



PLANE TALK

PROP MASTERS R/C NEWSLETTER



AMA CHARTER CLUB #397

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER 2025



Best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving!

It's that time of year to give thanks to all the good things we have and for the things that make our club one of the best. In the past year, I'm particularly thankful for:

- Snag-a-Deal Auction, which gives our club financial flexibility.
- Our Training Program, which results in new members and friends.
- Our work thus far in streamlining the duties and responsibilities of our leadership, which makes us more efficient.
- Our continued participation in Clow's Cavalcade of Planes.
- Our officers and board of directors that provide guidance and leadership for our club activities.

And last but not least, for the members of our club, whose participation and camaraderie help make our club fun, enjoyable, safe, and in my humble opinion, one the best in the country! We are not only just members, we have all made friendships to be thankful for.

Again, HAPPY THANKSGIVING ALL!!

Your President,

Michael D. Pfeifer



Financial Report

Bill Hickey



Financial Report

10/01/2025 thru 10/31/2025

Description	Operating Fund	Field Fund	Total	Comments
Balance 10/01/2025	\$1,619.17	\$3,588.33	\$5,207.50	
Income:				
Dues	160.00	40.00	200.00	Dues
Total Income	160.00	40.00	200.00	
Total Cash Available	\$1,779.17	\$3,628.33	\$5,407.50	
Expenses:				
Field Maintenance		(55.58)	(55.58)	Striping paint
Year-end Auction	(912.41)		(912.41)	Auction Jan 27, 2026
Events	(29.92)		(29.92)	Picnic beverages
Board Expenses	(33.00)	(4.16)	(37.16)	Trainer cord, Illinois Secretary
Total Expenses	(975.33)	(59.74)	(1,035.07)	
Balance 10/31/2025	\$803.84	\$3,568.59	\$4,372.43	

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.

Dues paid in December earn points that can be used for the January Auction. Renew Today!!!



Meeting Minutes

Mike Pettinger



Meeting Minutes – 10/28/2025

Members Present: There were a total of 21 members present and two guests.

Opening: 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	Building Season is underway. Be careful with tools, glue, etc. Keep the shop and work areas clean. Face safety/eye protection reminder. Watch out for Trick or Treater's on the 31st. SAD Incident: Pete Fales lost donated Alpha Trainer, which flew the wings off.
Forest Preserve	The Club has requested additional mowing at the ends of the runway.
Publicity	Hobby Shop outreach has been completed. Flyers distributed.
Raffle	Items included a built Extra 260, two electric motors, a SIG Scout ARF, a SIG Kadet kit, a Dumas WACO kit, misc props, and a spinner nut.
Newsletter	Club members were encouraged to submit content for the newsletter
Website	The website is currently up-to-date.
Instruction	Pete provided a year-end wrap-up report. This year saw 8 instructors helping 54 students, with 3 students completing their Solo's.
Other	Nominations for Elections were completed, and Jeff Cowan was named to the Board position vacated by Dave Engel. Thank you to Dave for his time on the board!



Meeting Minutes

Mike Pettinger



Old Business:

Flying season is winding down for outdoors.

The new Club Committee structure was discussed, with Byron Dodson taking on Social Activity leadership.

A Cavalcade of Planes chair is still needed. Please step up if you can help.

New Business:

Points were awarded to members who displayed Halloween Spirit at the October meeting.

New Members & Guests:

Two students from Metea Valley HS Aviation Club joined the meeting and requested Club support for multiple "Intro to Flying" events in the Spring. Club Instructors will be in communication with them as the time gets closer.

Society of Aircraft Demolishers (SAD):

Pete's trainer incident was the winner.

Closing:

Next meeting Tuesday November 25th at 7:30 PM at Community United Methodist Church



News for You's

Chief Flight Instructor's Report – 2025

By Pete Fales

As Chief Flight Instructor, I'm pleased to report that 2025 was a very successful year for the Prop Masters flight training program. Everyone in the club deserves a pat on the back for contributing to that success.

I especially want to thank our outstanding flight instruction team: **Mick Pfeifer, Peter Fales, Jim Mendrygal, Dave Cairns, Chris Hoekstra, Alex Dribinsky, Jeff Cowan, and Ron Monsen**. It was truly gratifying to see how everyone stepped up to provide an excellent experience for our students.

That said, **the entire club** deserves thanks for your patience and cooperation with the training program—especially for putting up with the times when we took over flight stations and airspace! Your understanding and support are greatly appreciated. And I know that folks have helped out in various other ways: For example, **Bill Hickey** has striped the field, donated fuel, and donated his time to help get our crashed trainers back in service! I'm sure there are others I've left out, and I apologize for that.

This year I made an effort to keep better records, so I have a fairly complete picture of who was at the field and when. It's certainly possible I missed some days—especially those when I wasn't present—and if so, I apologize. Based on the data I have, our **eight instructors provided 46 days of instruction to 55 different students**. In total, that amounted to **107 “instructor days”** and **143 “student days.”** (For example, if three instructors and five students attended on a given day that would count as three instructor days and five student days.)

As we've seen in past years, many students only show up once or twice. Of the 55 students this year, only 14 attended more than twice. However, those who came regularly were rewarded for their commitment—and we're proud to celebrate **three new solo pilots**:

Jonathan Williams

Byron Dodson

and Oliver Gresham!

Congratulations to all three on this great achievement!

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't offer a **special shout-out to Michael “Mick” Pfeifer**. He was present for 38 of the 46 training days, and in addition to instructing students, he has been an exceptional mentor to me and the other instructors. His insight, experience, and dedication have been an inspiration to us all.



Photos

Dave Cairns



Show & Tell



Mick with a gear-reduced
2 stroke engine



Pete and his UMX Pitts



Pete with the "field find" Habu jet.
Lucky member Jonathan Williams
won it in a give-away.

Prop Masters



Photos

Dave Cairns



Dhruvan built this plastic B-29 model



Alex fabbed these wheel chocks to secure planes in his car, while showing his pilot's hat costume.



Dave in his Navy air boss costume



Joe still fits in his Army uniform.



Zombie Mick attacks for brains.



Photos

Dave Cairns



The new look of the tree line to the south. Forest Preserve work to restore the prairie has removed large areas of invasive plants and trees. It is a very large undertaking that will remove obstructions to flight. Be safe while flying and be aware of burning in the fields. Dennis Grillo and Pete Fales photos.





Photos

Dave Cairns



Ester prepared these “before & after” shots to contrast the tree removal. Leaf fall makes the remaining trees look very sparse.
West end (l) and East end (r)





Club Calendar

2025 - 2026 Calendar

Date	Event Type	Event Details	Notes
November 25, 2025	Monthly Meeting		
December 30, 2025	Monthly Meeting		
January 1, 2026	Fun Fly	Polar Bear Fly – time TBD	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		

A note about the Polar Bear Fly

The New Year's Day Polar Bear Fly is a simple way for us to start the year doing what we enjoy; flying and hanging out with our fellow club members. A single flight is all it takes to qualify for participating in the event. Our last Polar Bear saw 5 or 6 pilots out to brave the light winds and cool temps. We quickly made out flights and scurried back to the cars, and then meeting at McDonald's on 75th to warm up and enjoy coffee and conversation. The event does happen quickly, so when we post the event time (probably around 11am), be sure to arrive promptly or we might miss seeing your flights! We hope to see you out 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	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

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, Nov 25, 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.