



# PLANE TALK

PROP MASTERS R/C NEWSLETTER



AMA CHARTER CLUB #397

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

MAY 2026

## President's Message



May 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to May! Seems like the wind is unwilling to cooperate so far, but surely there will be some calm days ahead! Some of us have been flying in spite of the weather, so come on out and enjoy the fun! Wind does not stop of us from socializing!

Next month, June is National Safety month. Keep that at the forefront no matter what you are doing, be it flying, or doing projects around the home. Good safety practices matter!

Also coming up in June is the Clow airport Cavalcade of Planes on June 6 and 7. We will have a booth again this year which will include flight simulators and examples of what we build and fly. If you haven't already, make sure to contact Dhruvan if you are willing to support this effort.

At the field, you will notice a few improvements. Dave Cairns has installed a new safety chain which will deter the public from unauthorized entry at the northeast corner of the field. Bill Hickey continues to assist in providing signage, and also field striping to show the location of the flight line. Thank you to both Dave and Bill for your efforts!

As a reminder, there is a new channel on Slack for "Field Improvements." This was added so that anyone with some ideas on how to improve our flying field is free to make a suggestion. All suggestions will be taken into consideration by the Board of Directors, and will be implemented if cost effective, and approved by the membership.

Lastly, a calendar of Fun Fly's has been published on Slack for the remainder of the year, so plan ahead, and let's keep the attendance up for our scheduled Fun Fly's!

Hope to see you at the field soon! And at our next meeting on Tuesday 5/26! **Be sure to arrive early for a covering demonstration by Bill Hickey at 6:30pm.**

Your President,

Michael D. Pfeifer



# Financial Report

## Bill Hickey



### Financial Report

4/01/2026 thru 4/30/2026

Description	Operating Fund	Field Fund	Total	Comments
<b>Balance 04/01/2026</b>	<b>\$5,526.31</b>	<b>\$3,652.01</b>	<b>\$9,178.32</b>	
<b>Income:</b>				
Dues	40.00	80	120.00	2026 Dues-40 members paid YTD
Swap	120.00		120.00	Snag A Deal revenue
Brand	5.00		5.00	Sold (1) towel
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>165.00</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>245.00</b>	
<b>Total Cash Available</b>	<b>\$5,691.31</b>	<b>\$3,732.01</b>	<b>\$9,423.32</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Swap	(100.00)		(100.00)	Donation to Church
Board Expense	(275.88)	(9.56)	(285.44)	Website, badges
Field Maint		(8.61)	(8.61)	Field prep items
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(375.88)</b>	<b>(18.17)</b>	<b>(394.05)</b>	
<b>Balance 4/30/2026</b>	<b>\$5,315.43</b>	<b>\$3,716.84</b>	<b>\$9,029.27</b>	

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

[treasurer@propmastersrc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 – 4/28/2026

### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 1931 hours

There is a motion to approve the minutes as published in the newsletter a second and the meeting minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report was read and motion made to approve the report and receive a second and was approved.

**Safety:** We have been safe. Good weather is around the corner. May is Activity Awareness. Make sure you have plenty of water. No SAD nominees this month.

**Forest Preserve:** Comment from Alex about tall weeds. Discussion about removing weeds, aerating, and rolling the field. Requests for future field maintenance items will be sent to the FP for consideration.

**Raffle:** No raffle, but we will have an auction for Radiomaster transmitter.

**Newsletter:** It went out, no errors.

**Website:** Up to date with newsletter. Snag-a-Deal announcement removed. The auction continues to be high performing.

**Instructors report:** Waiting for decent weather. We were expecting more students than we got; only one. The one new student we have is doing really well.

**Fun fly:** This Saturday 12PM: "Get your thumbs back." We'll do touch and goes.

**Old business:** Hats for \$10. Alex asked about business cards for visitors. Cavalcade of Planes discussion.

**New business:** Mick P. talked about sewn hinges.

Discussion about the growing club.

Opportunities at Matea Valley aeronautics club. Extensive discussion on how to recruit high school kids. The discussion came from an article in the April AMA magazine. Growing popularity in control-line.

Club Dues are due

### **Show and tell:**

Bill Hickey – Various covering materials: Polyester and silk, stits light, heavier fabric absorb more dope.

Peter Fales - Airplane from Snag-a-Deal Easy-Riser powered sailplane

Dave Engle - Bristol M1C Mono plane with modified tail skid/wheel.

Dan Nosek - Airplane purchased from Facebook marketplace Great Planes F1 Rocket.

Dave Cairns - Small balsa glider made from AMA plans

Joe Bartek - Talked about Sun 'n Fun trip

**Closing:** Meeting ended and room and doors secured.

## Fun Fly Report – Get Your Thumbs Back

We held our first fun fly of the year on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. It was a bit cool, 50F, with 8 mph winds out the northwest. The basic idea was to perform “touch and goes” to sharpen our flying skills for the upcoming season.

Last Name	First	Attend	Fly	T&G's	Total
Bourassa	Esther	20	20	60	100
Cairns	David	20	20	60	100
Nosek	Dan	20	20	60	100
Froelich	Bill	20	20	20	60
Hoekstra	Chris	20	20	20	60
Zeri	Darrell	20	20	20	60
Dribinsky	Alex	20	20		40
Fales	Pete	20	20		40
Srivastava	Kevin	20	20		40
Williams	Jonathan	20	20		40
Bankhead	William	20			20
Cowan	Jeff	20			20
Engel	David	20			20
Hickey	Bill	20			20
Pettinger	Mike	20			20
Pfeifer	Michael	20	DQ		20

*Bill Hickey*

There was a bit of carnage before the event took place, with Dave Engel shearing off his landing gear and yours truly finding one of the few trees left at the field. Kudos to Dave for running the fun fly while Pete Fales and I went to retrieve my plane (many thanks to Pete, too).

Sixteen (!) members attended, and the results are in the table at left.

Mick demonstrated Rule #1 for any Fun Fly (don't cross the flight line). And after the Fun Fly there was a bit of discussion about the position of the flight line, so we'll take up that issue with Safety Officer Dave Cairns and the membership

All-in-all, a very good time.



## Field Trip Report

### Sun n' Fun

Submitted by Joe Bartek

Every year the EAA holds an aircraft gathering and air show at Lakeland-Linder airport in Florida called "Sun 'n Fun". It generally lasts a week in the middle of April, and is the southern US counterpart of the "Oshkosh" gathering. I attended on April 16, and had great fun at that aviation "candy store". I enjoyed walking among the Vintage planes in that parking area (about 26 acres), as well as in the Military section. Owners of lots of planes get a chance to show them off there. There is an Air Show every afternoon and evening. While warbirds are featured in the Air Shows, the highlight for me was the appearance of the "**Full Throttle Formation Team**" from Georgia, flying a dozen Van's RV experimental planes in formation. The team has 16 very experienced pilots.



The Highlight of the Vintage area was an Antonov AN-2 that is the subject of an 8 minute you tube video. It is fitted out with a lot more luxury than the usual Siberian Bush Plane.

#### **1000HP Executive Biplane - Inside a Luxury Antonov AN-2**

I took a few photos of the exterior of that Biplane. Top wing span is 60 feet (480 sqft ).



A Float plane version of a 1991 Antonov AN-2 is available for sale for 2.4 Million bucks!



## Field Trip Report

A lot smaller award winner was a very shiny replica of a Ryan ST-L monoplane trainer with an inline engine. Later versions didn't have the wheel spats. This plane is available as a kit from Timber Tiger and you can find more about it by looking up Ryan NX24NK. [Timber Tiger Aircraft Ryan ST-L N24NK at Sun N Fun 2025 - YouTube](#)



A well-armed Pacific theater version of the B-25 called "Panchito" put on quite a demonstration flight during the air show.



A number of the airplanes on display were for sale. These ranged from ordinary Pipers, and a very pretty 1947 Auster (English Taylorcraft) in Canadian colors to a Garret turbine re-engined version of an Albatros L-39 Jet trainer, originally from CzechoSlovakia.



## Field Trip Report

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My Air show FLICKR Album

[2026 EAA Sun 'n Fun Airshow 4/16 | Flickr](#)

My FLICKR Album of planes on display

[2026 EAA Sun 'n Fun Display 4/16 | Flickr](#)

Professional Youtube Album for 4/16 Airshow

[Daily Sun 'n Fun Airshow Highlights! - Thursday - Sun 'n Fun 2026 - YouTube](#)

Propmasters R/C Aero Club



## Photos Dave Cairns



### BUILDER'S CORNER

Keeping busy inside during the winter season.

Dave Cairns is covering up his Davey 40" Fly Baby kit.



Bill repairs his Fun Fly trainer





## Photos Dave Cairns



### Outdoor flying at Springbrook Prairie

More great days for flying in May! We made some Field Improvements.

Dave Engel brought out his Sig King Kobra F16. This plane rips! Darrel brought out some fast planes, as usual. Dave C maiden the Extra 260 from the Club Raffle.





## Photos Dave Cairns



### Fun Fly at Springbrook Prairie

Thank You to Bill Hickey for organizing the Get Your Thumbs Back event. His report follows.  
Bill had a tree mishap on a deadstick. Esther had a boom strike on her backup heli, but had a second one to fly the event.  
A great turnout and lots of fun was had by all.





# Photos

## Dave Cairns



### Show & Tell



Bill Hickey



Pete Fales

Dave Engel





## Photos

Dave Cairns



Dan Nosek



Dave Cairns

Prop Masters R/C Aero Club



## Photos

Dave Cairns



### Tools Tips & Techniques

Don't open the package of zipties and try to keep them all from falling out. Cut a v-notch halfway along the edge of the bag and pull them out as needed!



Prop Masters I



## 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 <sup>th</sup> 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	
July 28, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
<b>TUESDAY</b> Aug 4	Fun Fly	<b>→ 6:00 PM ←</b>	National <b>Night Out</b>
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	
<b>FRIDAY</b> Jan 1, 2027	Fun Fly	Noon	Polar Bear

#### 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	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](mailto:publicity@propmastersrc.org)

Bill Hickey

### Cavalcade of Planes Coordinator

[cavalcade@propmasersrc.org](mailto:cavalcade@propmasersrc.org)

Dhruvan Kambhampati

Harlan Davis

### Member Engager

[membership@propmastersrc.org](mailto:membership@propmastersrc.org)

Byron Dodson

### Snag-A-Dealer

Mick Pfeifer

### Webmaster

[webmaster@propmastersrc.org](mailto:webmaster@propmastersrc.org)

Jeff Cowan

### Raffle Master

[raffle@propmastersrc.org](mailto:raffle@propmastersrc.org)

Mick Pfeifer

### Instruction

[learntofly@propmastersrc.org](mailto: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](mailto:editor@propmastersrc.org)

Dave Cairns

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, May 26, 2026 at 7:30pm**

**Be sure to arrive early for a covering demonstration  
by Bill Hickey at 6:30pm.**

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 1<sup>st</sup>,**

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