

# 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

October 7, 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

### Secretary & Webmaster

Keith Graham 810-966-1494  
keith@sccpropbusters.com

### Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

Ed Olszewski 810-367-6367  
proptreas@comcast.net

### 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

## 2009 Renewal 18

Welcome new member  
Christopher Ryan

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

Go to :

**[WWW.SCCPROPBUSTERS.COM](http://WWW.SCCPROPBUSTERS.COM)**

## President's Perspective

*By Gary Smedes*

On December 7th we will be holding our annual Swap Meet. This will be our second year of a December swap instead of having it in January. This really worked well for us last year because we're not conflicting with other swaps but there is a draw-back: considerably less advertising. Some of our members would take our fliers to other swaps and pass them out. Being



one of the first in the swap calendar, we've lost that advantage. So we need your help passing out and hanging up fliers. You can pick some up at the meeting or print some off of the website. I still think advertising is the key to success and the more the better.

Don't forget November and December will bring nominations and elections for the Club Officers in 2009. For this election all positions are open for nominations. Hopefully, you are considering one of them or your at least thinking about who to nominate. As with myself, I'm sure all of the officers stepping down will be more than happy to help/support the newly elected.

The new 2009 membership cards are hot off the press and waiting for you to pick up from Keith. Be sure to pay your dues before December 31st to avoid any late fees. You can come to the meeting and pay in person or you can pay through the mail. You can get the address off of the website or elsewhere in this newsletter.

Congratulations to the Whirlybirds club for putting on yet another great show once the weather straightened up. The Propbusters would like to thank them for their generous donation once again.

*Hope to see you at the meeting!*

**Meeting Minutes**

Propbusters Meeting

9-10-2008



The meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> started at 6:04 pm with 13 members present at the field.

Doug /Al F. made a motion to accept the secretary's report as read by Keith. Doug McLaren/Stam M. made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read by Ed O, pay bills and pay the \$150 for the rental for the swap. Both motions passed.

We reviewed the success of the Charity fun fly. The Earthkeepers reported they're running on a shoestring budget and every dollar helped. Also discussed was the article in the Times Herald for the fun fly.

We received a donation of \$200 from the Whirlybirds for Sunday's use of the field. Doug M volunteered to cook the breakfast for the swap and John Diver will assist. Maynard volunteered 10 tables. We discussed our passed swap success with the low admission fee we are charge and the later start time that will be imposed by the park. Doug M/ Gary S. made a motion to spend \$125 for a raffle prize. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Doug /Keith made a motion to move \$1,000 from our checking fund into the equipment fund. Motion passed.

Mowers – Ed London reported no problems with the mowers. We discussed replacing the tires on the tractor and a lead on new tires for the mower for \$250 each was reported. Gary asks members to bring any tire quotes to the next meeting.

Ed O reported he will be stepping down as club newsletter editor after December. Doug McLaren also reported he won't be running for club officer this year. We also will be looking for a person to help take care of the field as Ed London will be stepping down as the head of the lawn maintenance.

Doug/Sheila made a motion to close the meeting. Meeting closed at 6:25 pm.

**Newsletter Editor Needed:**

Due to increased demand of my time at my workplace, I will no longer be able to edit and produce the Broken Prop newsletter– in short, life is starting to cut heavily into my fly time. Effective 12/10/08 (the last '08 club meeting), I will resign as newsletter Editor.

I will be happy to work with the new Editor, and continue to participate with its publication.

If you are interested, or know someone who can be coerced, badgered, or bullied into service, please drop me a line.

Thanks, Ed Olszewski

**SANILAC MODEL AVIATION CLUB**

The Sanilac Model Aviation club wishes to thank *Ed and Sheila Olszewski*, Carl Jones and Mark O'Brien for your support of our 18th annual fly-in-for-toys held at Arnold Airport. Our club schedules this event each year to collect toys for our local area kids and donate them to the Lions Club in Croswell. The Lions Club then distributes them during the Christmas season.

We sincerely thank you for helping make our Fly-in-For-Toys such a success and we truly appreciate your support every year. Please pass our thanks along to any other members that attended that we may have missed.

Sincerely,  
Nancy & Bob

*St. Clair County Propbusters*

**Financial Report Summary**

*9/8/2008*

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 2040.69</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
<b>Dues</b>	\$ 95.00
Whirlybirds Donation	\$ 200.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 295.00</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Septic 2nd time	\$ 25.00
Stamps	\$ 7.14
Room rental	\$ 150.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 182.14</b>
Ending balance:	\$ 830.87
Equipment Fund:	\$ 1322.68
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2153.55</b>

# Some Bits and Pieces

By Jack DeLisle

Who woulda thunk it??? I implied in an e-mail that I was bored and needed something to keep my hands busy and Nancy D suggested that I get a kit to BUILD, not ASSEMBLE. I asked her how much I could spend and she said " Don't get ridiculous" so I got on the web and looked at a few kits. I say a few because there aren't that many "Builders" kits out there anymore and came up with a Sig 1/4 scale Spacewalker.



I chose the spacewalker mainly because I have been flying the big Christen Eagle powered by the Saito300 twin four cycle and I wanted to use that to power the ship, figuring

it would look nice with those cylinder heads sticking out of the cowl and with the plane having an eighty four inch semi-symmetrical wing span the power will be more then enough. Probably way to much. But like the saying goes," That's what the throttle is for".

I was surprised how small the box was that the brown airplane UPS truck delivered because I had been getting those Almost Ready to Fly planes and the boxes for those have to be big to take the wings, fuselage and tailfeathers. It was heavy though and a lot of the weight will end up on the floor and in the trash when the Spacewalker was being built.



For you "newbies", pictured in the first column, are what was known as Balsa shavings. The Balsa dust you can't see but there is enough of that to coat a room and everything in it. I sold my dust collector thinking I wouldn't use it again so I sand and vacuum, sand and vacuum and use a dust mask too.



I'll show you this picture of a few of the parts after they have been separated from the sheets they were punched from. Most of this Sig© kit has steel rule die cut parts

from Balsa wood and one small sheet of Laser cut pieces from plywood so I spent one evening punching out parts and lightly sanding off "whiskers" and whatever else didn't belong.



The picture to the left shows most of what's left after all the parts are removed from the steel rule stamped sheets. There's a mixture of 3/32 and thicker balsa

and 1/8th and thicker lite ply and with that scrap goes a bunch of that weight I talked about earlier.

*Spacewalker -Continued on page 4*

Spacewalker -Continued from page 3



Shortly after CA glues came out I quit using straight pins and started using weights to hold parts together while I give all the joined pieces a shot of CA. The picture above shows the plans, wax paper, the pieces and the weights. No pin holes to fill before the final sandings. This works fine on flat work and for “three dimensional” work like the fuselage and wing I use a combination of weight and masking tape. In building the Spacewalkers wing that uses the “D tube” construction I CA’d the top edge to its spar and then used Elmers Pro Bond® “Yellow” glue on the wing ribs and leading edge and taped the sheeting down so the sheeting made and kept good contact until the glue dried. I tear off about six inch pieces of 3/4 inch wide Masking Tape and stick them to the glass surface I use to build on so I have them handy when needed.



In case you decide to go the builders route you probably should invest in a couple of “egg carton” holders like I use? In fact, they are handy when putting together an ARF too. As you can see, I dumped the bags holding all of these parts and separated

them and it took all 24 “bins” for the small parts. Here’s some more of the things I have used over the years when building. On the left below



the weighted frame are two Exacto© fined toothed saws with the strong back removed and some duct tape added for protection. This allows the blades to cut through thick balsa. To the right of those is a CA glue applicator and it’s holder. A block of wood with a hole drilled in it to hold the applicator and to it’s right is my “Yellow Glue” applicator and , almost out of the picture is a Great Planes© Easy Touch© Bar sander.

Talking about “Yellow” glue, You may remember that I bought a bottle of Elmers Pro Bond © to make those foam floats for the Big stick? Well it works so well that I did a lot of the gluing on the Spacewalker using it. It grabs pretty quickly and I could work on the parts after about an hour of drying time. It washes off easily before it dries and it’s waterproof after it dries. Great stuff.



Since I’m in the “hints” mode I’ll show you how I measure from the firewall to the prop back plate to determine where and how the engine cowl fits.

Spacewalker -Continued on page 5

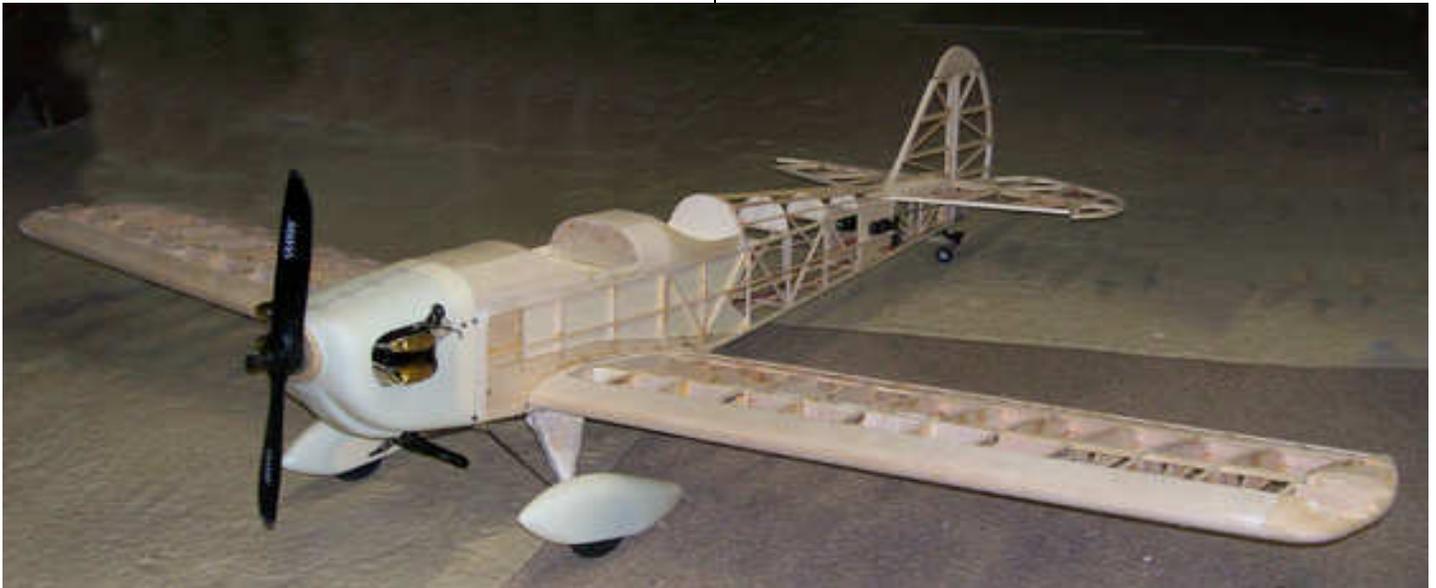
*Spacewalker -Continued from page 4*

If you use this method some time don't forget to subtract the amount of gap you want between the spinner back plate and the nose of the cowl. I've seen some guys using less than a 1/16th of an inch and I envy them because 1/8th works for me.

It's funny because in all the planes I have built over the years I had never seen positive built into the horizontal stabilizer of a ship until this Sig© Spacewalker? I guess by putting in that 3 degrees of positive it allows for no right thrust or down thrust of the engine. At least that's what the plans called for so that's what I did. Actually made mounting the engine easier because I didn't have to offset the mount !

cylinders. I have three more hinges on the underside and they have removable pins so if I need to take the cowl off to get at the carburetor, throttle arm or low speed needle I don't have to take off the spinner or the prop. Just remove three pins and the six screws holding the cowl to the fuse, open the "shell" and slide the cowl off.

About the spinner not there. I bought a cheap plastic spinner because the Red spinner matched the Red that's going to be on that cowl but when I got it home and put it alongside the prop I saw that there wouldn't work so I guess I'll have to spring for a three inch Three inch aluminum job. Murphy strikes again. So there the Spacewalker sets until I get a cou-



So this is the Spacewalker just about ready to cover. I did follow the plans for the positive on the horizontal stab, but not all of the plan. They called for 1/8th by 1/4 balsa stringers aft of the cockpit and I put in the same size Basswood so I wouldn't be putting my thumb or fingers through the sides when I was holding / moving the plane. I learned that lesson on the first plane built like that.

If you get out a magnifying glass you will see that the cowl has hinges along the center top. I was looking for a way to install the cowl with the least problems and this is what I came up with since the cowl came in two halves. The cowl opens like a Clam shell and goes right over the



ple of repair jobs done on two planes that need some tender loving care and I'll be as busy as a bee for awhile..

I may not get the plane done this flying season so what I'll do is just say that I'll do a follow up later.

# Murphy Strikes Again

By Jack DeLisle



I was flying my Big Stick, sans floats and on wheels. At the River District R/C Eagles field and put the Big Stick in a big loop and At the top of the loop threw the sticks into the corners to do a snap and then into a spin.

The Big Stick is a stable plane and the snaps are anything but snappy. I would call them a lazy snap. In any event when I released the sticks after a few turns in the spin the plane didn't respond and kept spinning. I tried reversing the controls and that didn't work either and the plane went in nose first just off of the field in the long weeds. Archie Kammer was watching my flight and he wondered why I didn't take it out of the spin and I told him I sure tried.

From the noise of the crash I didn't expect to see a very pretty picture but when we got there I saw that the damage was pretty well confined to the nose of the plane. I picked up every piece of the plane I could find and made sure I didn't leave the scene of the crime until it was positive nothing was left behind.

I didn't rush right home and start hammering away at the repairs to the Big stick because I was in the middle of building another plane but as soon as I got that ready to cover I set it aside and started in repairing.

The first thing I did was to put all of the pieces on the bench and determine why the

plane crashed and found that the plane was put together using HOT MELT glue and the servo tray had freed itself from the fuselage because there wasn't enough glue to hold it in. Probably one in a thousand but from now on I'm checking as many joints as I can on those ARF's.

After looking over those small pieces and trying to fit matching pieces I gave up and decided to build a new front end from the trailing edge of the wing to the firewall because I had the all the wood I needed.



*The Big Stick ready to re-cover*



*The new servo tray is now screwed to hardwood that is epoxied to door skin plywood here! No "Lite" plywood here! The top servo is for steering and the plywood "cover" retains the battery.*

Have I lost faith in ARF's ? Not a bit because they have brought models "to the masses" like you and me without spending loads of time building rather than flying and for most of us, that's the whole idea.

Just check all the joints you can reach!

# Classifieds



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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>Oct</b>		
8th-Club meeting		6:00 PM
<b>Nov</b>		
1st-Club Breakfast		9:00 AM
9th-Midwest R/C swap		9:00AM
12th-Club meeting		6:00 PM
<b>Dec</b>		
6th-Club Breakfast		9:00 AM
7th-Propbuster SWAP		9:00 AM
10th-Club meeting		6:00 PM

We need members who would like to be nominated for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, & Secretary. Also needed is a Newsletter Editor. Anyone interested should make it known before the November meeting

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

### 2008 Propbusters Special Events

December 7 Propbusters Swap

### 2009 Propbusters Special Events

June 13 Inter-Club Fly In

July 11 Bi-Plane Rally

August 1 4-H Fair R/C Demo

September 5 R/C For Charity Fly In

**Midwest R/C Society 20th Annual Swap Meet** - Nov 9th, 9 am to 1 pm - 303 Main Street in Northville, MI 48169. Admission \$5 (kids under 12 and women are FREE). Vendor Table \$20/\$25 depending on location. Vender Set-up Time 8 am. <http://www.midwestrcsociety.org/>  
Rudi Reinhard 248-643 - 4509 or email: [wwtbi@aol.com](mailto:wwtbi@aol.com) for directions.

**Propbusters Swap December 7th.** It will still be in the County Park Community Center. Last year the new date will brought us better weather and turnout. It's time to put some stuff aside to sell, or money to buy something new. Please post some flyers available on the website. Remember, the better the turnout, the better the deals.. If you are interested in a table, Call Sheila O. @ 810-367-6367. We are limiting reservations to one table per person, but more are generally available the day of the swap, you may bring your own extra table, but let us know to reserve some extra space.  
For last minute info go to [www.sccpropbusters.com](http://www.sccpropbusters.com)

**Pond Flying Still On Hold.** The property has been sold and has a new owners, and we are waiting for final written permission. The pond is insured but not open for flying yet. Contact Gary Wilkerson for the latest details and information on the status of the pond.

**So far 18 members have paid their 2009 club dues.** No need to fill out a membership form if nothing has changed

**15.00 - Senior members (born on or before 6/1/47)**

**25.00 - Regular members (born on or before 6/1/90)**

**No fee - Junior members (born after 6/1/90)**

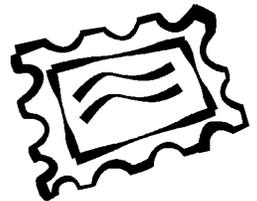
**Late Fee- Add 10.00 (to all renewal dues paid after Dec. 31)**

Avoid paying the late fee after December 31, take a few minutes and make check payable to: **SCC Propbusters**

**Mail to: 1806 Chestnut St. Port Huron, MI 48060**

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*-The Broken Prop-*  
October 7, 2008



*Remote Control Model Aviation Club*

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