until end of May as that is when school is out for the summer.

**President's Report:** David thanked the board members for the work they doing.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Spring Field Cleanup

A thank you was extended to the 20+ members that turned out for the event. Field is in great condition and grass is growing well.

### Swap Meet

Good turnout with 12+ sellers and out of state club participation. Heavy rain came at 10:30am thus event ended early. Peter Robbins stated he arrived as folks were packing up.

### What's Up App

The use of the app to communicate to other club members, mostly used to let others know you are headed to the flying field. Would be good if more would sign up. Please email Bill Lairsey if interested. Bill also stated he would be adding a What's App link to the club Facebook page and on the website.

### Buying & Selling

Facebook page can be used if you are looking to purchase or sell from/to a local club following. RC Universe and RC Groups is also a good place to sell and buy however RC Universe was suggested as it has a good rating system to help avoid scammers.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Membership

Currently have 40 enrolled members for 2024...50 is the ideal number. Hope to work with BB/BS and Civil Air Patrol to build future partnerships and members. ACE will again be at the club field in August to learn the Principles of Flight

### Spring Float Fly

Be sure to attend even if only to watch the fun. Landing fees...\$10/day, \$15/ both days

### Lawn Mowing Contract

Spike injured leg therefore is unable to perform the field mowing for this season. Ed Ricker has agreed to undertake the task and plans to cut the grass late Thursday mornings. Any change to that schedule will be communicated in an email to members.

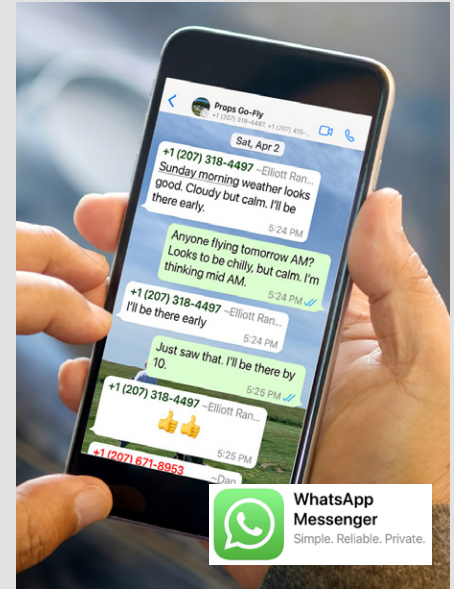
### Safety

Safety Officer John Thibault presented our replacement first aid kit which resides in the field clubhouse. Club rules are posted on the club house notice board. In the event of a "fly away" the number to call in posted. In the event of an emergency please call 911 and note that the address is Green Road in Scarborough. John reflected on a personal field incident that he chose not to disclose due to being embarrassed of the error made causing the incident. He admitted this was a mistake and in hindsight he should have mentioned the incident to those members at the present at the field. He reiterated the importance of safety and focus when flying these machines...even more so if being the sole person at the flying field.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:39AM**

*Simon Willcox*  
Secretary

# When are You Flying?



Several members have been utilizing a phone app called *Whatsapp Messenger* to let others know when they are going to the field. It seems to work well, so we are suggesting that interested members consider signing-up for the app and give it a try. It's free to download from the Google Play Store for Android and the App Store for iPhones.

Members are notified when someone else in the "Props Go-Fly" group leaves a message. Messages identify the sender and when the note was posted. Only invited members belonging to the group will see your message or can respond.

If you want more information or need help signing-up, contact Bill Lairsey directly at [wlairsey@gmail.com](mailto:wlairsey@gmail.com) or click on the contact link provided.

**CONTACT**

### To Get Started...

- Using your phone, download Whatsapp Messenger.
- Send Bill Lairsey a text at 207-650-1761 to let him know you would like to join.
- He'll reply with a link to click on that will sign you up to the Props Go-Fly group.

## ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS

# Club Lock Procedures



Your membership card includes a four-digit number in the lower right corner that is the padlock code for the season. This code operates the gold lock on the front gate, the clubhouse door lock and the lock on the porta-potty. The clubhouse lock can be a little tricky, so we encourage newer members to ask one of our more seasoned guys to demonstrate how that lock operates.

The porta-potty should be locked at all times when not in use. If you are using the facilities, please place the lock on screw eye hook next to the latch rather than taking it into the porta-potty with you. We don't want it to accidentally fall in!

Any member that is the last to leave the field should check to be sure that *ALL THREE* locks are secured.

## Front Gate Procedure

**Monday through Friday** we are permitted to keep the gate swung open while we are flying. Last one out must close and lock the gate.

**On weekends** the gate must be swung closed, but left unsecured by putting the chain over the gate. The only exception is for events, when the gate will be left open during the event time. Again...the last one out must lock the gate.

**In either situation, make sure the padlock itself is locked on the chain at all times so it is not stolen.**



April 28 promised to be cool and overcast, and any rain was supposed to hold off until after our "rain or shine" annual Swap Meet was concluded. Most folks arrived earlier than our 9AM start time to set up their displays. There were over a dozen vehicles present and several were so packed that they added folding tables to properly show their wares. What was most impressive was the number of other clubs represented, with a few coming from New Hampshire and Vermont.

There was a great variety of gear and aircraft available...with glow, gas and electric models represented as well as one vendor with a decent stash of old-school rubber-powered kits and static plastic models. There was some electronic components on hand and fair amount of building accessories and field items.

Shortly after 10AM things got exciting as the word went out that an unexpected downpour was arriving shortly. Everyone scrambled to finish their transactions and pack-up their cars. By the time the rain actually started, most everything was secured and cars were starting to leave. By 10:20, it was as if the event never happened!



As brief as it was, I think most everyone felt the event was worth the trip. It's always fun to see what treasures can be found. Personally, I scored a pair of electric Taylorcraft planes with two sets of floats. I also picked up a set of rolled Fly-Baby plans from the early 1970s (quarter-scale I think). David Dyer has been interested in trying some glow-powered flying, and he was able to procure a couple of engines, accessories and a completed Drake amphibian aircraft that he's planning to refurbish and get back into the air.

A big thank you goes to Propsnapper member Dave Cyr who coordinated the event once again with Italian Heritage Center on Westland Avenue in Portland.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

# Propsnappers Spring Fun-Fly

I think it's safe to say that our first warm-weather flying event of the season was a success. Conditions were cool and calm with a generally cloudy sky, although Mr. Sun showed his face every now and then. We had a great member turn-out with a lot of guys getting air time.

The day started with a brief membership meeting (our last until the fall) after which we all took to the skies. It was especially nice to chat with some members we haven't seen since last season.

Thank you goes out to David Dyer and Elliott Randall who honchoed lunchtime duties. We also need to give Elliott an extra tip-of-the-wings for arriving extra early to mow the field as it was getting quite shaggy due to the spring rains.



# 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.

## Don't Make this Your Last Newsletter!

If you don't renew your Propsnappers membership by June 1, your name will be dropped from the mailing list! We've made it super easy to renew with the 2024 membership application as well as links for the AMA and FAA easily available on our website homepage at [propsnappers.org](http://propsnappers.org). You can also click the link to the left to go directly to the 2024 application. Simply download both pages, complete the info, then sign and return to Ed Ricker along with your check. Simon will email your 2024 member card right to your inbox. Then all you need to do is charge your batteries and get flying!

[2024 Club Application](#)



**May 18 & 19**  
**9AM-2PM**

**Kiwanis Beach**  
**on Watchic Lake**  
**Route 25 in Standish, ME**

- \$10 one day / \$15 both days
- AMA/FAA Required for Pilots
- Other Clubs Welcome

**PROPSNAPPERS.ORG**  
**FOR DETAILS**



*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 approximately six times a year 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