

The Broken Prop



OCTOBER 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

What do you think of our driveway this year? You can thank Greg Feyers for all the work putting on the extra layer of rocks. This will be a big help come spring when everything turns to mud; we'll still be able to drive to the pit area.

Did you recognize the Propbusters' grill at the Charity Fun Fly from the Yale days? I was told Bob Ryan from the Flying Times came just as we were leaving. He's an old Propbusters member from years ago and recognized the grill right away, and was glad to see that we still had it and were using it. I want to take this time to thank Doug and Sally McLaren for the work they did at our Charity Fun Fly. Doug's pancakes and sausages were a hit. We raised 156 cans of food and \$42 for the Salvation Army this year. We need to get them on our calendar for 2005.

Another big thanks to all the pilots who came out and helped us out. It was a little windy, but we still had some fun. Gary Wilkerson had a mishap with his Wild Hare 300 Special. Instead of possibly causing harm to other pilots, Gary chose to bury his plane.

The St. Clair County Parks Finance committee is currently reviewing our lease. They will be discussing it further at their next meeting on Tuesday October 26th at 5:30. Let me know if you'd like to come with me to help promote the Propbusters.

Don't forget our next meeting is Wednesday October 13th at 6:00 at the Community Center Building at Goodells Park. If you're not sure where that is, it's the building with the flagpole by the horse arenas.

If you don't attend the meetings and sit and whine about what is happening in the club, you have no room to speak. When an issue is brought up to at the meeting, whatever it may be and it's voted down or passes, that's the will of the membership and that's the way it is. If you have something that's weighing on your heart, come out and get it off your chest. Telling me on the phone won't always solve the problem. If you really can't make it and you have something to contribute that will further the club, send Keith (the secretary) an email and he'll present it to the members for discussion. Is address is in the box to the left on this page.

Remember, we are a club and we're here for each other. We go out to the field to fly. This is a hobby and it's supposed to be fun.

See you at the field!

EVENTS CALENDAR

OCTOBER

13th - Propbusters Club meeting

NOVEMBER

10th - Propbusters Club meeting
(Nominations for 2005 Club Officers)

DECEMBER

8th - Propbusters Club meeting
(Voting for 2005 Club Officers)

Financial Report

Beginning Balance **\$1,626.34**

Income

Dues \$ 45.00

Redline Racing – Port-a-John
\$ 50.00

Total Income **\$1,721.34**

Expenses

Al F. – Gas/Belt/Fix it \$ 37.02

Ed O. – Chain/Links \$ 18.65

Keith – postage \$ 7.77

Carl's Septic \$ 25.00

Gary W. - Gas \$ 21.63

Total Expenses **\$ 110.07**

Ending Balance

Checking \$ 1,611.27

Cash on Hand \$ 0.00

Grand Total **\$1,611.27**

2005 Membership New Members

Junior	4	John Koglin
Senior	2	Al Harbour
Lifetime	2	David LaPorte
Regular	3	Holly LaPorte
Total	11	Jeffrey LaPorte

New Club Caps

Embroidered St. Clair County R/C Propbusters club caps will be available for order at the next club meeting. The caps are kaki top with a hunter green bill. Orders will be available for your pickup in about two weeks, or at the following months meeting. The price will be \$13.00. See Ed Olszewski for more details.



September Meeting

Meeting started at 6:13 pm with 8 members present. Doug/Ron made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Doug/Keith made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay bills. Both motions passed.

Shed Enclosure.

Mike Grant gave estimates of Carters \$343.44, Lumber Jack \$426.12, Square Deal Lumber \$546.75 for materials to enclose the shed.

Doug made a motion to cut a check to Carters as they were the low bid for \$350.00. Gary/Doug made a motion to spend up to \$200 for wood and supplies to build the box to raise the shed.

A workday is scheduled for October 2nd to finish filling in some low spots at the field.

Driveway - Greg Feyers hasn't had time to provide gravel information. We will follow up by the next meeting. We will also follow-up on the weed spraying.

Electrical Installation - We are going to setup a committee to work with Mark Steenland to get the proposal done. Kirk has been removed from this project. Ed will talk to Mark to see what needs to be done. Mark volunteered to oversee, but doesn't want to do the labor.

Final review of the lease was made. Todd will get it handled.

Redline racing offered to give the club \$50 for their part of toilet maintenance.

Port Huron Hobbyfest. Mike hasn't heard anything from them. Todd is planning on bringing his electrics.

Ian has been in contact with them for Redline Racing. Mike will try to contact someone from the Hobbyfest.

Canned Food Fly. Eagles are going to be joining us at our Fun fly. Mike/Gary made a motion to pay \$50 to redo the tanks on the pancake grill. Doug is grilling with Mike's helping. We will also be having sausage links.

We are in need of three introductory volunteers to fill out a form with AMA as insurance coverage.

A non-board member of the Propbusters told someone from the Eagles that they weren't supposed to be doing combat at our field. This was never said. We actually encourage their combat, as it is a great draw to our field and events.

Possible disciplinary actions against Kirk Churchill as a result of violations of club rules were discussed.

Meeting ended 8:13.

Electric????

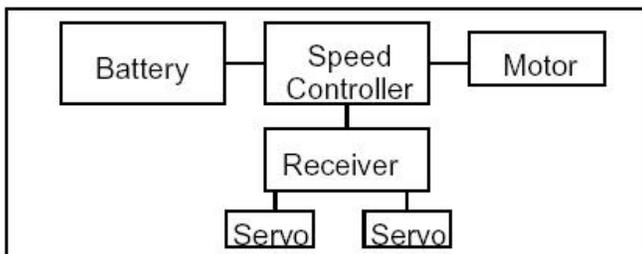
Ed Olszewski

Over the last year several people have approached me interested in electric flight, but do not know where to start. I must admit I was the same way, and for sure, made several mistakes along the way, but have had the help of several knowledgeable people. Over the next several months I will try to cut through some of the choices and help with some starting points.

Like glow and gas engines, electric come in all sizes, and performance ratings. In general the smaller sizes have so far become the most affordable. What one might consider a power plant for a backyard flyer size has become probably the most reasonably priced. The basic "indoor" system with all the electronics, including motor and battery, at around a hundred and forty bucks. And sure, there are "upgrades" if you have the cash.



The receiver is a GWS 4 channel Pico receiver, with the FM 72mh crystal of your choice, and it comes Futaba, or JR compatible just like any other receiver. With a size of 3/8"X9/16"X1" and at only 1/6 ounce it is easy to forgive the 500 ft range. Remember this is for a light, small, backyard flyer, not a quarter scale, that you can see for a half mile. With the smaller size plane, it is not likely you will even need half that range. This is the basic "everyone uses" for almost all small applications, and it also comes in a 6 channel version if your needs require.



The basic electric flyer system requires a battery, speed controller, and a motor. One nice thing about the smaller electric power systems is that they come "plug and play", just plug the preinstalled jacks together - no fuss, no soldering, no mess.



A pretty standard power plant for a plane up to about 7 ounces (including electronics) is a GWS IPS (indoor power system) "A" drive. The gearbox, motor, and the electrical connector, even the spinner, all come as a ready to fly unit. The "A" actually refers to the gear reduction ratio from the motor to the prop, which is about 6 to 1. This allows the use of a much larger, higher pitched propeller than would be otherwise possible without a gearbox. The recommended propeller is a 10-4.7; the numbers are rated just like any other propeller - size and pitch. Why such an oddball pitch you ask, I don't know.



As its name implies, a GWS 50 (2amp) speed controller (also known as an ESC), plugs into the battery and channel 3 of the receiver to control current to the motor. The other function of the esc is to split off power from the main battery, powering the receiver. This feature is known as a battery elimination circuit, BEC for short. This eliminates the need for a second battery, and almost all speed controllers come with this feature. A 7.2-volt, 700 MAH lithium polymer battery will supply the power needs.



A Pico servo is about 1/10 the weight and size of a standard servo. Do not confuse Pico size with a slim or micro size; it is tiny by comparison to these also. On small aircraft, weight matters, a pair of servos can quickly add to the weight of an aircraft. Total weight of this combination, about 3 1/4 ounces, the combo produces about 4.7 ounces of thrust. This is plenty of thrust for smaller planes. This is what I use on the small white foam "EM2" and "Blue Butt" planes that I have. This motor combination is not geared for acrobatics, just laid back, backyard flying.

Next month we will talk about the slightly larger "300" size power systems, that you may have seen on a "Blue Foamy", such as a 3DX or Top Edge.

First Annual Hobby Fest

By Ed Olszewski

The sun was shining with a very light wind for the first annual Hobby Fest, at the Pine Grove Park, hosted by Port Huron Hospital.



Members from Redline Racing were on hand with a portable track, in a parking lot across the street from the south side of the park. Most of the rest of the exhibitors were in the meadow, and the R/C planes were set up on the grassy knoll. We had a large area for flying between the edge of the hill with our static set up, and the waterworks building.



There was plenty enough room for my foam EM2, and Josh brought his 3DX, just to show off. Mike Grant thrilled the spectators with a short Glow Heli demonstration. Todd Litke demonstrated that foam insulation is not just for houses anymore with his Top Edge, and Carl Jones showed up to wow the crowd with some acrobatics from his electric heli. Josh Olszewski and Ron Pennell did some impromptu combat with their "butt" planes while Carl and I played possum, to stay out of the action. The spectators got a great show.

First Annual Hobby Fest (Continued..)



We had a great line of aircraft for static display, from a WW2 seaplane, to an autogyro, we had it all. Everyone who passed by seemed to have their preference, some liked the 'choppers, or the Bi-planes, but all seemed interested. Gary Wilkerson and Todd's large stunt planes, along with Maynard LaParl's Little Tony were real show stoppers.

A special thanks to the Propbusters and Eagles who sacrificed a beautiful flying day at the field, to come out and show off our hobby. Everyone had a great time .

Propbusters 2005 Membership

It can't be fall already? Well, it's here and it's time to think about 2005. Dues are accepted from September 1st to December 31 for 2005. Don't wait until the last minute and end up paying a late fee.

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

Port Huron Treetoppers AMA #1237

The Port Huron Tree Toppers are still looking for new members. They've picked a few new pilots, but could always use some more. They are charging \$15 for dues. Call to find out about initiation fees.

They fly out of Birchville on Norman Road.

Contact: Glen Kolar

810-385-3588 or WA8HEH@tir.com.

Salvation Army Charity Fun Fly

Well, this wraps up another year for the Propbusters. Many pilots ventured out in the wind to come try some of Doug's pancakes made on the Propbusters own outdoor flat grill. He put a lot of time and energy into getting the grill to hook up to the new propane tanks and then getting it carried out to the field. The sausages were cooked on a smaller gas grill and were cooked to perfection.



We had some spectators wonder over occasionally from the mini-tractor pull going on at the pit, but for the most part it was just the pilots showing their skills for the other pilots.

We had photographers from The Times Herald out to witness some of the pilot's flying skills, and crashes. If you missed the article in the paper, you can view the web form of it on our website.

Admission for pilots and other donations saw 156 cans of food, \$42 and one toy being raised for the Salvation Army Port Huron Citadel Corp.



The club also received a thank you letter from the Salvation Army. It will be on display during our meeting for all to see.



I hope everyone had a good time and is now looking forward to our swap coming in January. Start saving you pennies now and be ready to get a great deal.

AMA District VII Forum and Website

Larry Pittman and I ([Holly Cloud Hoppers, Holly, MI](http://cloudhoppers.rcclubs.com) <http://cloudhoppers.rcclubs.com>) have been working with AMA District VII Vice President Bill Oberdieck to maintain the District VII web site. Bill asked us to improve the site and make it more useful to the AMA members in District VII. We quickly added an event calendar section and did some other housekeeping. You can see the site at www.amadistrictvii.org.

Bill also asked us to add a member forum to the site. With lots of help from Corporate Computer, we now have an AMA District VII Member Forum. You can get there from www.amadistrictvii.org or go directly to <http://forum.amadistrictvii.org/index.php>. At the forum you'll find District VII topics including discussions with Bill Oberdieck, District VII members on club and flying topics, Items for Sale, and RC Items. Note you must register to use the forum; you can use your name, nick name, or cyber name. I do ask though that you include your location (city, state) as part of your registration info.

The web site and forum are for you, the members of District VII. If you like what you see, use it. If you don't like what you see, tell us. If you have ideas to make it better, tell us that too. We'll be doing a more complete announcement next week, but feel free to share with your club members now. Ed Kincer