



PLANE TALK

PROP MASTERS R/C NEWSLETTER



AMA CHARTER CLUB #397

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 2025

TO FOLLOW UNDER SEPARATE EMAIL



Your President

Michael D. Pfeifer

Prop Masters R/C Aero Club

Succession Planning Calendar

For the Club to stay vital and current, it's important to infuse our leadership with fresh thinking from time to time. This has been a challenge over the past few years, so let's put some effort into ensuring new folks are encouraged to get involved. Our Bylaws state that Club Officers and Directors are to be elected by membership at every November meeting, to serve a term of the following year. Backing up from then, we should have candidates nominated by the October meeting. And since we're looking to simplify our organization to make it better fit member interests, let's go over those ideas and have some healthy discussion about where we should focus our energy and resources going forward.

Meeting	Date	Topics
September	30	Roles of Officers & Directors Changes to Committees Reward System (Points) Solicit nominees to fill roles
October	28	Confirm Nominees for Officers & Directors
November	25	Elect Officers & Directors

Club Point System

To encourage members to take on leadership roles, the Club point system awards Officers 25 points for their service over the full term. Board members get 5 points for each Board meeting attended. Flight Instructors and all other key roles (newsletter editor, etc.) receive 25 points for their service over a full term. Any members assisting those key roles, such as additional Flight Instructors, are eligible to receive up to that number of points at the discretion of the member in that key role.

Officers & Directors

Below is a list of the five Club Officer roles, which member currently holds them, and a general description of their duties. Note these are a bit more detailed than what is in our Bylaws; let's address updating the Bylaws next year.

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	Jeff Cowan	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	Dave Engel	
Director	Esther Bourassa	
Director	Darrell Zeri	

Committees

The Board has had some healthy discussion about Club Committees and is recommending a thorough restructuring of them to better meet the needs of the membership. We have committee chairs that are appointed by the Board and responsible for various activities like the instruction program and fun fly's. But most committees are comprised of just the "chair", and many are rarely called upon – after all, members rarely use the Library, we struggle to have an occasional fun fly, and we've not had an air show in years. So, the Board is proposing we scrap the concept of "committees" and instead have "Key Roles" that lead the Club in various activities. Those Key Roles are described below:

Key Role	Member	Responsible for
Chief Instructor	Pete Fales	Organizes the Club instruction program for new pilots and solicits experienced flight instructors from the membership
Newsletter Editor	Dave Cairns	Publishes the monthly Club newsletter Plane Talk
Member Engager	Open	Creates a welcoming environment for new members and promotes a culture of inclusion and camaraderie(<i>could use a better title!</i>)
Web Master	Jeff Cowan	Maintains the Club Website, Slack App, and Google Drive
Raffle Master	Harlan Davis / Open	Conducts raffles held at regularly scheduled meetings (independent of Club finances)
Snag-A-Dealer	Mick Pfeifer	Organizes and conducts annual Club Snag-A-Deal auction
Cavalcade Coordinator	Open	Organizes Club participation in the Clow Cavalcade of Planes
Lead Recruiter	Bill Hickey	Recruits club members for Officer, Director and Key Roles

Note that those in a Key Role can recruit other members to assist, such as the Chief Flight Instructor coordinating the actions of several Flight Instructors. As with Committee Chairs, those filling Key Roles would be appointed by the Board. Again, as these are substantially different from the Committee descriptions in the Bylaws, we should develop agreement on these Key Roles and eventually incorporate them into revised Bylaws.

Let's discuss this recommended organization at the September meeting.



Financial Report

Bill Hickey



Financial Report

8/01/2025 thru 8/31/2025

Description	Operating Fund	Field Fund	Total	Comments
Balance 08/01/2025	\$2,096.63	\$3,722.94	\$5,815.22	
Income:				
Dues	40.00	95.00	135.00	3 new members
Total Income	40.00	95.00	135.00	
Total Cash Available	\$2,136.63	\$3,734.71	\$5,871.34	
Expenses:				
Field Maintenance		(37.64)	(37.64)	Striping paint
Board Expenses	(5.72)		(5.72)	Office supplies - paper
Total Expenses	(5.72)	(37.64)	(43.36)	
Balance 08/31/2025	\$2,130.91	\$3,697.07	\$5,827.98	

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 – 08/26/2025

Opening:

We were visited by two Rangers from the DuPage County Forest Preserve, Keely and Marty. They gave an overview of a number of projects going on throughout the forest preserve and described what they enjoyed about their jobs. Some of the ongoing items include restoration at Herrick Lake, Blackwell and new parking at Waterfall Glen. It was followed by a Question and answer period with the club members.

Before the officer reports Michael Pfeifer announced that there had been a change in leadership. Michael Pettinger is now Secretary. Dave Cairns is now Safety Officer. Jeff and Michael were thanked for the service as Secretary and Safety Officer respectively.

Officer reports were kept short due to the presentation of the forest preserve.

Committee Reports:

Safety	Dave Cairns reports we are generally doing well with safety.
Forest Preserve	Mick Pfeifer: See Opening
Publicity	New Tri-fold pamphlets have been printed and distributed to local hobby shops.
Raffle	Harlan Davis: Previewed contents of the evening's raffle
Newsletter	Dave Cairns: Forest Preserve reads the Prop Masers Newsletter.
Website	Mike Pettinger: All Current.
Instruction	Peter Fales: There was discussion about having a year in summary event.
Fun Fly	Bill Hickey recapped the National Night Out Event. See an article about this later in this issue.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Picnic discussion. Members were reminded about RSVP'ing on Slack or in some way letting Mike know if they were coming and if they were planning on bringing guests.

Discussion was held about having a succession plan for officers, board members, and committee chairs. Additional details can be found in an article in this issue.



Meeting Minutes

Mike Pettinger



New Members & Guests:

Welcome to new members Bill Bankhead and Gary Kramer. We'll see you on the Flight Line.

Guests from DuPage Forest Preserve Rangers Keely Doran and Marty Jandura.

Guest Jeff Peck from Fox Valley announced that they were doing an EDF event on Sept. 6 @ 9am. There is also a swap meet on Sept 27. It is \$10 to sell.

Two Metea Valley High School students attended the meeting and spoke about the forming of an Aviation Club at the school. They were interested in having RC Flight as an activity in the Club and wanted to see if Prop Masters would entertain intro flights and training.

Society of Aircraft Demolishers (SAD):

Not held this month.

Show and Tell:

Mick P	Bob Stricker Dakota Free Flight with Cox 049 engine
Darrell Z	F-38 Hornet with a 4S battery
Chris Hoekstra	E-Flite Sportix
Ron M	Minimum RC P51 kit
Jeff C	Homemade Radio transport bag with customized foam interior

Raffle:

The raffle included an Easy Fly 40 trainer ARF, a small Cox quad copter, a Dauntless model kit, a metal Travel Air plane model, some plywood, and an SU-37 flat foamy kit. Dave Cotton won the Easy Fly 40 ARF and donated it to the Metea Valley Aviation Club. The plane has been passed along to the students, and they will contact us as they get into the Club Activities after the Holiday Break in the school year.

Closing:

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 7:30 PM at Community United Methodist Church, 20 Central St, Naperville IL.



Photos

Dave Cairns

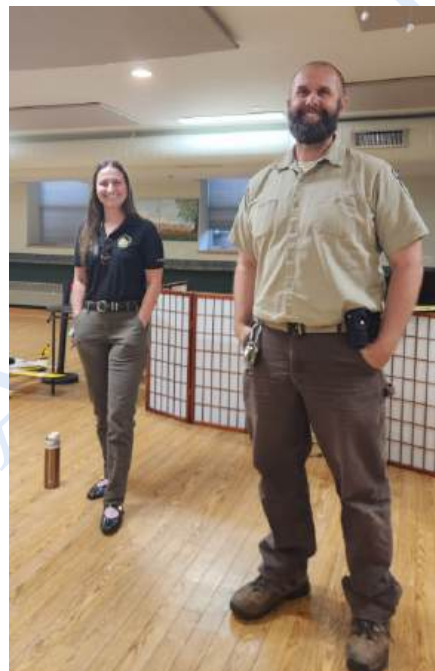


New Members & Guests

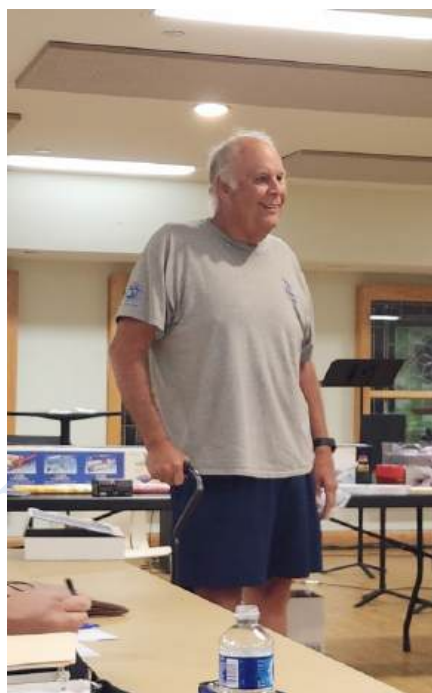


New Member
Bill Bankhead

Not shown
New Member
Gary Kramer



Guests
DuPage Forest Preserve
Ranger Keely Doran
Ranger Marty Jandura



Guest
Fox Valley Aero Club
Jeff Peck



Guests
Metea Valley HS Aviation Club
Om Chokshi & Corbin Lobos



Photos

Dave Cairns



Show & Tell

Mick shows a Free Flight Dakota



Darrell shows his F38 Hornet



Chris and his E-Flite Sportix



Ron Tells about the P-51 kit





Photos

Dave Cairns



Jeff tells us about his homemade radio bag



Photos

Dave Cairns



Instruction Days



Mick instructs **Dhruvan and Sayyora**



Photos

Dave Cairns



Field Shots – Club Picnic September 13th





Photos

Dave Cairns







Club Event Report

Bill Hickey

Fun Fly Report – National Night Out August 5th, 2025

We held our first fun fly in quite a while on Tuesday evening, 5th of August, to coincide with the National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The basic idea was to get together and fly (take off, and then fly for at least 60 seconds). New fun fly committee members Arjav and Shaan capably kept time, while our most experienced committee member Dan Nosek made sure the line of pilots was moving.

The weather was perfect, especially for an August evening, and we had a good crowd of onlookers. Twenty (!) pilots participated, and the results were as follows:

Member	Take Off	Fly 60 Sec.	Points
Alex Dribinsky	✓	✓	300
Arjav Jain	✓	✓	300
Bill Froelich	✓	✓	300
Bill Hickey	✓	✓	300
Bob Sulla	Didn't fly	Didn't fly	100
Carl Wacker	✓	✓	300
Chris Hoekstra	✓	✓	300
Dan Nosek	✓	DQ - Flight Line	200
Darrell Zeri	✓	✓	300
Dave Cairns	✓	✓	300
Dave Engel	✓	✓	300
Dhruvan Kambhampati	✓	✓	300
Esther Bourassa	✓	✓	300
Jeff Cowan	✓	✓	300
Jonathan Williams	✓	✓	300
Mick Pfeifer	✓	✓	300
Pete Fales	✓	✓	300
Ray Luchetti	✓	✓	300
Ron Monsen	✓	✓	300
Shaan Manchinasetty	✓	✓	300

Dan Nosek also ably demonstrated Rule #1 for any Fun Fly (don't cross the flight line) when his 13" Spitfire flitted briefly above a few pilots, but no-one was ever in any danger. After the Fun Fly there was open flying, and at one point we counted nine aircraft in the air at once. All-in-all, a very good time.

Pictures from the Event were published in the August Newsletter.

Submitted by Bill Hickey for the Fun Fly Committee



Field Trip Report

Joe Bartek

Adventures in Muncie and at AMA Field

By Joe Bartek

I recently flew free flight planes at a Meet called Flying Aces Club Outdoor Champs held by the Detroit Cloudbusters Club. Weather was great for the meet, cool mornings with low wind, hot afternoons with lots of thermals. The field grass was dry, with no chance of spoiling the precious R/C runway in Area 4 of the IAC.

My wife and I got to Muncie the afternoon before the meet and decided to hunt some place with local color for Dinner. I had seen a mention of a Diner with good desserts called "Cammack Station" in an Indiana tour book. Our motel was on the West side of Muncie, and we had seen a sign for the diner near the road called "600 West". It's near the Muncie suburb of Yorktown. It's definitely colorful, and I had a good, if senior sized, breaded pork tenderloin sandwich along with a root beer float.



During the meet, we got a lunch of wrap sandwiches from Tall Timber Coffee Co. which is located East of US-35 on Jackson, one exit North of Memorial Drive. They are open for Breakfast and Lunch.

The good weather led to some good flying. I increased the rubber in my Comet Sparky old time cabin plane (32 inch wing span, 4 ounces all up) and got one long flight over the 120 second "max", after a very strong card table takeoff. Thermal air nearly wouldn't let it down. A friendly spotter saw it coming out of the thermal, but not all in one piece. The stress of circling broke the wing hold down bands. I found the wing and the rest of the plane together a ways North West of the launch table, missing the AMA corn. On the next day, my little Anna Jr. FAC Embryo class plane (16 inch wing span, 1 ounce all up) also climbed well from a table takeoff, but didn't find thermal air, averaging about a minute a flight. The second day's flying was from the south end of area 4. I had to move the launch table North, after the Anna Jr. hit the roof of a new pavilion. The shade was welcome in the hot afternoon.



Field Trip Report

Joe Bartek

Mass launches are one of the joys of FAC free flight contests. The one for WWII scale planes is one of the most popular. I hadn't brought a plane to compete, but I had brought a camera. There were nine planes in the first round, with two of the first down to be eliminated. I got lucky with the shutter and got a shot with all nine planes in the air. A flyer who launched a 30 inch model of a Fairey Barracuda in the second round lost it to strong thermals. It may have landed past the AMA corn but wasn't found before the third round settled the winner.

2025 FAC Outdoor Champs - WWII Mass Launch = Round 1





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		

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

Committees:

Publicity

publicity@propmastersrc.org

Harlan Davis

Nominating

nominations@propmasersrc.org

Open

Forest Preserve Relations

field@propmastersrc.org

Mick Pfeifer

Air Boss

Dave Engel

Deputy Safety Officer

Dave Cairns

Raffle

raffle@propmasrtersrc.org

Harlan Davis, Chairman

Mick Pfeifer

Membership Relations

membership@propmastersrc.org

Harlan Davis

Instructors

learntofly@propmastersrc.org

Pete Fales – Chief Instructor

Mick Pfeifer

Ron Monsen

Mike Pettinger

Jim Mendygral

Jeff Cowan

Chris Hopwood

Dave Cairns

Fund Raising

fundraiser@propmastersrc.org

Harlan Davis

Librarian

librarian@propmastersrc.org

Bill Hickey

Webmaster

webmaster@propmastersrc.org

Mike Pettinger

Newsletter Editor

editor@propmastersrc.org

Dave Cairns

Air Show

airshow@propmastersrc.org

Dave Engel

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, Sept 30, 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.