



PLANE TALK

PROP MASTERS R/C NEWSLETTER



AMA CHARTER CLUB #397

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

AUGUST 2025

August 2025 newsletter



Greetings everyone! And a big welcome to the new members who have recently joined Prop Masters!

August has been a busy month, with lots of good flying weather. The Flight Instruction Program had a lot of participation this month, with an average of around 2 training days per week, and an average attendance of around 6 students each session. Thanks to our instructors who make this possible!

On August 5th we had an evening fun fly, organized by Bill Hickey, in conjunction with National Night Out week. I counted 20 members participating in this event, and a good time was had by all. Did getting 300 member points help in getting such a good turnout, or was it the really nice weather? In addition to club members, there were at least 15 non-members present, including friends, family, and general public observers. A very nice event with great participation!

A Board Meeting was held Tuesday on the evening of August 19. We made some really good progress streamlining our business and activity processes, worked on naming new Board members to replace those that have resigned, worked on a succession plan, and also discussed our "points for participation" system. You will be briefed on this in our next meeting.

Our next meeting is August 26, and it should be very exciting. Keely Doran, our new Forest Preserve Liaison will be in attendance, along with her supervisor. They will update us on what's going in the DCFP, followed by a brief Q and A session.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the meeting!

Your President

Michael D. Pfeifer



Financial Report

Bill Hickey



Financial Report

7/01/2025 thru 7/31/2025

Description	Operating Fund	Field Fund	Total	Comments
Balance July 1, 2025	\$2,086.63	\$3,639.71	\$5,726.34	
Income:				
Brand	10.00		10.00	Merch sale
Total Income	10.00		10.00	
Total Cash Available	\$2,096.63	\$3,639.71	\$5,736.34	
Expenses:				
Total Expenses	0	0	0	
Balance 07/31/2025	\$2,096.63	\$3,639.71	\$5,736.34	

Bill Hickey, Prop Masters Treasurer 305 White Oak Drive Naperville, Illinois 60540

treasurer@propmastersrc.org

We Are Collecting Dues for 2025

When paying your dues, please complete an updated membership form if any of your contact information has changed and either mail the form with your payment to me or turn it in with your payment at the meeting. A copy of the membership form is included with this newsletter.

Checks should be made payable to Prop Masters R/C Aero Club and sent to the address shown above. Alternatively, you can send the funds to my PayPal account treasurer@propmastersrc.org. Please send them as "Friends & Family" and include a short note with your name so we know whose dues are being paid.



Meeting Minutes

Jeff Cowan



Meeting Minutes – July 29, 2025

Opening:

The meeting began at 7:30 PM at Community United Methodist Church, 20 N Central St, Naperville IL. 21 members and 3 guests were in attendance. President Mick Pfeifer presided.

Some sad news about long-time members: Bob Stricker is suffering from chronic heart issues and is currently in hospice care at home. John Totten is in the hospital, and uncertain whether he will be going home. Our thoughts are with both and their families.

The June 24 meeting minutes were approved as published in the July Newsletter. The July financial report was read and approved.

Committee Reports:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Safety | The AMA (through the FAA) has officially increased the altitude limit of our FRIA from 400 ft to 700ft. This has been officially published on the AMA website.

We need to continue to work on calling out (“Heads Up”) when a plane is out of control. |
| Forest Preserve | Mick Pfeifer: Have been attempting to reach out to Keely Doran for several months. So far, have not been able to make contact. Will keep trying. |
| Publicity | Harlan Davis: Bill Hickey has printed a bunch of the “tri-fold” folders for us to give to prospective members. |
| Raffle | Harlan Davis: Previewed contents of the evening’s raffle, including a very nice Katana donated by Darrell Zeri. |
| Newsletter | Dave Cairns: Latest issue has gone out. Dave encourages members to consider writing up something to be published in the newsletter. |
| Website | All OK and current. |
| Library | Dave Cairns: Nothing to report. Pete Fales: Simulator is available for checkout. |
| Instruction | Peter Fales: Training has been going well. We’ve continued to schedule training days as weather permits and have had several very successful days. Congratulations to Jonathan Williams and Byron Dodson who received their solo certificates today. |
| Fun Fly | Dan Nosek: No report. |
| Picnic | Mike Pettinger: Picnic is scheduled for September 13. Discussed a barbecue at the pavilion vs. catering at the field. There seemed to be a consensus for the latter. |

Old Business:

None.



Meeting Minutes

Jeff Cowan



New Business:

- SIG Kadet Senior was donated to the club after using it for the memorial flight last year, and an anniversary flight this year. They wanted to have it go to someone in the club that could use it. Dhruvan was interested and took it home.

New Members & Guests:

3 guests this month: Dhruvan Kambhampati is starting at Metea Valley HS this fall. Benjamin Carrol is Doug Carrol's grandson. Byron Dodson is a current student who soloed today.

Society of Aircraft Demolishers (SAD):

Joe Bartek had a fly-away with his free-flight plane. Doug Carrol crashed his Timber while training with Mick. Chris Hoekstra spent a bunch of time fixing his canopy but subsequently lost it in flight. SAD patches were awarded to Joe and Doug. Chris' mishap did not result in aircraft demolition!

Show and Tell:

Bill Froelich	Red Eagle 3D
Esther Bourassa	Goosky S2 Max
Alex Dribinsky	Washer drop mechanisms: original hand-built from wood and a modern CNC machined version.
Darrell Zeri	Hee Wing flying wing – weighs 15.8 ounces, and does 136 mph!
Peter Fales	Alpha Trainer donated by someone who found us at the field.

Raffle:

PA Katana plane, collections of small parts, props, tools.

Closing:

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 7:30 PM at Community United Methodist Church, 20 Central St, Naperville IL.



Photos

Dave Cairns



Accomplishments & Guests



Byron Dodson and Jonathan "Willams"
earned their Solo Certificates!



^ Guest (turned member) Dhruvan & Guest Benjamin ^



Photos

Dave Cairns



Instruction Days

CORRECTION: Mick instructs
Kevin Hobbs



Naperville Councilman and Air Force vet, Ian Holzhauser accepted Pete Fale's invitation to come out and give flying a try. He says he had a blast!





Photos

Dave Cairns



Show & Tell



Ester brought her Goosky S2



Bill F shows his foamie 3D ship



Pete tells about the estate sale rescue that now serves as his Club Trainer



Alex D found another cool widget, a CNC machined aluminum washer drop mechanism for Fun Fly events



Photos

Dave Cairns



Darrell with his Hee Wing F-01 flying wing. He hopes to figure out a vertical launch method!



Darrell donated a very nice Katana to the raffle. Pete took this plane home for a song! Attend the meetings and enter the raffle!!



This nice Sig Kadet Senior was donated to the Club, and went home to new member Dhruvan. A donated motor and assistance from members will have him in the air soon.



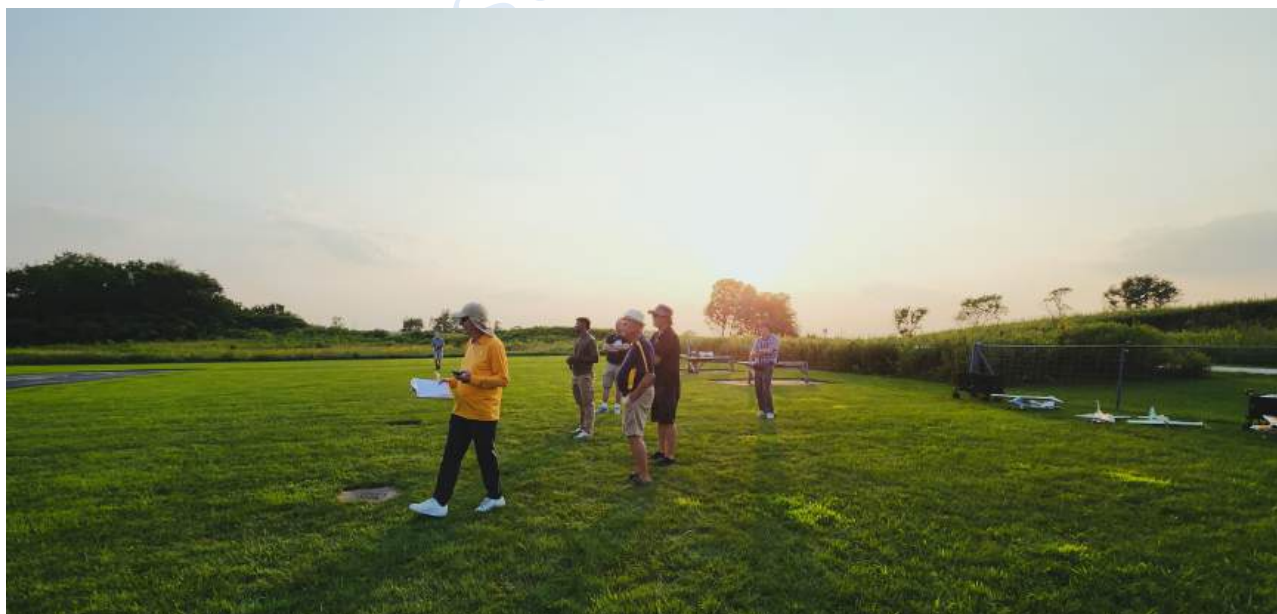
Photos

Dave Cairns



Fun Fly – 08/05 National Night Out

Bill Hickey organized a Fun Fly on the Night Out evening. Over 20 pilots came out to participate in a simple event. At dusk 10 pilots took off for a mass flight that was very entertaining, especially when Mick yelled out COMBAT. Those who don't know Mick's sense of humor took off flying for the far corners of the field! Too funny. Thanks to Bill for running this event, and kudos to Dan and Arjav who tracked the timing and kept the flight line running smoothly. A sunset photo and some near dark flights finished the day. We look forward to making this an annual occurrence.





Photos

Dave Cairns





Photos

Dave Cairns



National Night Out Fun Fly – August 5, 2025



Photos

Dave Cairns



Field Shots



Bill installs a new wind sock, while Mick, Dhruvan, and Dave C. stand ready to dial 911.



Bob A continues to shine as one of the best-dressed at the field, and is progressing in his flying.

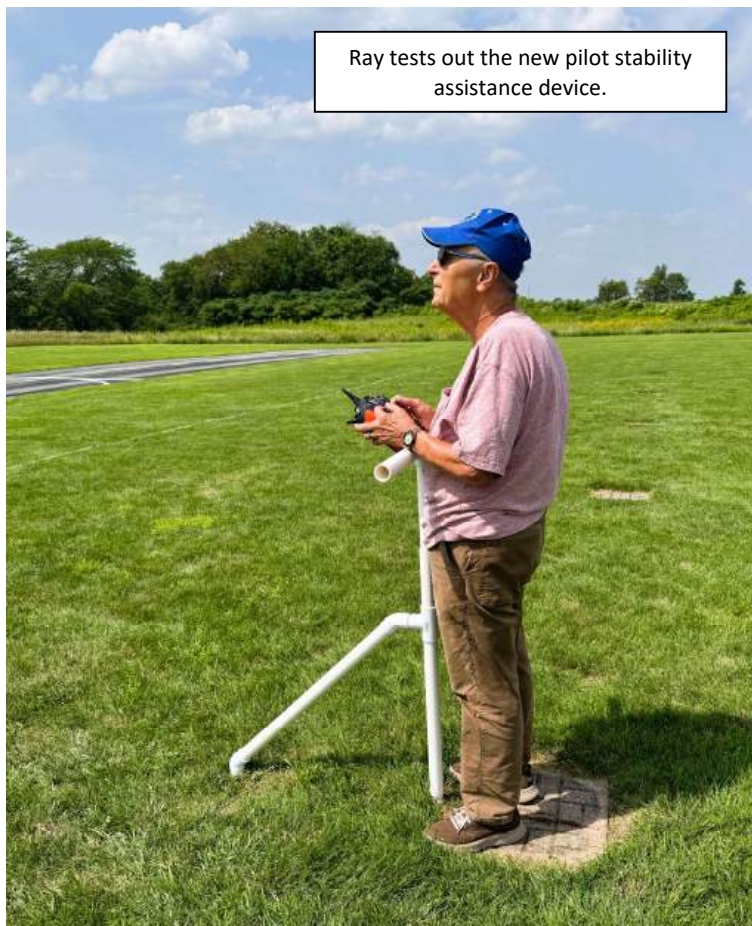


Mick helps John Claude on the buddy box



Photos

Dave Cairns



Ray tests out the new pilot stability assistance device.



Have you seen the artwork along the path?



Sunny days and big (and little) planes.
Let's enjoy the final weeks of the good weather! Fall starts in 4 weeks.



Club Calendar

2025 Calendar

Date	Event Type	Event Details	Notes
Jan 28	Monthly Meeting		Annual Christmas Auction at the meeting.
Feb 25	Monthly Meeting		
March 25	Monthly Meeting		
March 29	Special Event	Snag-A-Deal Auction	
April 29	Monthly Meeting		
May 27	Monthly Meeting		
June 24	Monthly Meeting		
July 29	Monthly Meeting		
August 26	Monthly Meeting		
Sept 13	Club Picnic	11:00am – 3:00pm	At the Field

~~~~~ **ANNOUNCEMENT - CLUB PICNIC EVENT IN SEPTEMBER** ~~~~~  
**Watch for additional details in your email.**

**Next Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, Aug 26, 2025**  
**7:30 PM**

#### **Newsletter Contributions**

Send newsletter contributions to the Newsletter Editor at  
[editor@propmastersrc.org](mailto:editor@propmastersrc.org)

The deadline for submissions is the second Tuesday of the month. Past Club Newsletters are posted at the club website: [www.propmastersrc.org](http://www.propmastersrc.org)



# Prop Masters Organization & Contact Information

## Board of Directors/Officers

| Position       | Name            | Email address                    |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| President      | Mick Pfeifer    | president@propmastersrc.org      |
| Vice President | Peter Fales     | vice-president@propmastersrc.org |
| Treasurer      | Bill Hickey     | treasurer@propmastersrc.org      |
| Secretary      | Jeff Cowan      | secretary@propmastersrc.org      |
| Safety Officer | Mike Pettinger  | safety@propmastersrc.org         |
| Board/At Large | Dave Engel      | board@propmastersrc.org          |
| Board/At Large | Esther Bourassa | board@propmastersrc.org          |
| Board/At Large | Harlen Davis    | board@propmastersrc.org          |
| Board/At Large | Open            | board@propmastersrc.org          |

## Committees:

### **Publicity**

**publicity@propmastersrc.org**

Harlen Davis

### **Nominating**

**nominations@propmasersrc.org**

Open

### **Forest Preserve Relations**

**field@propmastersrc.org**

Mick Pfeifer

### **Air Boss**

Dave Engel

### **Safety**

Dave Cairns – Deputy SO

### **Raffle**

**raffle@propmasrtersrc.org**

Harlen Davis, Chairman

Mick Pfeifer

### **Membership Relations**

**membership@propmastersrc.org**

Harlen Davis

### **Instructors**

**learntofly@propmastersrc.org**

Pete Fales – Chief Instructor

Mick Pfeifer

Ron Monsen

Mike Pettinger

Jim Mendygral

Jeff Cowan

Chris Hopwood

Dave Cairns

### **Fund Raising**

**fundraiser@propmastersrc.org**

Harlen Davis

### **Librarian**

**librarian@propmastersrc.org**

Bill Hickey

### **Webmaster**

**webmaster@propmastersrc.org**

Mike Pettinger

### **Newsletter Editor**

**editor@propmastersrc.org**

Dave Cairns

### **Air Show**

**airshow@propmastersrc.org**

Dave Engel

Visit the Prop Masters R/C Club Web Site at [www.propmastersrc.org](http://www.propmastersrc.org)

**Support your local Hobby Shops!!**

Leisure Hours Hobbies  
16300 South Lincoln Highway  
(US Rte. 30)  
Plainfield, IL 60568  
815-439-1477

HobbyTown USA  
341 N. Randal Rd.  
Batavia, IL 60510  
630-587-1256

Walt's Hobby Shop  
2207 Plainfield Road  
Joliet, IL 60435  
815-741-0043

HobbyTown USA - Orland  
15551 South 94th Avenue  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
708-349-8697

**Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, Aug 26, 2025  
7:30 PM**

**United Methodist Church**  
**20 N Center St.**  
**Naperville, IL 60540**  
**In Fellowship Hall**

# Prop Masters R/C Aero Club Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

AMA #: \_\_\_\_\_  
(required)

*In addition to Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) membership, a valid DuPage Forest Preserve Permit and Federal UAS registration is needed to fly at the Springbrook Prairie Model Airplane Field. The Club will gladly explain and assist with these requirements.*

*Please Choose Between:*

- ☐ Youth Membership (Age 1 to 21): \$15.00,
- ☐ Full Membership (Age 22 or Older): \$40.00, or
- ☐ Family Membership (Two or more living at the same residence): \$50.00

Additional Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Member AMA #: \_\_\_\_\_

*There are two ways to pay your dues:*

1. via personal check payable to **Prop Masters R/C Aero Club**

*Please mail check to* Treasurer – Prop Masters R/C Aero Club  
305 White Oak Drive  
Naperville, IL 60540

2. or via **PayPal** payment to “treasurer@propmastersrc.org”

*Please make PayPal payments as “Friends & Family” (that is, no fees to Club) and also email your application form to treasurer@propmastersrc.org*

**DUES SHOULD BE PAID BY April 1<sup>st</sup>,**

*dues paid after October 1<sup>st</sup> carry over to the following year.*