

# The Broken Prop



## St. Clair County R/C Propbusters

Model Aviation Club Goodells, Michigan - A.M.A. Charter Club #1762

[www.SCCPROPBUSTERS.com](http://www.SCCPROPBUSTERS.com)

Editor: Ed Olszewski

August 11, 2008

### Club Meetings

Second Wednesday of each month, 6:00pm at the Community Center Building, Goodells County Park. Summer- weather permitting meetings are held at the field.

### Club Breakfast

First Saturday of each month, 9:00 at Cavis Pioneer Restaurant on Lapeer rd. West of Wadhams rd. Flying afterwards

### Come and join us!

Club Meetings and Breakfast are open to everyone, if you are an experienced pilot, or just thinking about getting into R/C, Come check us out.

**The Propbusters R/C flying Club is located at the Goodells County Park**, 8345 County Park Drive, Goodells MI 48027. The flying field is just West of Castor rd. -off the parks East parking lot . *The general location of the park is South of Lapeer rd. -about 10 miles West of Port Huron.*  
**42° 59' 02" N - 82° 39' 02" W**

### President

Gary Smedes 586-727-4507

### Vice-President

Doug McLaren 586-201-8048  
mclarenintl@hughes.net

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### Safety Officer Field Marshall

Gary Smedes Tom Nichols

### Instructors

Ed London 810-325-1362  
Ed Olszewski 810-367-6367

**Directors:** Sheila Olszewski,  
Todd Litke, Brian McLaren

## 2008 Membership 77

Welcome new member

**Joseph Old**  
**Matthew Brinley**

*For the Latest-Greatest Information,  
Schedule, Photos, Announcements.*

Go to :

**WWW.SCCPROPBUSTERS.COM**

## President's Perspective

*By Gary Smedes*

Here we are in August already coming up fast on our September 6th Charity fun fly. This year we will once again be collecting donations for the Earth Keepers group. You may recall the last time we held our event for them it rained. Hopefully, we can get a break this time and put on a good show. Please remember to pick up a flier at the meeting or print a couple off of the website and hang them up. This is for a good local cause and they need your support.



It seems we made it through the 4H fair week without any problems or complaints. At least I haven't heard anything. Good job everyone, keep up the good...flying! However, shortly after the fair it seems someone tried to break into our shed and did some damage to the door and the finish mower deck that was inside the fenced area seems to have come up missing. If anyone knows anything about either one of these incidences please contact one of the club officers. Police reports were made out for both of these cases, for the Clubs' and the Parks' records. Thanks to those of you that stepped up and handled these problems in my absence. It is much appreciated.

I see that on August 23rd the SMAC Club is hosting there Toys for Tots fly in. This too is a good cause that benefits children. We all know times are tough and this is when they need our help the most. So try to support their event as they have supported ours in the past.

Also, coming up on September 7th, is the big Whirly birds fly in. From what I hear, this a huge event. Once again, I will try to make this event and support their club, even if it is as a spectator.

*Hope to see you at the meeting!*

## Meeting Minutes

by Keith Graham- Secretary



Propbusters meeting on July 9th 2008 was held at the field with 15 members and 1 visitor and started at 6:10 pm. Todd/Doug made a motion to accept the secretary's report as read by Keith. Todd/Al made a motion to accept the treasure's report as ready by Ed and pay bills. Both motions passed.

OLD BUSINESS – Ed O and Sheila reported the success of the bi-plane rally.

NEW BUSINESS – 4H Fair preparations were discussed. John D. will talk to the 4H fair parking people about not charging Propbusters members. Gary reminded members to stay well away of the parking lot fence during the entire week of the fair. Gary volunteered to contact someone about getting a grill here. Sheila and Ed will pick up the hot dogs. Bring your own drinks and a dish to pass.

September Fun Fly – A motion was made by Todd/Mike to have Earthkeepers the recipient for the September fun fly; motion passed.

Michigan Jets – August 8th to the 10th was mentioned by Gary S. Admission is around \$10.

Tom Pearce's visit to the field that was documented in the June newsletter was discussed. We also discussed the results of the safety concerns that were brought up during the fun fly. We also discussed Article 4 and Article 5 Section 3 of the club bylaws.

During the meeting newsletters were passed around for the Lapeer Wing Nuts, River District Eagles, SMAC, Skymasters RC of Michigan, Whirlybirds, and the East Wings.

Shed Update - Tom Nichols got the vent installed in the shed. Bill Lawson and Tom Nichols also installed the shelves in the shed.

We talked about the missing chain link fence between the BMX track and the driveway.

Ed London brought up the positioning of the flight stations and suggested that the stations should be returned to a set position. The Lawn maintenance crew is the only ones who should move them and they should be returned to the same position so we can maintain a consistent flight line.

Sheila/Ed London made a motion to close the meeting. The meeting ended at 7:11 pm.

## We had two separate incidences of theft and vandalism over the last month.

Sometime over the last month our finish mower that was stored in the fenced enclosure was stolen. Because it has not been used lately, the theft was not immediately noticed. When it was noticed the weeds in the pen had already grown tall where the mower had been sitting. When discovered, the gate was closed but unlocked, and the condition of the lock appeared as if it had been unlocked for some time. The gate was relocked and Sheila Olszewski notified the police and filed an incident report.

On 7/31/08 the shed was found vandalized. It appeared to be an attempt to break in to the shed. A length of fence pipe had been used as a lever in an attempt to break the garage door open, the same pipe had also been used to smash off the locking handle. The vandals also climbed on the roof and broke the skylight. The police again were notified by Sheila Olszewski and another incident report was filed.

The deputy commented on a rash of thefts in the area and we were lucky they did not try just slightly harder to break in. He recommended that we consider adding a chain around the tractors for added security, which may detour youths or oportunist, and increase the chance a would be thief would leave evidence (foot prints-fingerprints-etc.). He also commented an alarm with a light might be beneficial in detouring a thief, light and noise draws unwanted attention to a thief's activities– even if only in their minds.

Gary Smedes and the executive board approved the purchase of a length of chain and locks to help secure the two tractors. Of course no one can stop a determined thief, but the chain may help stop a less ambitious individual. Either way, it is a small investment and certainly won't hurt anything.

<i>St. Clair County Propbusters</i>	
<b><u>Financial Report Summary</u></b>	
<i>8/11 /2008</i>	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 2199.21</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
Dues	\$ 120.00
hats	\$ 26.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 146.00</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Stamps	\$ 7.14
gas	\$ 46.58
Tractor parts	\$ 55.40
Website	\$ 29.94
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 139.06</b>
Ending balance:	\$ 1823.06
Equipment Fund:	\$ 383.09
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2206.15</b>

## July Events

By Ed Olszewski

July 5th weather forecast called for a nice day. A nice day for flying was an understatement. A little after 9:00 AM with absolutely no wind, the first plane took off, and thus began a picture perfect day for a Bi-Plane rally.



Stan got several flights in with his new skybolt. He made a point to get it out a day or two before to test fly the craft, and make sure it was airworthy.

Jack DeLisle had his Christen Eagle 2 out for the day. What a beautiful plane! But a real handful (or thumb full) in the air. It's short distance from wing to tail makes for a very maneuverable airplane, but it is said it is "interesting" to fly. Jack makes it look easy.

Kirks Foker took a drink—literally, on his last flight of the day Kirks engine fizzled out and he could not make it back to the field. It went down nose first and everyone feared the worst, but remarkably little damage was done to the plane. If it had not hit the water, certainly it would have been totaled.



Mike grant chose to take the flight in the Waco he won at the last Propbusters air show. Mike took the opportunity to take the sticks as he flew over the propbusters field, For a helicopter pilot he did a nice job with the biggest airplane flying at the biplane rally!

Kirk Churchill fired up his grill and supplied the flight line with some sausage, and hotdogs for everyone. Thanks Kirk!

For a biplane rally, there was not as many Bi-planes as there was mono wings, and even a heli to boot. I figure a helicopter has two rotors connected by some kind of mechanical do-thingy, so that qualifies as a bipe of sorts, although few share my sediment—including most Heli pilots. But regardless, the real point was to get a bunch of pilots out and have a good time flying.



The weather for 4H demo was great, although a little breezy later on in the day. There was quite a few spectators who stopped by to see the action. Jack DeLisle brought out his Christen Eagle 2 for another great exhibition,

For some the day seemed plagued with minor problems, when Mark O'Brian arrived at the field, he found his vertical stab broken off. Rich Kliemann had less than a stellar day when his Hog-Bipe lost control and headed south to the weeds near the pond. The damage looked worse than it really was and will live to fly another day.

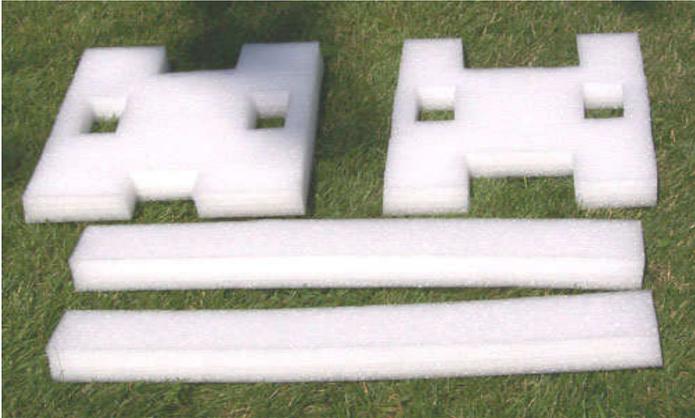
Jack Drake flew the heck out of his "Uproar", and Al Fournier wowed the spectators with his "U-Can-Do". Carl Jones and Mike grant brought along helicopters to round out the demonstration.

For the picnic, Sheila and John Henry brought the grill, Ed and Sheila Olszewski donated the hot dogs, buns and condiments. We also had Cake, Noodle salad, and Ambrosia. Heather Jones made something with chocolate that can only be described as "from the gods".

The real point of any event is to get a bunch of members together, have a good time sharing a hobby we all care about and enjoy, and have a good day. To that end, both events were a great success!

# Floats

By Jack DeLisle



Do these look like floats for a float plane? Hardly, but they are the result of my wanting some foam to make a pair of floats for my Big Stick and not wanting to buy a whole 4' X 8' sheet. I put out a quest for some foam and Ed and Sheila Olszewski answered by telling me that they had some foam and it was the same material used to make those round foam things the kids play with.

When next we met I took possession of the foam and when I got home gave a piece of it the float test and it absorbed a bit of water so I chose not to make a set of airplane floats out of it.

I did end up buying a two inch thick piece of 4' X 8' closed cell foam at Home Depot ( don't bother at Loews because they don't have it but



can order ) and making floats but in the meantime I kept looking at that foam that Ed and Sheila gave me and thought there had to be something I could use it for?

The results are shown in the picture. This stuff is soft enough to cushion the plane and stiff enough to hold a plane and to top that off, it's fuel proof as far as the methanol a lot of us use. Didn't try it on gas though.

Most of my planes are 40 and 60 size so I used these dimensions: All four of the pieces are made from the 2" thick foam. The side rails are 2" X 4" X 24" and the end pieces are 16" X 12". The holes to receive the rails are a "small" 2" X 4" for a tight fit. I made the cut outs for the "big" planes 6" X 4" and 4" X 4" and for the "small" planes 5" X 3" and 3" X 2". I was thinking of making the big cutouts big enough to hold the Seamaster but just laid the thing on it's side and that worked to keep the rudder out of harms way. I plan on just tethering it if the wind is up although it is a lot heavier then the foam cooler I had cut up and was using.

I used a sharpened carving knife to cut out the parts and that worked fine. There isn't any glue used and it all stays together with friction so it can be taken apart to make room and put together at the site in maybe one minute.

I have enough of the foam that Ed and Sheila gave me to cut out one more if anyone is interested and I was told that they have more too.

So I'm done making Lemonade out of lemons so to speak and on to the heading of this article, FLOATS.

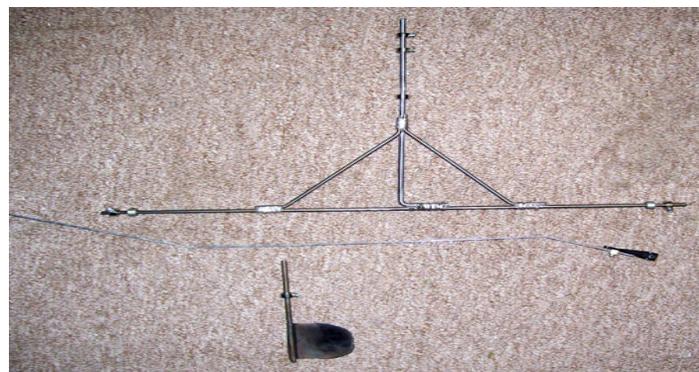
As I said earlier, I ended up buying a sheet of foam and made them using old plans and directions from Chuck Cunningham. Cunningham wrote many articles for the defunct R/C Modeler that in it's time was the premier magazine for us R/Cers. The funny part is that I couldn't find the article or plans when I went looking and was saved by Randy Linderman because he had what I was looking for on his web site so thank you Randy.

*Continued on page 5*

"Floats"— continued from page 4, by Jack DeLisle

The plans give all of the dimensions needed to make floats. All you need is the length of the fuselage from the back of the prop to the rear most hinge line of the rudder or elevator, whichever is farthest back. The numbers for the floats are in percentages. The length is 75% of the fuse, the step is 53% back from the front and 47% up from the rear. The step is 3/4th the inches deep. There is a 4 degree angle from the step to the rear. The float is 8% of the length and the width is 2" for a plane powered up to a 25, 3" for a 30 to 40 size, 4' for a 46 to 60 size and 5" for a 90 to 120. I chose 4" for the 90 powered Big Stick,

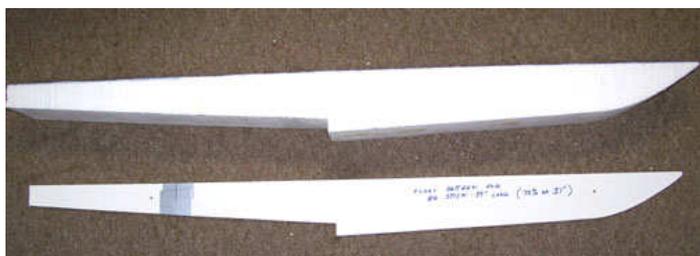
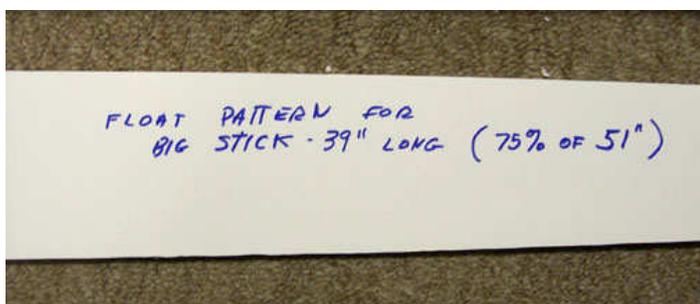
by Silver soldering some "piano" wire that was the same diameter as the nose gear so the gears could be inter changed. The main gear just needs the removal of the wheels and replaced with the floats so the entire operation can be done in maybe ten minutes. I left the nose gear "bracket" long to get the 2 or 3 degrees positive incidence between the wing and the floats. This is critical and the adjustment allows some fine tuning to get the Big stick off in good order.



As per suggestion I used my small band saw with a fine toothed metal cutting blade to cut out the floats. I glued the two 2 inch halves together to come up with the 4 inches with a new Elmers® Probond that is supposed to be water proof when it dries? We shall see.

Here's the finished product. I have 3/4ths of that sheet of foam and if you have a plane setting there just waiting for floats and to fly off the water, I'll make your pattern and cut out the blanks and help you along if you need it. Water flying is great. Ask the guys that do it.

Jack DeLisle  
j-j@att.net



First float and pattern



Finished 39" long floats

The Big Stick has tri-cycle landing gear so all that was needed is to replace the nose gear with a bracket that holds the floats apart at the same distance that the mains are and I did that

# A Morning at Golden Pond

By Jack DeLisle



Sunday, July 20 didn't promise to be a nice day. It was one of those Grey and drizzly days but Ed London, Jack Drake and I decided to, as they say in England, give it a go.

In an earlier article I talked about making some foam floats and I was anxious to find out if they worked? I had glued two halves of foam to make the float and, even though Elmer® said their new Probond® glue was waterproof I had to see for myself. As you can see from the above photo the big Stick and the Chuck Cunningham designed floats survived the first couple of flights in fine order.

When I set the floats up I measured up from the top of the floats to the wing trailing edge and the center of the leading edge and had the leading edge about a half inch higher and that looked good for a positive incidence so that was where I left it and it proved to be fine. The rudder seemed to be dragging a bunch when the plane broke water so I have reduced it's size by about a half. Ed London suggested that I put a cross brace at the back of the floats to make a "cleaner" takeoff but I'm hoping the smaller water rudder will help? I probably just have to tweek my thumb a bit to solve that little problem.

One problem with uncovered, just painted foam floats. It's easy to break little chunks out of them. The first time I loaded the Focus wagon I left the floats attached and I had to replace a small piece. Ed offered me some covering material but I'll just go along with the paint for now. The bottom off the floats are covered with 1/32 plywood from the front to the



step so that's protected.

Ed London's Pete N Poke. I'm not the only one putting on a maiden voyage and flight this morning. Ed flew this really nice plane and it's a winner. About half way through his first flight he told me that this was the longest he had every flown at Golden Pond, or any water for that matter. The floats were on the Dehaviland Beaver and that didn't work out and he also had a Catalina that didn't fly right so this Pete N Poke really made his day so both of us are two happy campers.



I did say that Jack Drake drove the 21 miles from Capac to fly and he brought along his proven Lanier seaplane. Jack powers his with a 46 and it to is a great flyer. To prove it, he clipped the Bull Rushes on his take off and the plane kept right on flying. Exciting there for a moment to end a great day and hardly got wet.

# Classifieds



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**Futaba super 7 radio**, 5) S148 servos, Hi-tec receiver \$150.00  
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**Various transmitters** Call  
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**TD3D Electric mini**-built up ARF- With Electronics and Brushless motor Call  
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**Propbusters Club Attire**  
**Club Caps** are available for purchase from the club at \$13.00 each. Each is custom embroidered for our club, and have a green brim. Contact Sheila 367-6367  
**Club Embroidery** is available for coats and other attire By Heather Jones, Contact Carl Jones for more information.



## Announcements & Events

<b>Aug</b>	
13th-Club meeting	6:00 PM
23rd-SMAC TFT fly in	10:00AM
<b>Sept</b>	
6th-(McDonalds)Breakfast	8:30 AM
6th-Propbusters Charity fly in	10:00AM
7th- Whirly birds fly in	9:00AM
10th-Club meeting	6:00 PM
28th EAA static display	9:00AM
<b>Oct</b>	
4th-Club Breakfast	9:00 AM
8th-Club meeting	6:00 PM
<b>Nov</b>	
1st-Club Breakfast	9:00 AM
12th-Club meeting	6:00 PM

Get the latest updates on club and local R/C events  
**www.SCCPROPBOOSTERS.com**  
**2008 Propbusters Special Events**  
 September 6 R/C For Charity Fly In  
 December 7 Propbusters Swap  
**2009 Propbusters Special Events**  
 June 13 Inter-Club Fly In  
 July 11 Bi-Plane Rally  
 July 4-H Fair R/C Demo

**SMAC Toys for Tots** Sanilac Model Aviation Club will be hosting their annual Toys for Tots Fly event August 23rd at Arnold Airport in Croswell. Bring a plane. Bring a toy, Come and help support a good cause.  
<http://www.krugair.com/>

**Propbusters Charity Fly-In September 6th** the Propbusters will be hosting their annual charity fly in for the benefit of the Earth Keepers. The organization works with schools and the public, and shows children how they are part the environment. Bring a plane , or just enjoy the show. All proceeds will got to the Earth keepers, here at the park, Keeping it local! Because of the events starting time, some members will be meeting at Wadhams McDonald's for breakfast at 8:30, come join us!

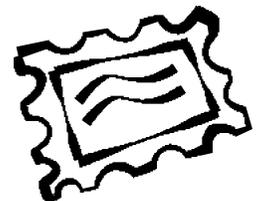
**September 7th the Michigan Whirlybirds** are hosting their annual Helicopter flying event at the Propbusters flying field. **Propbusters field will be under Whirlybirds control, and will be closed to fixed wing model aircraft for the day.** The Helicopter event normally runs all day- well into the evening. If you have not been to this event before, come out and enjoy- it is a very interesting event, you will be glad you did. For more info go to:  
<http://www.michiganwhirlybirds.com/>

**Pond Flying On Hold.** The property has been sold and has a new owner, and some details still need to be worked out. The pond is insured but not open for flying yet. Gary Wilkerson will talk to the new owner to get the latest lowdown and new pond etiquette. Contact Gary Wilkerson for the latest details and information on the status of the pond.

**Computer-transmitter cables / Free FMS Flight Simulator** We have computer to transmitter cables available for club member for a \$16.00 deposit, or purchase for same price. Available from the club treasurer. Download FMS at: [http://n-old.ethz.ch/student/mmoeller/fms/index\\_e.html](http://n-old.ethz.ch/student/mmoeller/fms/index_e.html)

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*Remote Control Model Aviation Club*

Visit us on the web at [www.SCCPROPBOOSTERS.com](http://www.SCCPROPBOOSTERS.com)