



# PLANE TALK

PROP MASTERS R/C NEWSLETTER



AMA CHARTER CLUB #397

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

JULY 2026

## President's Message



July 2026 Newsletter

Hello fellow club members! I hope everyone had a good July 4 holiday in spite of the rainy and stormy weather. We've seen a lot of adverse weather this month, including rain, storms, heat, humidity, and the Air Quality Index being off the charts! Surely August will bring is better flying conditions!

The first week of June, we conducted an Introduction to Aviation class for summer camp students, ages 7 to 12, at Illinois Benedictine University. Several types of models were demonstrated. We also made paper gliders and rockets using NASA suggested guidelines for hands on projects. A good time was had by all, and we have been invited to give another class in August.

You might have noticed a few upgrades at our flying field, including a new safety chain at the center gate entrance. Thanks to Dave Cairns for his continuing efforts!

Reminder #1: In our next meeting, be prepared to cast your vote for approval (or not) of the proposed changes to our Bylaws as presented by Bill Hickey in our last meeting.

Reminder #2: National Night Out is Tuesday, August 4. We have scheduled a Fun Fly for that evening, so make preparations to attend! Pizza will be served!

Here's hoping that August weather is more kind to us! See you at our next meeting at the church on Tuesday night, 7/28!

Your President,  
Michael D. Pfeifer



# Financial Report

## Bill Hickey



### Financial Report

6/01/2026 thru 6/30/2026

| Description          | Operating Fund | Field Fund | Total      | Comments            |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| Balance 06/01/2026   | \$5,041.89     | \$3,606.28 | \$8,648.17 |                     |
| Income:              |                |            |            |                     |
| Dues                 | 150.00         |            | 150.00     | 48 members paid YTD |
| Swap                 |                |            |            |                     |
| Brand                |                |            |            |                     |
| Total Income         | 150.00         |            | 150.00     |                     |
| Total Cash Available | \$5,191.89     | \$3,606.28 | \$8,798.17 |                     |
| Expenses:            |                |            |            |                     |
| Swap                 |                |            |            |                     |
| Board Expense        |                |            |            |                     |
| Field Maint          |                |            |            |                     |
| Year-end auction     |                |            |            |                     |
| Total Expenses       | 0              | 0          | 0          |                     |
| Balance 6/30/2026    | \$5,191.89     | \$3,606.28 | \$8,798.17 |                     |

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 – 6/30/2026

#### **Opening:**

Minutes from last meeting approved

Treasure report read and approved.

Pay dues by end of June or they will be removed from the roster

**Safety:** It will be hot. Get shade and water. Watch out for ticks. Safety update from a new person (non member) at the field. We should always watch out for new flyers.

SAD nominees

- Pete Fales - 1. Ran batteries dead on trainer. 2. Wing ripped off trainer.
- Mick Pfeifer - Wing snap incident; it was loud.
- (Winner) Jonathan - 1. Crashed Habu nose over vertical cartwheel. 2. Bent motorshaft from crash

**Forest Preserve:** No news. Mick will call into Keely.

**Publicity:** Cavalcade of Planes. National anthem with parachuters. All simulators were working. Dhruvan was very helpful. Our Thanks to EAA chapter 461 for letting us use the hangar space they provided for our setup.

**Newsletter:** Still alive and kicking

**Website:** Still doing great

**Instructors report:** Not much to report. Training has been going well.

**Fun fly:** No Fun Fly on July 4. Will do fun-fly for national night out; Tuesday August 4th at 6:30pm.

25pts to show up, 25pts for lights on airplane, 25pts for flying, 25pts for staying aloft for a whole minute.

**Old business:** Harlan Davis talked to Andy Widlacki who has dementia.

#### **New business:**

The raffle will end at the end of the year and may be changed to a door prize. Ideas are welcome.

Discussion of bylaws update. See separate e-mail for proposed changes.

#### **Show and tell:**

Bill H. – Free flight airplane with drone diesel dummy engine converted to electric.

Alex B. - First kit airplane build, Edge 540 style model.

Pete F. – Restored Trainer airplane, from SAD crash event.

**Closing:** Meeting adjourned.



## Fun Fly Announcement

### Bill Hickey

#### **NIGHT OUT FUN FLY - Tuesday, August 4th, 6:30 pm**

The first Tuesday in August is National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Leading up to that event, let's have a Fun Fly from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the field, before the preserve closes at sunset shortly after 8:13 pm. And, pizza will be provided! The event will be postponed if the weather forecast is for rain, north/south (cross) winds greater than 10 mph or east/west winds greater than 15 mph. A weather update will be provided via Slack #announcements on Monday evening using the HRRR model forecast.

***For safety, any flight north of the "Flight Line" is cause for immediate disqualification from the event. Having someone other than the pilot perform a hand launch is highly recommended. No maidens. All flying shall be line-of-sight, that is, no FPV (first person view) flying.***

Any aircraft allowed to fly at the field is welcome. Points will be awarded as follows:

|                                        |           |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| If you show up:                        | 25 points |
| If your plane has lights that operate: | 25 points |
| If you take off:                       | 25 points |
| If you fly more than a minute:         | 25 points |

So, the maximum points awarded are 100 points – a good way to get points for the year-end auction!



## News Article

### **Warbirds & Classics Over Denver – June 13, 2026 Road Trip**

Submitted by Joe Bartek

When I was planning a visit to my son in the Denver area, I found that a local R/C Club was hosting a “Warbirds and Classics” event during my trip. The Jeffco Aeromod’lers were holding it at the Chatfield State Park south of the city. <https://jeffcoeromodlers.com/club-info/>

This Club has about 300 members, and flies from a field with two paved runways – one primary (E-W) 688’ long and the diagonal is 572’ long - along with concrete pit areas, work benches and tables. Field elevation is 5450 feet, so the long runway is helpful.

I took some pictures of the planes on the ground and in the air, and put them in a public Flickr album **2026 Warbirds and Classics at Chatfield | Flickr**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/135667368@N08/albums/72177720334414745>

I’ve added a few of those photos of my favorite planes below.



A Pilatus Porter with Tundra tires did an impressive aerobatic routine. While Chatfield Park is in a Valley, you can see the Front Range of the Rockies in the background. A ¼ scale L-4 (WWII Cub) with invasion stripes also gave a good show, as did a Piper Pawnee Ag plane. Other WWI and WWII warbirds were in the pits.



## News Article



A group of scale helicopter enthusiasts gave a fine half-time show. Its star was a 1/6.6 Scale Soviet **MIL Mi-171** from HeliClassics. This nine foot long turbine powered beast turned in a good scale-like routine, without firing any of its mounted rockets. A smaller Cobra and a UH-1 represented the US side.



Two examples of the **Aérospatiale SA 315B Lama**, originally designed for Himalayan rescue missions, were skillfully flown, and the turbine power took care of the Denver altitude easily.



## News Article

### Weather Forecasts

Submitted by Bill Hickey

#### Best Weather App / Forecast for Flying at Springbrook Prairie

I am enjoying using Google AI to answer questions (thanks to Jeff Cowan). My latest query was “which weather forecast is best for wind speed and direction in Naperville, Illinois”? The response is summarized in what follows.

“For highly accurate wind speed and direction in Naperville, the **HRRR** (High-Resolution Rapid Refresh) model is your best pick for short-term (0-18 hour) forecasts. For longer-range planning, the **ECMWF** (European) model or **NAM** (North American) model will yield the best regional accuracy. The ideal path depends on how far out you need the data, the scale of your activity, and the tools you prefer to use:

- *Short-Term / Hourly (0 to 18 Hours): HRRR Model* - Detail-oriented, real-time wind shifting and sudden gust forecasts (essential for local Illinois pop-up storms or frontal passages). Updates hourly and has a remarkably fine resolution (down to 3 km), capturing localized suburban and inland wind environments exceptionally well.
- *Medium-Range (1 to 3 Days): NAM Model* - Offers higher spatial resolution than global models, updating frequently to lock down wind direction as fronts approach.
- *Long-Range (Beyond 3 Days): ECMWF (Euro) Model* - General wind trends up to 10 days out. The European model is consistently rated as the most reliable global model for both wind speed consistency and directional accuracy in the Midwest.

Because local terrain, tall structures, and passing storms can cause temporary wind variations, meteorologists highly recommend comparing the outputs of multiple models. You can view localized forecasts with free apps such as [Windy.com](https://www.windy.com) or those requiring a subscription such as [UAV Forecast](https://uavforecast.com) or [Windy.app](https://www.windy.app).

Again, the HRRR model is your absolute best tool for drone flying due to its micro-level updates and wind gust tracking. Drones are highly sensitive to low-altitude wind shear and unexpected gusts, making real-time accuracy critical. To check it for your flying:

- *Select coordinates of Springbrook Prairie field:* latitude 41.737, longitude -88.171.
- *Target the 10-Meter Winds:* Flights typically happen under 400 feet, which aligns perfectly with the standard "10-meter wind" forecast layer on meteorological sites.
- *Look for the "Gust" Layer:* Never fly based on sustained wind alone. If HRRR shows sustained winds of 10 mph but gusts of 25 mph, your ship may struggle.”

Bottom line, the weather app you use is less important than the forecast model you select and the timeframe in which you're looking to go flying.



## Photos

Dave Cairns



### BUILDER'S CORNER

Dave assists Ray on the maiden of his Sig Kadet Senior. Finished in OraTex material.



Ray had a successful maiden flight on 7/23, with a smooth landing!





## Photos

### Dave Cairns



Dave Cairns finally maidenied his Chinese Tiger that was assembled in August of 2024.  
Thanks to Bill Hickey for the engine tuning help.





## Photos

Dave Cairns



### At the Field

July has been hot, windy and smoky. Still some hardy souls have been out there getting in some flights.



Dave Engel's Fly Baby is a beast in the air! The twin gasser put this plane in the clouds quick!





## Photos

Dave Cairns



**And there was some rain!**



Not our field 😊



## Photos

Dave Cairns



### Show & Tell



Pete Fales



Bill Hickey



Alex Dribinsky



## Photos

Dave Cairns



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### Tools, Tips & Techniques

Submit your ideas!!

Prop Masters R/C Aero Club



## 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](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, July 28, 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 1<sup>st</sup>,**

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