



PLANE TALK

PROP MASTERS R/C NEWSLETTER



AMA CHARTER CLUB #397

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

AUGUST 2026

President's Message



August 2026 Newsletter

Greetings everyone! And a big welcome to the new members who have recently joined Prop Masters!

August has been a busy month, with several days of good flying weather. The Flight Instruction Program has had good participation this month in spite of a few cancellations due to adverse weather.

On August 4th, we had an evening fun fly, organized by Bill Hickey and Dave Cairns, in conjunction with National Night Out week. Over 30 people attended and we had 20 something club participants. Pizza was served and enjoyed by all. The Naperville public television station, NCTV 17, was present, and published a very nice video of the event. If you have not seen it, you can find it on Slack. A very nice event with great participation!

Also in August, we concluded our Introduction to Aviation class, which was held at Illinois Benedictine University for Summer Camp students, grade 2 through 6. 22 students participated and our club has received numerous compliments and a show of appreciation from the parents. 6 classes were given, all of which included some hands on participation from the students.

Our next meeting is August 25. DPC Forrest Preserve contacts have been invited to attend the meeting, but there has been no confirmation as of this date.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the meeting!

Your President,
Michael D. Pfeifer



Financial Report

Bill Hickey



Financial Report

7/01/2026 thru 7/31/2026

Description	Operating Fund	Field Fund	Total	Comments
Balance 07/01/2026	\$5,191.89	\$3,606.28	\$8,798.17	
Income:				
Dues	40.00	77.60	117.60	Welcome Ben & Victor!
Swap				
Brand				
Total Income	150.00		150.00	
Total Cash Available	\$5,231.89	\$3,683.88	\$8,915.17	
Expenses:				
Swap				
Board Expense		(48.63)	(48.63)	Name badges & postage
Field Maint		(9.97)	(9.97)	New gate chain
Year-end auction				
Brand Items	(94.77)		(94.77)	(100) Logo stickers
Total Expenses	(94.77)	(58.60)	(153.37)	
Balance 7/31/2026	\$5,137.12	\$3,625.28	\$8,762.40	

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.



Meeting Minutes

Mike Pettinger



Meeting Minutes – 7/28/2026

Opening:

Meeting opened by Peter Fales VP. President was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes as published in the newsletter.

Reading and Approval of the treasures report.

Safety:

Safety has been good.

Make callouts even when you are flying alone. Enforces good habits.

Forest Preserve wants us to fly from pilot stations.

SAD Nominees

- (Winner) Peter F. - Nice airplane from show and tell. It didn't fly very well. Crashed for unknown reasons.

Forest preserve: Asking Forest Preserve to mow weeds further out. See Fun fly

Publicity: Talked to NCTV to invite them to cover National Night Out FunFly. No reply as of yet.

Newsletter: We have been getting submissions and feedback.

Website: Harlan D mentioned issue with emails associated with website submissions.

Instructors report: Instruction has been going well on Weds and Sats.

Fun fly: National night out on August 4th. Pizza will be included. Do not fly north of the flight line.

Discussion:

Old business: Bylaws have been updated to address tax issues, non-discriminatory policy, Inurement

We have a quorum.

Motion made with a second.

Discussion on by law changes

BYLAWS APPROVED!

New business: New member - Ben LeMonica

Show and Tell:

Bill H. – Yogi Airplane with lights

Dan N. – Dynam Hawker Hurricane – offered for sale. SOLD!

Peter F. – Brick Bat wing style plane

Closing: Meeting adjourned.



Fun Fly Features

Bill Hickey

Fun Fly Report – National Night Out

We held our third fun fly of the year on the evening of Tuesday, 4th of August, to coincide with National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Darrell brought plenty of pizza and Dan the cooler of water and soda, which were much appreciated. Dave Cairns invited NCTV (Channel 17) and they were there to record the event, as well as enjoy the evening.

Member	Attend	Lights	Take-Off	Fly 60s	Total
Bill Bankhead	25	25	25		75
Dave Cairns	25	25	25	25	100
Alex Dribinsky	25	25	25	25	100
Dave Engel	25	25	25	25	100
Pete Fales	25	25	25	25	100
Bill Froelich	25		25		50
Ollie Gresham	25	25	25	25	100
Dennis Grillo	25		25	25	75
Bill Hickey	25	25	25	25	100
Chris Hoekstra	25	25	25	25	100
Audrey Hopwood	25	25	25	25	100
Ray Luchetti	25	25	25	25	100
Jim Mendygral	25		25	25	75
Dan Nosek	25		25	25	75
Victor Pelayo	25				25
Mike Pettinger	25	25	25	25	100
Mick Pfeifer	25	25	25	25	100
Bob Sulla	25	25	25	25	100
Darrell Zeri	25		25	25	75

It was warm and a bit muggy, with gentle winds out of the south. Early on there was an unwanted visitor during the event (a drone flying well above the field); visitors later mentioned a person flying something from the parking lot. Fortunately, no incidents arose.

Nineteen members attended, and the results are on the table on the left. The basic idea was to just fly, with extra points for anyone who brought a plane with onboard lighting. Afterward there was open flying and the sight of many planes in the evening air was enjoyed by nearly forty people at the field.

Thanks to everyone who came out to join us!

Bill Hickey



Fun Fly Features

Bill Hickey

Prop Masters 500 – Saturday August 29th @ Noon

This Fun-Fly will test your taxi skills! The event will be held at noon on **Saturday August 29th** with a Rain Date of September 5th. The event will be postponed if the weather forecast is for rain, north/south winds greater than 10 mph or east/west winds greater than 15 mph. Please sign in when you arrive. Competition will start as soon as pilots are ready, with practice before and open flying afterwards.

Here's how it works

The plane begins at one end of the runway within the painted X. Time starts when the plane starts to roll down the runway. The pilot taxis down the runway to the other end without taking off, turns around in the opposite X, taxis back to the starting X, turns around and then takes off. The plane must perform one full circuit of the field. During that circuit, Novices must complete one loop, Advanced two loops, and Expert three loops. Beginners are not required to perform any loops. The plane may land once it passes the point on the field from which it took off; the pilot may then return in any fashion and land.

Time stops after "first touch" on landing. The shortest time wins within each class. There is a 10 second penalty in each direction for running off the runway during the taxi (maximum penalty of 20 seconds), a 10 second penalty for each required loop not completed, and an additional 10 second penalty if wheels do not first touch the runway upon landing. Any penalties will be added to the pilot's total time.

For safety, any flight north of the "Flight Line" is cause for immediate disqualification from the event. No maidens or hand launches. All flying shall be line-of-sight, i.e., no FPV (first person view) flying.

Points

Everyone in attendance will be awarded 20 attendance points.

Every pilot who flies will also be awarded 20 participation points.

Point awards for shortest time within each class are as follows:

- 60 for first place,
- 40 for second, and
- 30 for third.

So, the maximum points awarded are 100 points within each class - good luck!



Photos

Dave Cairns

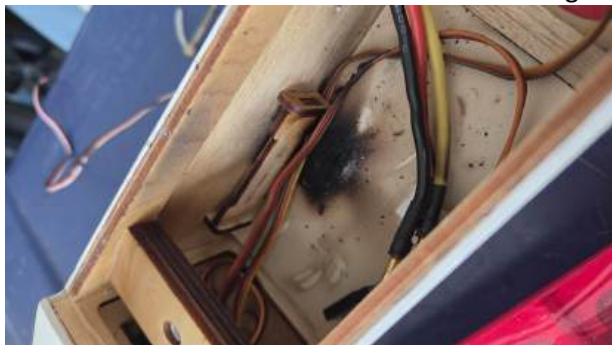


BUILDER'S CORNER

Bill Hickey demonstrates the details that go into building a precisely made plane.



Dave Cairns shows why a stalled prop in the tall grass means "no more throttle".
A smoked ESC and a burned fuselage resulted. The smell will always remain.



A piece of cardstock that was under the ESC helped to avoid a full meltdown of the covering.





Photos

Dave Cairns



At the Field – National Night Out Fun Fly

Photo credits Mike Pettinger, Dave Cairns





Photos

Dave Cairns





Photos Dave Cairns



Show & Tell



Bill Hickey



Dan Nosek



Pete Fales



Pete presents Bill Bankhead his Solo Certificate!



Photos

Dave Cairns



Tools, Tips & Techniques

Submit your ideas!!

Prop Masters R/C Aero Club



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 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		
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	
FUN FLY ALERT	Fun Fly		No FF after June Meeting
July 28, 2026	Monthly Meeting	7:30PM	
TUESDAY Aug 4	Fun Fly	→ 6:30 PM ←	National Night Out
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	
FRIDAY Jan 1, 2027	Polar Bear Fun Fly	Noon	Weather may delay this event

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	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

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, Aug 25th, 2026 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.