



# PLANE TALK

PROP MASTERS R/C NEWSLETTER



AMA CHARTER CLUB #397

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

MARCH 2026

## President's Message



March 2026 Newsletter

Greetings fellow members! I hope this edition finds everyone happy, healthy, and getting those winter projects nearing completion!

The BIG NEWS this month is that our Annual Snag-A-Deal public auction will be held at the church this coming Saturday morning, March 28. Doors open to the public at 8:00 a.m, and the auction begins at 9 a.m. We will be off-loading items beginning at 7:00 a.m. so it will be open to club members at that time. Come early and browse if you wish, as club members ONLY can purchase things prior to 9:00 a. m. I'm looking forward to a better membership turnout this year, so make your plans to be there!

As the flying season approaches, I'm publishing my annual reminders of things to do before your next flying day: Check your permit status, both from the Forest Preserve, and the FAA.

- Make sure your club membership dues are current.
- Make sure your AMA membership is current.
- Do a pre-flight inspection of your aircraft or other flying machine. Check to make sure it's airworthy. Safety First!
- Cycle and check your NiCad/NMH batteries, and inspect the battery and connectors on LiPo's
- Check your transmitter, and do a range check, at the field if appropriate.
- Check your fuel for clarity. Check tubing, fuel pump and starter motor for functionality.
- Do a quick review of the Forest Preserve rules and regulations, AMA safety guidelines, and also of the Club safety guidelines.
- Inventory your spare parts, such as glow plugs, props, wing fasteners and that the connectors are clean and in good working order.

Trust me, warmer days with calm wind conditions are just around the corner!  
Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Snag-A-Deal Auction!!

Your President,

Michael D. Pfeifer



# Financial Report

## Bill Hickey



### Financial Report

2/01/2026 thru 2/28/2026

Description	Operating Fund	Field Fund	Total	Comments
Balance 02/01/2026	\$1,206.26	\$3,565.13	\$4,576.39	
Income:				
Dues	80.00	120.00	200.00	2026 Dues-30 members paid YTD
Total Income	80.00	120.00	200.00	
Total Cash Available	\$1,286.26	\$3,685.13	\$4,971.39	
Expenses:				
Board Expense	0		0	
Total Expenses	0		0	
Balance 12/31/2025	\$1,286.26	\$3,685.13	\$4,971.39	

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 – 02/24/2026

**Members Present:** There were a total of 22 members present and two guests. Guests were Daniel and his brother Matthew. Both have interest in FPV Drones. Welcome to New Members Ray Marion and Richard Wells.

**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.

### **SAFETY**

The Field had a visit from a Forest Preserve ranger. Safety and proper flight procedures were reviewed.

- A Pilot had retrieved an airplane and had not retreated to the pilot station after re-launching the plane.
  - A Pilot flying FPV quad without a spotter. A spotter was engaged with the pilot.
  - Discussion about the location of the flight line.
  - Use caution when using automatic return home. The airplane might fly behind you and the flight line.
- 
- February is Heart Health Awareness month.
    - ABC's of heart health. A for Aspirin. B for Blood pressure. C is for Cholesterol. S is Smoking.
    - Remember to call 911 if you think you are having a heart attack, or showing symptoms.
    - Remember to maintain healthcare with diet and exercise.
    - Only about 33% of our club membership is on emergency contact list. Members are reminded to get their name and emergency contact on the contact list, especially those who use the Field regularly.
  
  - SAD Nominees
    - Mick P. – Winner - Maiden airplane and hit wall at Naperville yard.
    - Pete F. – Winner -Flying into wall.
  
  - AMA Achievement – All Season Flyer Patch
    - Chris Hoekstra – 1<sup>st</sup> year
    - Pete Fales – 3<sup>rd</sup> year
    - Dave Cairns – 3<sup>rd</sup> year



# Meeting Minutes

Mike Pettinger



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## FOREST PRESERVE

- Included with safety
- FP invited to future club meeting

## RAFFLE

- Radio carrying case, servos, motors, an airplane, wind operated airplane weather vanes.

## NEWSLETTER

- One newsletter sent with photos and one without.

## WEBSITE

- All good
- Updated Real Flight file of Springbrook Flying Field to reflect tree removal. Old file still up there for those who may want to use it.

## LIBRARY

- We have a list on slack.
- The collection is distributed.

## INSTRUCTION

- It has been quiet. Instruction will resume in April. Pete will be in contract with Students from last season.
- Dennis from EAA invited to us to elementary school. Will bring a simulator.
- Metea Valley high school club activity.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Ongoing updates to bylaws.
- Proposed bylaws will be published in the newsletter.
- Snag a deal. Volunteers are needed for setup and take down.
- Snag a deal pre-sale. Proceeds from donated kits.
- Looking for people to sell on eBay or RC Groups.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Bill H. talked about National Night Out. Fun fly's will resume when the weather is good. "Get your thumbs back" fun fly proposed for the Spring.
- Mike P. solicited interest for a bulk fuel purchase. Contact him on Slack or see him during the meeting.



## Meeting Minutes

Mike Pettinger



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### SHOW AND TELL

- Pete shows off \$30 airplane from Fox Valley swap meet. Old, but in great condition
- Arjav free airplane from Christmas auction. Put in carbon spar from Wal-Mart. Trying different methods for hold wing on.
- Chris H. Found airplane that was stuck in tree. Repaired motor from airplane.
- Dave Cairns showed off helicopter. Goosky S2 bought on Black Friday.

Propmasters R/C Aero Club



# Photos

## Dave Cairns



### BUILDERS CORNER

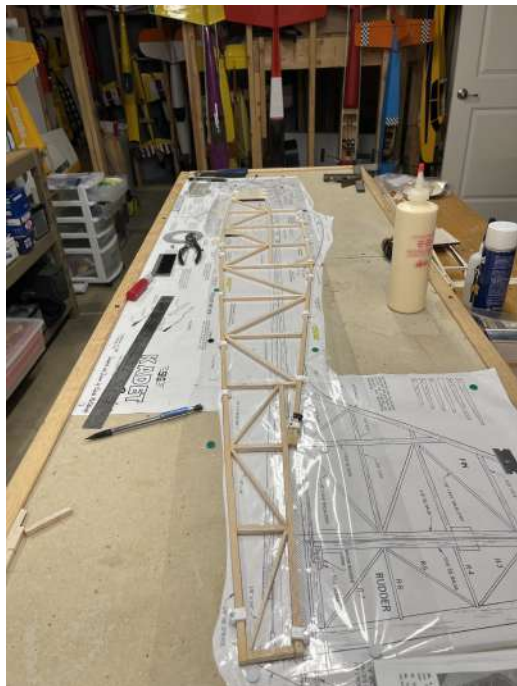
Keeping busy inside during the winter season.

Dave Engel finished up his Spirit of St Louis





## Photos Dave Cairns



Ray started framing his Sig Senior Kadet



Chris H started on an ARF Edge 540



Esther built a Goosky RS7 and has maiden it already.  
S1 shown for size comparison.



# Photos

## Dave Cairns



### Indoor Flying at The Yard



Prop Masters representing at The Yard  
Mick, Pete, Ray, Dave & Byron





## Photos

Dave Cairns



### Outdoor flying at Springbrook Prairie



An early March day was perfect weather for the All Season Flyers to check off the month . Chris H & Pete F (picture by Dave C)

Prop Masters R/C

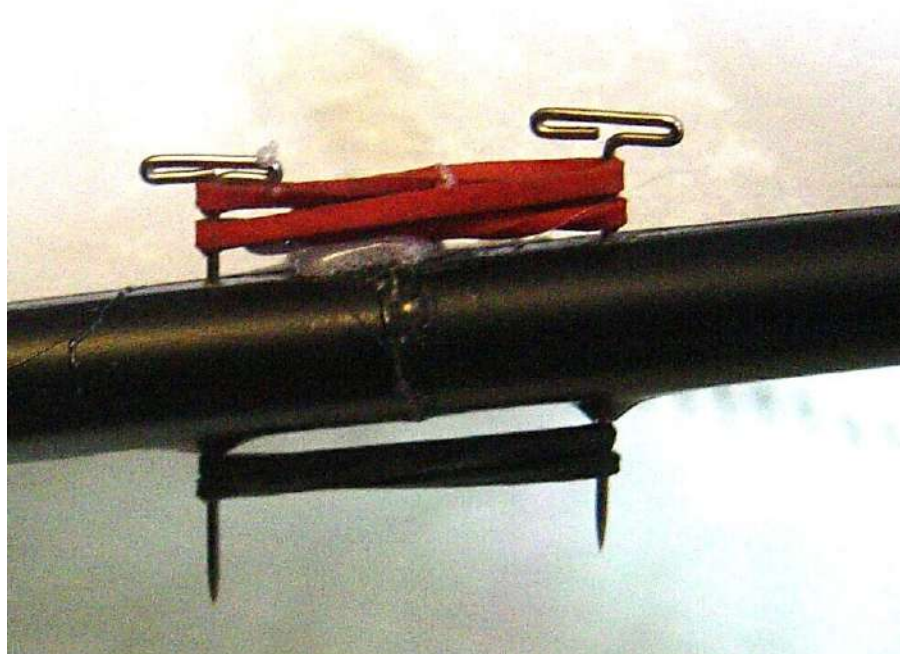


## Photos

Dave Cairns



### Tools Tips & Techniques



Mick shared his method for repairing foam wings without clamps.

Prop Masters

Club



# Photos

Dave Cairns



## Swap Meet Action





# Photos

## Dave Cairns



### Show-n-Tell



Chris H



Chris H



Pete



Arjav



## Photos Dave Cairns



**Harlan a.k.a. Raffle Master**



**Dave C**



## Club Announcements

Please note that the Club By-Laws have been updated for proposed changes, and are attached to this month's newsletter. Please review the document and be prepared to discuss and vote on the changes at the 3/31/2026 monthly meeting.

### 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
<b>Jan 27, 2026</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Annual Christmas Points Auction at the meeting</b>	<b>Spend those hard-earned points</b>
<b>Feb 24, 2026</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting</b>		
<b>Saturday March 28, 2026</b>	<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Snag-A-Deal Auction</b>	
March 31, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
April 28, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	

#### 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**

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**

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](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, March 31, 2026 at 7:30pm**

**Be sure to bring your Show 'N Tell items!**

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.*