



PLANE TALK

PROP MASTERS R/C NEWSLETTER



AMA CHARTER CLUB #397

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

OCTOBER 2025

October 2025 Newsletter

BOOOO!

That time of year again! Wishing everyone a good Halloween this year! And by the way, bonus points will be given to those who wear Halloween garb to the October meeting!



It's been a busy month thus far. There was a lot of training and member flying in the past few weeks due to really nice flying weather. Special thanks go to Pete Fales for arranging all the training dates. And also to those who assist with the students, both in flight instruction and airplane setup.

I would also like to thank everyone for your feedback in the September meeting regarding suggested items for our Christmas auction. All of your suggestions were good, and we have obtained some items which are new to our event, such as the cart suggested by Alex. Please note that we will hold our Christmas auction at the regularly scheduled January Club Meeting at the church. There is still time to earn more points!

The 4th annual Snag-A-Deal Public Auction is scheduled for Saturday morning, March 28, 2026 at the same venue as in previous years. Due to the passing of Bob Stricker on September 11, his family has graciously donated a large number of items that will be included in our auction.

Final thought on safety: Watch out for those ghosts and goblins and other trick or treater's walking the streets! Have a safe Halloween!

Your President

Michael D. Pfeifer

General Announcement

We'll be nominating members to serve as 2026 Club Officers and Directors at the upcoming meeting on 28 October. Attached is a basic description of these roles, and the member currently serving in them (who can really tell you what that entails!). If you're interested in serving or would like to nominate someone for a role (please check with them!), just contact @Bill Hickey on Slack.

Role	Member	Responsible for
President	Mick Pfeifer	Chairs meetings and exercises executive control over Club functions. Brings up issues of importance to the Club with external organizations such as DuPage County Forest Preserve, Naper Aero Airport and other R/C Clubs in the area.
Vice-President	Pete Fales	Manages the Club point system and publishes it in the January Club Newsletter, assists the President in his duties, and assumes the role of President during any absence. Acquires year-end auction items.
Secretary	Mike Pettinger	Records minutes of Club meetings, manages Club correspondence, and seeks permits for Club functions.
Treasurer	Bill Hickey	Manages all financial matters of the Club, collects dues and fees, pays Club debts and has primary stewardship of Club funds. Manages member database and processes new members. Renews Illinois non-profit incorporation and the Club AMA charter/insurance. Prepares monthly and year-end financial reports and files IRS tax returns.
Safety Officer	Dave Cairns	Instills a safety culture in the Club. Ensures members adhere to all Prop Masters, AMA, FAA and DuPage Forest Preserve regulations, and that the field is safely configured. Recommends suspension of any member for unsafe conduct.

There are also four Directors who, along with the Officers, form the Board.

Past-President	Open	Responsible for the overall direction & conduct of Club business and planning of Club activities. <i>Note: Bylaws stipulate that if the past-president is not available, the President nominates a replacement to be voted upon by the Board.</i>
Director	Jeff Cowan	
Director	Esther Bourassa	
Director	Darrell Zeri	



Financial Report

Bill Hickey



Financial Report

9/01/2025 thru 9/30/2025

Description	Operating Fund	Field Fund	Total	Comments
Balance 09/01/2025	\$2,130.91	\$3,697.07	\$5,827.98	
Income:				
FVAC Swap Event	100.00		100.00	Sales at FVAC Tailgater Swap
Club merchandise	20.00		20.00	Hat and towels sold
Total Income	120.00		120.00	
Total Cash Available	\$2,250.91	\$3,697.07	\$5,947.98	
Expenses:				
Field Maintenance		(28.99)	(28.99)	Hornet spray/trainer cord
Year-end Auction	(65.00)		(65.00)	Purchases at FVAC Swap
Events	(566.74)		(566.74)	Picnic food
Board Expenses		(79.75)	(79.75)	Name badges/website renew
Total Expenses	(631.74)	(108.74)	(740.48)	
Balance 08/31/2025	\$1,619.17	\$3,588.33	\$5,207.50	

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

Mike Pettinger



Meeting Minutes – 09/30/2025

The meeting was called to order by the president on September 30, 2025 at 1931 hours.

Members Present: There were a total of 20 members present with one new member, Brian Fisher and no guests.

Opening: The president mentioned that they would like input for things to buy for the Christmas auction and there was a brief discussion held about items that would be highly desired for the Christmas auction.

There was a motion made to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter. The motion received a second and was approved by the club.

The financial officer read the financial report. There was a motion made to approve the financial report. The club approved the financial report.

Committee Reports:

Safety	Dave Cairns (via proxy) led a discussion on safety starting with the SAD patch, nominees and awards. Bill Hickey and Chris Hoekstra nominated for SAD patches. Bill Hickey said that he entered a very tight loop which then caused a stall and then caused him to crash. Chris Hoekstra recounted a story of him flying a student's airplane that he ultimately crashed. After the nominees gave their accounts, the winner was selected as Chris Hoekstra. Dave Cairns (via proxy) mentioned that the forest preserve has replaced signage and repainted trash cans. There was a brief discussion about pilot fence fences around pilot stations.
Forest Preserve	The president mentioned at the previous meeting, that the forest preserve had given a brief presentation and reviewed items covered in that presentation. The forest preserve rangers have not been seen recently.
Publicity	Currently no report.
Raffle	Mick Pfeiffer will take over the raffle. Harlan Davis mentioned that the raffle will be builder-focused for the next three months.
Newsletter	Club members were encouraged to submit content for the newsletter
Website	The website is currently up-to-date.
Instruction	People have been coming out regularly. Congratulations to Oliver Gresham for his first solo.
Other	There are no fun flies currently planned.



Meeting Minutes

Mike Pettinger



Old Business:

Bill Hickey gave descriptions of club officer positions and encouraged members to seek out leadership positions. The Committee names were revised. The club was reminded that nominations are due next month.

The club was reminded that we have hats, towels and stickers for sale.

New Business:

A discussion was held about what things to have for the Christmas auction: These items included collapsible wagons tools, including Allen wrenches, knives, and fasteners, ESC at least 40 A waders for retrieving airplanes from lakes, building boards, and micro receivers.

There was a discussion about an article in the AMA publication on recruitment and retention.

Several members asked about indoor flying at the Naperville yard.

There was a discussion about mowing at the field.

New Members & Guests:

One new member, Brian Fisher.

Society of Aircraft Demolishers (SAD):

Chris Hoekstra won the SAD patch for crashing a student's airplane.

Show and Tell:

Bill Hickey showed his repairs completed to Pete's Alpha trainer airplane.

Darrell Z showed off an Atomic Pro from Bago and mentioned that their customer service is poor.

Chris H showed off an airplane from the swap meet he recently attended. He mentioned that it had only a little damage.

Peter F showed off two airplanes. One was as a SPAD. The other was an Adam RC dolphin. He mentioned that he hit return home instead of the throttle cut and had to wade through a lake to retrieve the aircraft.

Bob S showed off a 3-D lab print.

Ollie Gresham showed off his profile plane and thanked the club for helping him get into flying.

Closing:

Next meeting Tuesday October 28 7:30 PM at Community United Methodist Church



Tools – Techniques - Tips

Bill Hickey

Equations & Such – Propeller Load Factor

Ever wonder if a different size prop would help an airframe perform better?

There's an old rule of thumb that states that increasing prop pitch by an inch is equivalent to reducing the diameter by an inch. So, an 11x5 prop and a 10x6 prop are roughly equivalent with respect to the load they put on a motor. If you want more speed, change that 11x5 to 10x6. If you'd like to have an easier time slowing down for landing, change the 10x6 to 11x5. The motor won't care much either way.

That rule of thumb works well enough, but there is a better approach that isn't all that complicated. Turns out the load created by a propeller is basically a function of three things – the diameter, the pitch, and the number of blades. But while linearly proportional to pitch, when it comes to diameter the load is proportional to it cubed, and to the root of the blade count minus one:

$$PLF = D^3 \times P \times \sqrt[BC-1]{}$$

Where PLF is the propeller load factor, D is the propeller diameter, P is the propeller pitch, and BC is the propeller blade count.

Note that the load factor is normalized to two-bladed props, that is, for them the load factor is proportional to the pitch and diameter cubed. And the units don't really matter as long as one is consistent – I like to use inches, but if millimeters are your thing, go for it.

So, do an 11x5 and 10x6 prop put the same load on a motor? Not really:

Diameter	Pitch	Blades	PLF	Relative to 10x6
10	6	2	6,000	-0-
11	5	2	6,655	+9%

That 11x5 prop puts 9% greater load on the motor than the 10x6 prop. With a PLF of 5,990, an 11x4.5 prop would create a nearly identical load. Perhaps you're tired of cleaning grass off your trainer because it's running a 12x6 prop that mows a path to the runway. And you happen to have a 10x7.5x3 (three-bladed) prop:

Diameter	Pitch	Blades	PLF	Relative to 12x6
10	7.5	3	10,607	+2%
12	6	2	10,368	-0-

For just a 2% increase in load, the fuselage stays a lot cleaner.

So, give Equation 1 a try the next time you're considering a change in prop size.



Photos

Dave Cairns



New Members & Guests



New
Member
Brian Fisher

Not shown

Show & Tell



Bob S



Chris H



Darrell Z



Photos

Dave Cairns



Ollie G



Pete F



Ollie's Solo
Certificate



Pete F



Photos

Dave Cairns



Flying Days



Bill with another large model!
Betty Boop at the controls.



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		
September 30	Monthly Meeting		
October 28	Monthly Meeting		
November 25	Monthly Meeting		
December 30	Monthly Meeting		

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	Dave Engel	board@propmastersrc.org
Board/At Large	Esther Bourassa	board@propmastersrc.org
Board/At Large	Harlan Davis	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

Open

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

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

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

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

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

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, Oct 28, 2025 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.