



PLANE TALK

PROP MASTERS R/C NEWSLETTER



AMA CHARTER CLUB #397

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

JUNE 2026

President's Message



June 2026 Newsletter

Here we are again, June is almost gone, and July is just around the corner! Weather seems to be improving a bit but light wind days just seem few and far between for now. Hope everyone has a good 4th of July holiday, and that we can have some good flying days over the long holiday weekend!

Again, let me remind you that June is national safety month. Keep safety in mind at all times, no matter what you are doing.

On June 6 and 7, Prop Masters participated in the Clow airport Cavalcade of Planes. Both the weather and the attendance was good. We had a nice spot on hangar 3 and set up 3 flight simulators which were well received and utilized by the crowd. We also displayed about 5 RC models. To say the least, showing people how to fly on the simulator kept 2 or 3 of us very busy! This proved to be a good introduction to our club, and several people showed a sincere interest in joining our introductory Flight Assistance program. Many thanks to those members who participated, especially Dhruvan who spearheaded this effort. Max Janda, Dave Cairns, Bill Bankhead, Bill Froelich, Bob Sulla, and Joe Bartek all contributed their time and effort. Thanks to ALL !

We had a Board meeting at Bill Hickey's home on June 16th. We are currently working on club bylaws and other documents that will help us maintain our tax exempt status. Bill has expended many hours of his time on this effort, and everyone needs to show their appreciation, as our club will be much better aligned to reflect and maintain our tax exempt status. HUGE thank you to Bill H!

Hope to see more of you at the field, as the weather improves, AND at our club meeting on June 30th.

Your President,
Michael D. Pfeifer



Financial Report

Bill Hickey



Financial Report

5/01/2026 thru 5/31/2026

Description	Operating Fund	Field Fund	Total	Comments
Balance 05/01/2026	\$5,315.43	\$3,716.84	\$9,029.27	
Income:				
Dues	90.00		90.00	Welcome Ian Gresham! 43 members paid YTD
Swap				
Brand				
Total Income	90.00		90.00	
Total Cash Available	\$5,405.43	\$3,713.84	\$9,119.27	
Expenses:				
Swap	(172.75)		(172.75)	Snag A Deal dinner/recap
Board Expense	(178.69)		(178.69)	Audio system/State filing
Field Maint		(107.56)	(107.56)	Signage, yellow chain, weatherseal
Year-end auction	(12.10)		(12.10)	Points auction items
Total Expenses	(363.54)	(107.56)	(471.10)	
Balance 5/31/2026	\$5,041.89	\$3,606.28	\$8,648.17	

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

treasurer@propmastersrc.org

We Are Collecting Dues for 2026 - Renewal Emails have gone out!

Membership revoked for not paying dues by June 30.

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 – 5/26/2026

Before the meeting Bill Hickey gave a great demonstration on how to cover an airplane wing.

Opening:

The President called the meeting to order at 1930.

New raffle price is \$5/ticket.

Minutes in newsletter approved.

Treasure report read and approved

Safety:

June is national safety month

Avoid bug bites.

Take the heat seriously

SAD:

Bill H. - Hard touch and go that caused the engine to die and the airplane went into a tree.

Bill Sulla - Prop came off and had a great landing

(Winner) Christian - Had a few; impossible crashed twice in the same spot.

Dave Engel - Wiggly airplane

Discussion about a safety incident with non-member who crossed into safety area. Discussion about a safety incident with non-member who crashed in the pits and how to deal with new members. Discussion about location of flight (safety) line.

Forest preserve: Call into Keely to have weeds mowed

Publicity: No report

Newsletter: Still going out

Website: Intro pilot program

Instructors report: Getting into training season.

Fun Fly: Calendar is out. We had 15 or 20 people.

Climb and Glide this coming Saturday.

Discussion: Funding discussion.

Old business: None

New business: Discussion on Calvacade



Meeting Minutes

Mike Pettinger



Show and tell:

Dave Cairns - Red and white Fly Baby

Pete Fales - Yellow and green Trainer

Closing: Meeting ended. Room secured, and exit doors confirmed locked.



Fun Fly Report

Bill Hickey

Fun Fly Report – Climb & Glide

We held our second fun fly of the year on Saturday, 30th of May. It was windy with 10 mph east winds and gusts, which at times made for some interesting maneuvers. The basic idea was to climb as fast as possible for twenty seconds, then glide for as long as possible, with a bonus for landing on the runway.

Fifteen members attended, and the results are in the table. Darrell and his sailplane easily bested everyone with a time almost double the second-place finisher, Mick, who flew a foam pusher very well. Pete rocketed nearly out-of-sight to garner third place. And out of all flyers, Bob Sulla and Mick were the only pilots who managed to land on the runway!

Since the Saturday after our June meeting is the Fourth of July, we won't have a fun fly then. Next fun fly will be after the July 28th meeting for the National Night Out (Tuesday evening August 4). Hope to see you there!

Last Name	First	Attend	Fly	Time	Run way	Place	Total Points
Zeri	Darrell	20	20	238	N	1	100
Pfeifer	Mick	20	20	122+10	Y	2	80
Fales	Pete	20	20	100	N	3	70
Hoekstra	Chris	20	20	80	N		40
Cowan	Jeff	20	20	70	N		40
Nosek	Dan	20	20	59	N		40
Engel	David	20	20	55	N		40
Dribinsky	Alex	20	20	40	N		40
Hickey	Bill	20	20	38	N		40
Sulla	Bob	20	20	22+10	Y		40
Dodson	Byron	20	20	25	N		40
Cairns	David	20	20	23	N		40
Bankhead	Bill	20	20	20	N		40
Luchetti	Ray	20					20
Janda	Max	20					20



Photos

Dave Cairns



BUILDER'S CORNER

Keeping busy inside during the winter season.

Bill Hickey writes:

I'm nearly finished overhauling Bob Stricker's C-Raider, so thought to share. It had a label in it that said "1947" and given the equipment on it (late forties Austin-Craft wheels & timer, silk covering under the film), I believe it so undertook to make it representative of the period. Found the design (Model Airplane News April 1942), and removed a bunch of excess wood, layers of epoxy, steel wing hold-down bolts, and so on. Repaired the wing and other bits then covered it with 5 momme silk and nitrate dope. Note the pop-up dethermalizer and 1947 Drone Diesel power plant. All-up weight is 4-3/4# with a CG at 50% of chord. Still need to apply black tissue trim, but it's much too humid now – it will likely wait until winter!





Photos

Dave Cairns



BUILDER'S CORNER

Max Janda is making progress on his Super Box Fly 40 trainer





Photos

Dave Cairns



Cavalcade of Planes Clow Airport June 6 -7

The club had several members participate in manning the display and the simulators over two great days of sun & fun. Lots of guests tried their hand at our hobby. Thanks to everyone who organized and helped with this event that supports our future membership efforts. Photos by Bill Bankhead & Max Janda.





Photos

Dave Cairns



Cavalcade of Planes





Photos

Dave Cairns



May Fun Fly at Springbrook Prairie

Thank You to Bill Hickey for organizing the Climb & Glide event. See the full FunFly report elsewhere in this edition.





Photos

Dave Cairns



At the Field

A nice late June day with some wind, but plenty of flyers.





Photos

Dave Cairns



Show & Tell



Pete Fales



Dave Cairns

Prop Masters



Photos

Dave Cairns



Tools, Tips & Techniques

Bob Sulla was seeking a tool loan for a prop reamer. Chris Hoekstra suggested a drill bit and jig works as a handy option to the reamer. Bob 3D printed a jig to fit his needs. Great idea and execution, guys!





Club Announcements

2026 Calendar

Date	Event Type	Event Details	Notes
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		
Saturday March 28, 2026	Special Event	Snag-A-Deal Auction	
March 31, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
April 28, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
May 2, 2026	Fun Fly	Touch-N-Go— Noon	
May 26, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
Sat May 30, 2026	Fun Fly	Noon	Climb & Glide
June 6-7, 2026	Special Event	10:00am— 4:00pm	Cavalcade of Planes @ Clow
June 30, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
FUN FLY ALERT	Fun Fly		No FF after June Meeting
July 28, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
TUESDAY Aug 4	Fun Fly	→ 6:00 PM ←	National Night Out
Aug 25, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
Sat Aug 29, 2026	Fun Fly	Noon	Prop Masters 500
Sep 29, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
Sat Oct 3, 2026	Fun Fly	Noon	Timed Flight
Oct 27, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
Nov 24, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
Dec 29, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
FRIDAY Jan 1, 2027	Fun Fly	Noon	Polar Bear

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 Kambhampati

Harlan Davis

Member Engager

membership@propmastersrc.org

Byron Dodson

Snag-A-Dealer

Mick Pfeifer

Webmaster

webmaster@propmastersrc.org

Jeff Cowan

Raffle Master

raffle@propmastersrc.org

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, June 30, 2026 at 7:30pm

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.