



PLANE TALK

PROP MASTERS R/C NEWSLETTER



AMA CHARTER CLUB #397

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

JANUARY 2026

President's Message

BRRRRRRRRRRRR!!!!!!!

That's for the **BRUTAL** cold spell we're in the midst of! Get it over with so that more reasonable weather comes soon! Just as a reminder, The Yard is still available to us for indoor flying on Wednesday of each week, from 10 am to 2 pm. I participated last week and it truly was enjoyable!



Two big things on our horizon:

1. Our annual Christmas Auction will take place after a brief business session at our January meeting. Be prepared for an evening of fun, and bidding on the many items that will be available. From ready-to-fly airplanes to small tools and everything in between! There is a large selection and many items so there will definitely be some bargains to be had.
2. Our 4th annual Snag-A-Deal public auction is scheduled for Saturday morning, March 28 at the church fellowship hall. So be taking stock of your stuff, and either plan to sell it yourself or make a donation to the club. All proceeds of this auction go to the club, and the proceeds make up a large part of our yearly budget!

As for now, stay warm! Do your yearly maintenance or have some new stuff ready to fly when the weather gets better. See you at the auction!

Your President,

Michael D. Pfeifer



Financial Report

Bill Hickey



Financial Report

12/01/2025 thru 12/31/2025

Description	Operating Fund	Field Fund	Total	Comments
Balance 12/01/2025	\$1,171.26	\$3,576.17	\$4,747.43	
Income:				
Dues	160.00		160.00	2026 Dues
Total Income	160.00	-	160.00	
Total Cash Available	\$1,331.26	\$3,576.17	\$4,907.43	
Expenses:				
Swap/auction	(20.00)		(20.00)	Auction ad in Model aviation
Hall rental	(300.00)		(300.00)	Church donation
Board Expense		(11.04)	(11.04)	Name Badge
Total Expenses	(320.00)	(11.04)	(331.04)	
Balance 12/31/2025	\$1,011.26	\$3,565.13	\$4,576.39	

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

treasurer@propmastersrc.org

We Are Collecting Dues for 2026

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

Mike Pettinger



Meeting Minutes – December

As there was no meeting in December, there are no Meeting Minutes or Show n Tell photos.

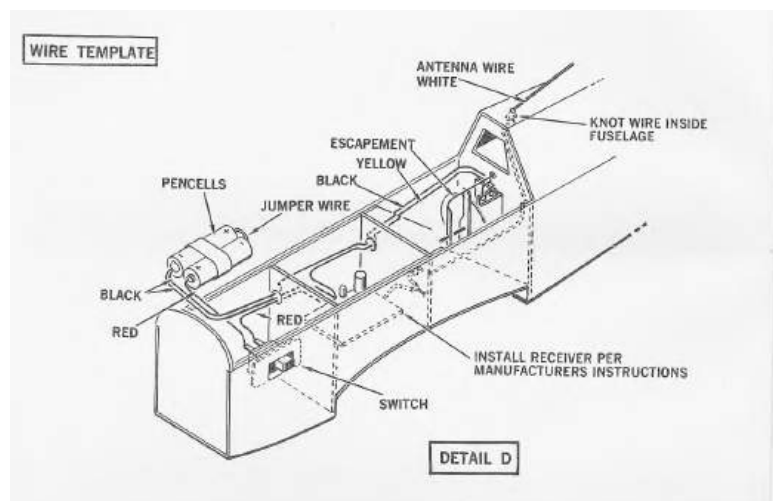


News for You's

Modernizing Veco "Lil Pinto" R/C Gear

Submitted by Joe Bartek

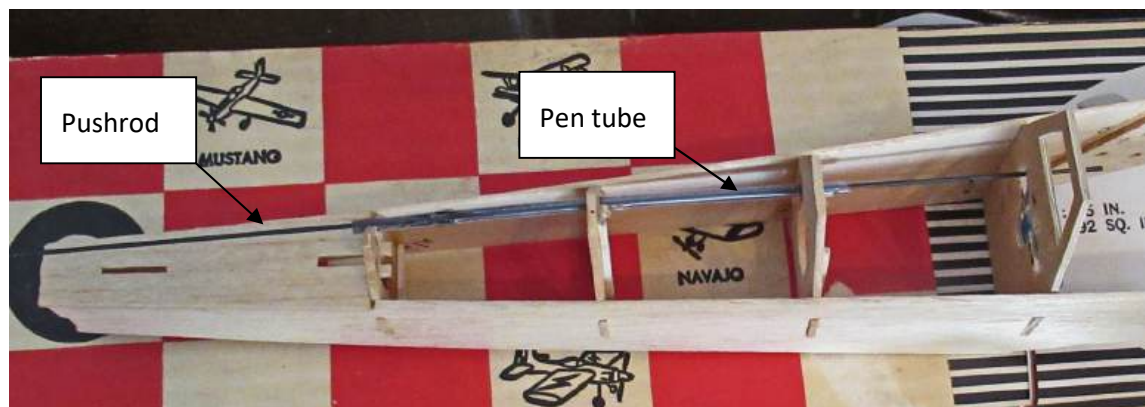
The original Rudder Only R/C setup for the Veco "Lil Pinto" that I completed from the Bob Stricker collection was very primitive. It used an "Escapement" actuator to move the rudder. For those who didn't read "Model Airplane News" in the late 1950's, the receiver closed the circuit between two pen cell batteries and an electromagnet that allowed the ratchet "escapement" wheel to turn, which was attached to a torque rod which moved the rudder. To further complicate things, a twisted rubber band was needed to make the "escapement" wheel turn. Similar wheels are used to time spring wound clocks. The servos of the day were much too heavy for the "Lil Pinto" which was powered by an unthrottled Cox 0.010 C.I. Motor. Here is what the R/C setup was supposed to look like:



I didn't have an escapement actuator, but I did have a modern 9 gram micro servo, so I could make a rudder only R/C version of the "Lil Pinto". I could position the servo on the same bulkhead as the escapement, if I made a slot for the servo arm to move in. I replaced the torque rod with a push rod going to a rudder control horn. Since the new setup would have proportional control, I could make the rudder bigger – the full length of the fin. The throttle control on an E-motor would compensate for the lack of elevator servo. The low wing version has lots of dihedral, to compensate for the lack of ailerons, and put the center of lift closer to the vertical location of the CG.



News for You's



I used a plastic tube from a ball point pen filler to guide the pushrod to the rudder through the last three fuselage formers. I used Z-Bends at each end to retain the push rod in the control arms. The last two pictures show the rudder servo in place, with the control arm in its slot, and the rudder with its control horn and push rod. I bent a length adjusting section in the push rod.





News for You's

To decide on a power system for the Lil Pinto, I needed to know how much power to expect from the specified Cox 0.10 CI motor. Luckily this motor was studied in a thesis from the University of Maryland. They made a crude dynamometer to match the motor and made power measurements over a limited speed range. At about 16,000 rpm, they found power output was 10 Watts. They cited a maximum output of about 20 Watts, turning a 3 inch prop at 33,000 rpm, mentioned in an Aeromodeler article from 1961.

[Performance Measurement, Simulation, and Analysis of the Cox Tee Dee 0.010, the World's Smallest Production Internal Combustion Engine \(umd.edu\)](https://drum.lib.umd.edu/items/e2c6b649-07d2-4219-8f15-02d2d4bec367)

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The AEO-C10 motor I replaced on my Gene Bond Gym-Stick might work for the Lil Pinto. That small CD-ROM style motor turns a 5X3 prop at 11,000 RPM and uses about 20 Watts of E-Power in, or 14 watts to the prop (APC Tables). However I also have a Hacker A10-15S motor that fits the space. At 15 grams, it's nearly twice the weight of the AEO-C10 and the Hacker tables say it will turn a 6X3 prop at 11,300 rpm, drawing 37 watts (about 25 watts to the prop by APC Tables). According to the Prop Masters Power Principle that more power is better, I should use the Hacker motor. The Pinto will weigh about 6 ounces, so the power to weight ratio will be close to 100 watts per pound, the rule of thumb for brisk flying.

Detailed Power tables for props are at APC's web site [Performance Data - APC Propellers](https://www.apcprop.com/technical-information/performance-data/?v=7516fd43adaa)
<https://www.apcprop.com/technical-information/performance-data/?v=7516fd43adaa>



Photos

Dave Cairns



BUILDERS CORNER

Keeping busy inside during the winter season.

Dave Cairns had to patch some hangar rash. Can you find the repair?!



Ray's progress recovering on his Telemaster. The base color is on. Accent color to follow.





Photos

Dave Cairns



Polar Bear Fun Fly

The Naperville Prop Masters Aero RC Club held our annual Polar Bear Fly on January 3rd. Thirteen hardy pilots flew planes, quads, and heli's on a cold and cloudy day at the Springbrook Prairie Airfield.



Not pictured: Alex D and Bill F.

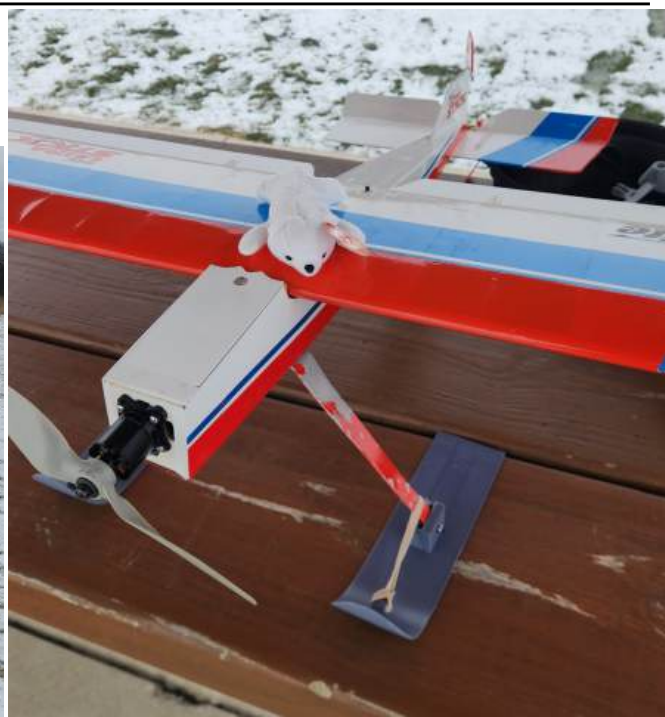


Photos

Dave Cairns



Cold weather doesn't stop these flyers!





Photos

Dave Cairns





Photos

Dave Cairns





Club Calendar

2025 - 2026 Calendar

Date	Event Type	Event Details	Notes
November 25, 2025	Monthly Meeting		
December 30, 2025	Monthly Meeting	--- NO MEETING ---	NO MEETING THIS MONTH
January 1, 2026	Fun Fly	Polar Bear Fly – 12:00 Noon	Fly, then to 75 th St. McDonald's
Jan 27, 2026	Monthly Meeting	Annual Christmas Points Auction at the meeting	Spend those hard-earned points
Feb 24, 2026	Monthly Meeting		
March 28, 2026	Special Event	Snag-A-Deal Auction	
March 31, 2026	Monthly Meeting		

Reminder: Our next meeting will be on January 27, 2026, and it will include our ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POINTS AUCTION! Be there!

Newsletter Contributions

Send newsletter contributions to the Newsletter Editor at 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



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	Mike Pettinger	secretary@propmastersrc.org
Safety Officer	Dave Cairns	safety@propmastersrc.org
Board/At Large	Jeff Cowan	board@propmastersrc.org
Board/At Large	Esther Bourassa	board@propmastersrc.org
Board/At Large	Dan Nosek	board@propmastersrc.org
Board/At Large	Darrell Zeri	board@propmastersrc.org

Key Roles

Lead Recruiter

publicity@propmastersrc.org

Bill Hickey

Cavalcade of Planes Coordinator

cavalcade@propmasersrc.org

Dhruvan

Harlan

Member Engager

membership@propmastersrc.org

Open

Snag-A-Dealer

Mick Pfeifer

Webmaster

webmaster@propmastersrc.org

Jeff Cowan

Raffle Master

raffle@propmastersrc.org

Harlan Davis, Chairman

Mick Pfeifer

Instruction

learntofly@propmastersrc.org

Pete Fales – Chief Instructor

Mick Pfeifer

Ron Monsen

Mike Pettinger

Jim Mendygral

Jeff Cowan

Audrey Hopwood

Alex Dribinsky

Dave Cairns

Newsletter Editor

editor@propmastersrc.org

Dave Cairns

Visit the Prop Masters R/C Club Web Site at 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, Jan 27, 2026 at 7:30pm

**Arrive early to see the Auction items prior to
the start of the meeting.**

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 1st,

dues paid after October 1st carry over to the following year.