

# The Broken Prop



## DECEMBER 2004 EDITION

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

### Officers for 2004:

**President**

Todd Litke  
810-966-4546

**Vice-President:**

Doug McLaren  
810-395-2098  
mclarenintl@direcway.com

**Secretary &  
Newsletter Editor:**

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

**Treasurer:**

Ed Olszewski  
proptreas@comcast.net

**Safety Officer:**

Mike Grant

**Field Marshall:**

Gary Smedes

### Instructors:

Todd Litke	810-966-4546
Glen Kolar	810-385-3588
Greg Feyers	810-367-3924

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

### President's Perspective

By Todd Litke



### Season's Greetings



*At the last meeting we held nominations for the board member positions; there is only going to be one change made with the faces that will be on the board this up coming year. Gary Smedes has been nominated for position of the president. As for myself, I declined the nomination as President for the upcoming year. I wish Gary the best in his new position.*

*Over the past year this club has seen some changes to our field. Every member that has come out to help out with these changes deserves a big "Thanks" because without you, the changes would not have happened. I am very impressed with the devotion of our members to take the time to come out and help our club move forward. Our shows that we have had over the past year have been awesome! Our first fun fly event was the most successful one to date. We had two schools come out to the field and have entertained the kids, and know that we sparked interest in those kids in the hobby and we all know that "youth is our future".*

*We have been in the paper or on television for various events this year; the general public is noticing our hard work. This shows that we are in the step in the right direction.*

*In closing, I want to thank everyone for their hard work for making this past year a success. There are so many people to list, but there isn't room enough in my column to list everyone's name that helped out this past year. So again, thank you, and good luck, Gary, in your new position.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.*

*See you at the flying field*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

8<sup>th</sup> - **Propbusters** Club meeting  
(Voting for 2005 Club Officers)

### JANUARY

9<sup>th</sup> - Detroit Aero modelers Swap - 9am.  
12<sup>th</sup> - Propbusters Club meeting (New Officers)  
22<sup>nd</sup> - Midland R/C Swap - Pulaski Hall - 9 to 1  
6525 Weiss Road  
23<sup>rd</sup> - RCCD Swap - East Pointe - 9 to 2  
30<sup>th</sup> - **Propbusters Swap Meet** and Pancake  
Breakfast 8 am to 1 pm - Sunday -  
Community Center Building at Goodells Park.

## **Financial Report**

Beginning Balance **\$1,187.25**

### **Income**

Dues	\$ 80.00
Hats	\$ 78.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 158.00</b>

### **Expenses**

St. Clair County -room	\$ 140.00
Keith - postage	\$ 8.88
Huron Const - shed	\$ 131.59
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 280.47</b>

### Ending Balance

Checking \$ 1,064.66

**Grand Total** **\$1,064.66**

### **2005 Membership    New Members**

Junior	4	Robert Troy
Senior	11	
Lifetime	2	
Regular	10	
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	

### **Total Membership**

Junior	8
Senior	16
Lifetime	2
Regular	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

## November Meeting

The meeting started at 6:04 pm with 11 Propbusters and 1 Redline Racing member present. Secretary's and treasurer's reports were read with motions passing to accept the reports and pay bills.

Ed went to the Park Finance Meeting for the Lease Renewal. The County wants compensation for our use of the field; No more "in kind". The lease might only be for 5 years instead of the requested 6. The amount of the compensation is still being negotiated.

Swap Meet. Mike Grant has received 7 reservations already. Ed/Mike made a proposal to put the swap meet in the AMA magazine. A motion was made and passed to spend \$150 on a raffle ARF kit for the swap meet.

Workday. Shed and gravel have been moved and the shed box was installed to lift the height of the ceiling. Mike Grant's crew is going to enclose the shed this weekend as a donation to the club. Doug Porrett is storing the grill.

Jack Drake's lost trainer was found about 3 1/2 miles away and the battery still had power.

Tractor Follow-up. The Woods mower was at Beltline for repairs. They want it picked up as they couldn't fix it. Todd will try to talk his dad into fixing it.

Jack Drake was nominated as an intro-pilot. Greg and Todd are the other two.

The complaint letter sent to Tom Pierce about the Hobbyfest was again discussed. Todd is still trying to reach someone with AMA on this issue.

We discussed removing the Eagles' lock after Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. They have asked to use the field next year for the Gathering of the Eagles and the first graders. We discussed food permits. Doug made a motion to allow the Eagles to hold any public events at our field next year as long as there are no schedule conflicts.

The Field Rules were reviewed with everyday rules changed to bold with an asterisk. Gary/Jack made motion to remove "visible AMA card at all times".

Nominations for 2005 club officers:

Pres - Gary Smedes  
VP - Doug McLaren  
Treasurer - Ed Olszewski  
Secretary - Keith Graham

Jack presented a certificate to the Propbusters from the Eagles for supporting them this year.

Greg Feyers' membership was renewed by the club in exchange for the work he provided transporting the gravel used at our field.

Meeting closed at 7:38 pm.

## Propbusters Weather Station

*Ed Olszewski*



Have you ever packed up to go to the field, when at your house the sun was shining and the wind calm, only to get the field to find a hurricane hovering overhead. Lets

face it, this is Michigan, and your front yard may have different weather than your backyard.

St Clair County Propbusters won the jackpot as far as weather reporting goes. Michigan state University decided to put a weather collecting station just yards off the end of our runway.

The station is operated by Michigan State University, and is part of a network that currently has 42 stations around Michigan. The **Michigan Automated Weather Network**, or MAWN, is a new program associated with The *Generating Research and Extension to Meet Economic and Environmental Needs* (GREEN) Initiative, a joint partnership between the state's major commodity groups and food processors, the state government, the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, and Michigan State University signed into law in 1998.

This is not a weather forecast, but rather the information is an up to the minute report that contains everything you would want to know about current weather conditions at our field. You can also view past weather information from any date and time you chose. If you are curious what the windspeed was when you were up flying, the information is there.

The easiest way to access the information is to go to the Propbusters' website ([www.sccpropbusters.com](http://www.sccpropbusters.com)) and click on "Field Weather Info" button. Next time you go up there - check it out.

## Plane Recovered

*Ed Olszewski*

This past summer, after most of the crowd left the Gathering of the Eagles, 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. some minutes passed, and the loop degraded slowly to a circle, and the plane slowly circled the field barley gaining altitude. We tried to gain control with another transmitter, with no luck, the problem was evidently with the aircraft.

## Plane recovered (continued...)

*Ed Olszewski*

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. We continued to watch helplessly as the plane slowly circle out of sight. Remarkably the plane traveled about 3 miles from the field, in circles, it would be interesting to know how many miles the plane would have gone if flying straight.

In a true "small world" fashion, the plane was recovered about 4 months later, by a relative of one of the members of Redline Racing, who brought it out to the field. There happened to be a group there moving the shed.



The plane was in remarkably good condition, though a bit waterlogged. The control surfaces apparently in the position they went down with. With only minor damage from the crash, I suspect it could have been flown the same day it went down.

The power switch was off, and pulling out on the switch caused the servos to jump. Remarkably, there was still some power in the battery!

Since Jack is in Florida, and we were sitting around looking for something to do while Todd moved stone, the guys present had a chance to form opinions of the failure. Since the battery still had at least some power, It is likely that if the switch was off all this time, or the battery would be completely dead. It is possible that the switch got knocked in (off position) when the plane came in, or possibly turned off by a considerate squirrel? If the flight failure was not the power switch, why would the plane respond to the switch being turned on?

The cover for the charging jack is attached to the switch shaft. It is possible that air turbulence caused the loose cover to flutter on the shaft, causing the switch to vibrate to the closed position. Since we did not have Jack's transmitter, we were unable to check for receiver signal.

Until Jack returns from the south, we will not know the exact cause. By spring, the plane should have plenty a chance to dry out.

## Propbusters Swap Meet

Open to all R/C related sellers.

**January 30, 2005.** Community Center Building at Goodells County Park. Starts with a **Pancake**, sausage, and eggs **breakfast at 8 AM**. Swap runs from 8 am to 1 pm.

**Admission fee \$3**

**Free table** with reservations. Call Mike Grant at **(810) 329-6406** to reserve your table today. Be sure to arrive ½ hours early for setup.

(Flyers available on the website)

## Field Rules (Revised)

- **All AMA Rules Apply. \***
- There will be a place in the frequency board to sign in, all pilots must sign in.
- **Pick up your frequency pin number and deposit your AMA card in its place. \***
- If your frequency pin number is not there, place your radio in the compound area until the pin is returned.
- **All aircraft must be tethered before starting the engine in the pit area. \***
- **Radio and aircraft must be pre-flight checked before the first flight of the day. \***
- **Do not taxi aircraft from the pit area. \***
- When flying stay inside of the flight station.
- Pilots must have a spotter during club events or when a large number of people are at the field, or if they are a first-time guest.
- **No more than 4 aircraft are allowed in the air at the same time, except for combat exhibitions.**
- **You must have a Propbusters dues card or be a guest of a club member to fly. \***
- **When you leave the field always make sure you clean up any mess you or your guest might have made. \***
- **Members will be responsible for their guest. \***
- **No flying while lawn maintenance is being performed and no lawn maintenance will be started while members are flying. \***

\* Designates everyday enforced rules, others are Event-Only

## 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.



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

## River District Eagles

The Radio Control Flying club is looking for approx. 6 acres of suitable space for runway and parking adjacent to approx 40 acres of over-fly area, which could be wooded or suitable for agricultural use.

**Contact: Gary Wilkerson (810) 388-1066**

## My Dagger

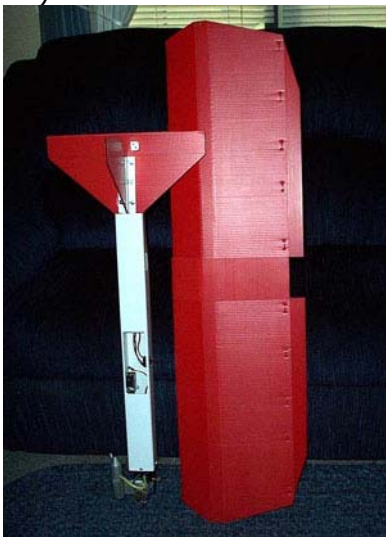
by George Davis



These are some pictures of my S.P.A.D. (Dagger). My cousin Jeff Beem (fly's at East Wings) and I started it in the summer, and Bud Joachim and his father from River District Eagles helped me glue the wing together and finish it. Thanks guys!! I appreciate help and support.



Its not completely finished yet, I still have to finish mounting the radio gear and the wing servo/rods, balance the wing and drill the dowel rod holes to mount the wing. I may also put a gear on it as well, haven't decided yet. I hooked my old 40 LA up for a motor and figure on make up for the low power with prop size (11x4).



I can't wait until summer now to give it a fly.

## Park Master Plan Meeting

Goodells Park is having a Master Plan Meeting this Thursday (Dec.9) at 7:30, at the Donald Dodge Auditorium at the St. Clair County Administration Building, 200 Grand River Ave Port Huron, to talk about the future of the park in Goodells.

This is a Master plan meeting; this is where the park lays the groundwork for future programs, buildings and park improvements for the next five years. For example, this is where they draw the Propbusters field on their map.

It is open to the public, if the Propbusters want a say in the future of the park, and a place in the parks future; we need to be there to say it. A good showing shows our commitment to our future in the park.

## Indoor Flying

We are looking into a school gym for indoor flying, but don't have anything firm yet. We were told the price is fifty bucks for the first two hours, then \$25 for each hour after that. There could be other fees. We're thinking 7 to 10 pilots, mutually agreeable night, pay in advance, 3? or 4? hours, share the fair-share the air. A Gym is not that big, so well have to keep the group small. Spectators will be welcome.

Right now we're looking for interest so if you might be interested, give Ed O a call.

**REDLINE**  
RACING

It's getting cold and dark outside, so we're indoors now. We've got our indoor racetrack setup in the exhibition building at the Goodells County Park and our indoor winter racing is under way. Race schedule is November 21<sup>st</sup>, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, February 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and March 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Races start at noon every Sunday with registration starting at 11 am. Any questions call Glenn Lee 985-5539

Keep watching the Forum section of the website for more information.