

The Broken Prop



AUGUST 2004 EDITION

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY PROPBUSTERS
A CHARTERED CLUB OF A.M.A. #1762

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Meeting Schedule:

Second Wednesday each
month at the Community
Center Building, Goodells Park,
6:00 pm.

Please try to attend the
meetings if you can. It's a
great way to stay in touch with
what is going on in your club.

www.**SCCPROPBUSTERS**.com

President's Perspective

By Todd Litke

Hello again! Over the next month or two we all have some work to do at the field. We need to focus on getting the low spots filled in, leveled, and seeded so we can avoid having standing water on the runway. The spectator area also needs to be finished and seeded.

Our new pilot parking area will be ready for use soon. I know the driveway is a little on the ruff side and it is tempting to drive on the grass alongside the driveway. Please do not drive on the grass when entering the field. Greg Feyers said he would get his tractor out there to level the driveway now that the drive is packed properly.

I have had a few members express some concern about lawn care at our field. I would like to ask that our members please attend our next meeting on Wednesday, as we will be discussing a grass-cutting schedule for our membership. So please attend.

The mileage for the park has passed! This is good news for the club because we now can renew our lease with the park for 6 years. We will also be discussing our lease at the meeting.

The Propbusters would like to send a Thank-You to the Redline Racing club for their involvement with us at the park for the last year. Can you believe it's been a year already? They have been a positive improvement at the park for us and the hobby.

We would also like to thank everyone who helped with the Algonac school kids that came out Friday, July 27th. Even with the threat of an occasional rain shower, it looks like everyone had a great time.

I hope you can make it out to the club Picnic Saturday August 7th for some flying. The weather prediction is calling for perfect flying weather. It should be fun for all.

Our next club event is our Charity Fun Fly next month. We'll have a little over three weeks to get things ready so help us by coming to the meeting.

See you at the field!

EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 7th - **4H Fair Demo Fun Fly & Propbusters**
club Picnic 9:30 am
11th - Propbusters Club meeting - 6 pm
15th - River District Eagles - Pylon - 9 am *
22nd - River District Eagles - Combat - 9 am *
28th - SMAC - Toys for Tots - 10 am Crowell
28th - River District Eagles - Pylon - 9 am *

SEPTEMBER

- 4th - **Propbusters - Toys for Tots** 9:30 am
5th - RCCD - Fun Fly and Club Picnic
8th - Propbusters Club meeting - 6 pm
11th - River District Eagles - Pylon - 9 am *
12th - River District Eagles - Combat - 9 am *
18th - River District Eagles - Fun Fly - 9 am *
19th - Port Huron Hobbyfest - 10 to 4 - Pine
Grove Park

OCTOBER

- 3rd - River District Eagles - Combat - 9 am *
9th - River District Eagles - Pylon - 9 am *
13th - Propbusters Club meeting

*** Tentatively at Propbusters field in Goodells**

All events are open to other clubs to participate and are more than welcome to come out and support the hobby of R/C flying.

(If anyone knows of any other clubs' events, let me know so I can get them in here.)

July Meeting

Meeting started at 6:06 pm with 11 members present. Doug/Kirk made a motion to accept the secretary's report. That motion passed as did the motion made by Ron/Kirk to accept the treasurer's report.

Checks for reimbursement will only be made at the meeting after membership approval. We will make sure monies needing to be expended between meetings are voted on during the prior meeting.

Our new pilot parking lot was discussed. The new grass seed is coming up nicely.

Club Picnic: Redline racing will be out there with us with racing starting at noon. Doug volunteered to bring the grill. Doug made a motion to have give Kirk Churchill a check for \$50 for hotdogs/buns for the picnic. Eagles are donating 25 hotdogs, buns and relish and fixings they had left from their fun fly. Doug made a motion to invite the Eagles to our club picnic. Members are reminded to bring pop and a dish to pass.

Mark Steenland and Kirk talked about our wiring of the field for electricity. Wiring needs to be laid 24 to 36 inches deep. We are going to try to locate a Ditch Witch. We will be scheduling a work day.

July Meeting (continued...)

Kirk has estimated electrical needs as \$300 for wiring, \$50 for conduit, electrical box \$125 for both ends and some miscellaneous expenses. Doug/Ron made motion to spend up to \$600 for materials to lay the wiring.

The new flight line is in place until after the 4H Fair. We will keep the remaining part of the old runway trimmed, but not down as far as the runway. This will deter pilots from getting too close to Redline Racing and flying over the crater. Flight stations have also been relocated as they were at our Fun Fly. It was recommended not to have training going on during club events. We also recommend pilots thoroughly inspect their planes prior to flying.

Pete Cangemi and Eon from Cub Scout Troup 216 from Marysville were at the meeting. The cub scouts have an airplane and model making (no kit) Merit badges. The troop's planning usually occurs in September. They have over 30 troops he's acquainted with in the council. Kirk suggested setting up 3 plane designs. They could make servo boards and engines that could be quickly attached to the planes that the kids would build to keep cost down. We will try to arrange something with the cub scouts later on this year.

Frequency control. The change for the lock on the board was brought up. This combination is unique for that lock only. The frequency board should be open and in use when there are more than 3 pilots out there. Anyone out there with an AMA card should know the new combination. If you don't know, please contact a club member to find out the number. If you're flying at the field, you need a frequency pin.

Don't fly during the 4H fair if you don't feel sure of yourself. We want to keep everyone safe.

We will contact Carl's wife to see what kind of costing she would charge for doing T-Shirts. She does embroidery, but not hats. Last year we went through Doodling Monograms. We will get prices for the club.

Ed mentioned that pilots looking straight up to watch their planes are flying over the flight stations and this is a flight line violation, so don't do it.

Sheila mentioned that the toilet draining needs to have a week notice. They received grief for asking for it to be emptied two days before our fun fly.

Todd let everyone know that everything that's happened at the field has been decided by the board for the benefit of the club.

There won't be any work days currently scheduled before the club picnic. We are waiting on Kirk.

Sheila/Ron made a motion to end the meeting. The meeting ended at 7:17 then we watched the channel 6 video that Keith brought out.

Financial Report

Beginning Balance **\$1,813.96**

Expenses

Gary W. - gas \$ 15.01

Keith - postage \$ 7.40

Septic \$ 25.00

Doug P - Gas/Belts \$ 31.31

Total Expenses \$ 78.72

Ending Balance

Checking \$ 1,735.24

Cash on Hand \$ 0.00

Grand Total \$1,735.24

Membership

Junior 5

Senior 12

Lifetime 3

Regular 29

Total 49

AMA Education Committee Request

A major focus of the AMA Education Committee is promoting aerospace education activities across the country through school-based curricular and extra-curricular activities. We are looking for AMA members who *currently are* or *have been* classroom teachers.

If you have experiences to share, and are interested in assisting the Education Committee by participating in an on-line exchange of activities and ideas, we would like to hear from you.

Please send your name, telephone number, email and home addresses to:
Jack Frost, AMA Education Coordinator, at education@modelaircraft.org.

Goodells Field Lock Reminder

We have received another report of a lock at the field being left open. Sunday, August 2nd, the gate to the field was left unlocked. This was discovered and reported Monday morning.

If you are the last one at the field, make sure all locks are secured. If you are unable to secure the lock (because you don't know the combination), please contact a Club Officer so we can protect our field. Thank you.

Redline Racing

They are looking to attend the ROAR State Championship Race on Saturday, August 21st at Empire Park R/C Track. The address for the track is 4150 Orr Road in White Lake, MI 48386. The registration information is available at www.stunnergraphics.com.



If you have the day free, why not take a trip out and watch the guys' race. It sounds like four or five guys from Redline are going to be competing.

You can find more information in the General Section of Redline Racing part of the FORUM.

www.SCCPROPBOOSTERS.com

Grant's custom Aircraft

PBY 5-1 Catalina

106" Wing, 1/12scale, 1270 Sq In, 23 lbs
64"length .60 2-Cycle 3 surfaces & Motor
Servo, Motor.90 4-Cycle, Landing Gear Valve
Servo, Float Valve Servo.

Grumman G-44 Widgeon

80" Wing, 1/5 scale, 15 Sq Ft, 24 lbs,
60"length .60 2-Cycle 3 Control Surfaces & Motor
Servo, Motor .90 4-Cycle Servo, Landing
Gear Valve Servo, Float Valve Servo.

Republic Seabee

70"Wing, 630 Sq In, 8 lbs, 48"length, .40 2-Cycle
4 Control Surfaces

For more information, contact:

Mike at (810) 329-6406

Algonac School District visit July 30th

We had a visit from the Algonac School District summer recreation program on July 30th. We want to thank the following people for helping out: Todd Litke, Gary Wilkerson, Jack DeLisle, Bud Joachim, Maynard LaParl, Paul Fleckenstein, Tom Nichols (Eagle), Al Harbor (Eagle), Gene Lane, Ed London (Eagle), Grant Partridge (Eagle), and Carl Jones.



Runaway Plane

Ed Olszewski

After most of the crowd left the Eagles Gathering, Jack Drake of the Propbusters took off his son's Easy Sport 40 for it's second flight of the day. The first minute or so was uneventful, but as it entered a loop the plane no longer responded. Jack quickly became the all time "most loops" winner, if there was such a record, although still with no control. My son Josh's radio is one of those "dial a frequency" radios and we tried to gain control with that, with no luck, the problem was evidently with the aircraft. Some minutes passed, and the loop degraded slowly to a circle, and the plane slowly circled the field barley gaining altitude.

To everyone's amazement, the plane settled into a circular pattern and remained in stable flight. The plane was flying itself. The light wind very slowly drifted the pattern to the north east. Jack took off in his car, and Sheila shortly followed, as chase vehicles. Meanwhile, at the field, we continued to helplessly watch the plane slowly circle out of sight. Everyone expected a small gust of wind to tip a wing, sending the plane to the ground. Stable as a rock, the plane continued to circle. We could see it for at least 20 minutes, I have to ask Jack what size tank he had on that thing. Sheila periodically reported in on the cell phone, letting us know she was still tracking the plane. I would guess at least a half an hour passed before the plane ran out of gas and slowly circled down, in a wooded area - about a quarter mile from the road.

Remarkably the plane traveled about 3 miles from the field, traveling in circles, it would be interesting to know how many miles the plane would have gone if flying straight. To date, Jack still has not found the plane, so no one knows yet what the on board failure was.

