

The Broken Prop



MAY 2004 EDITION

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

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Mike Grant

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Gary Smedes

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Todd Litke 810-966-4546
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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.

President's Perspective

Hello Again! If you haven't been out to the field in awhile, you'll notice a little bit of a difference; you'll notice that it's springtime and the field is open for flying! It's not locked like previous years... you can drive up to the flight line because of our new driveway.



The driveway was put in April 24th. **GREG FEYERS** donated the gravel and he had his friend, Ben, helping level the driveway with the bulldozer. **BRIAN MCCLAREN** even donated a bunch of grass seed for the spectator area that was covered in dirt from the driveway.

A lot of work has been done on the woods mower to get it up and in working order for this flying season. A lot of time was donated to the club by **KIRK CHURCHILL** to ensure proper operation of our field care equipment including our "Cold Duck". In the years I've been a member of this club, I've never heard the "Cold Duck" run as smooth as it does now.



I'd like to thank everyone who, so far, has put in a lot of time to ready our field for this flying season.

The Field is OPEN for flying! See you at the field!

EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY

- 12th - Propbusters Club meeting - 6 pm
- 22nd - SMAC Tailgate Swap - 10 am at Arnold's Airport in Croswell
- 22nd - River District Eagles - Pylon - 9 am *

JUNE

- 5th - River District Eagles - Combat - 9 am *
- 9th - Propbusters Club meeting - 6 pm
- 12th - River District Eagles - Fun Fly - 9 am *
- 19th - **Propbusters Fun Fly** 10:00 am
- 20th - River District Eagles - Pylon - 9 am *
- 20th - Port Huron Hobbyfest - 10 am at Pine Grove Park in Port Huron

JULY

- 3rd - River District Eagles - Combat - 9 am *
- 10th - River District Eagles - Gathering of the Eagles - 9 am *
- 14th - Propbusters Club meeting - 6 pm
- 17th - River District Eagles - Fun Fly - 9 am *
- 24th - River District Eagles - Pylon - 9 am *
- 30th - Propbusters demo for Algonac School District - 11 am to 3 pm our field (Fri)
- 31st and August 1st - RCCD - 2nd Annual Precision Aerobatics Pattern Contest

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 *
- 22th - River District Eagles - Combat - 9 am *
- 28th - SMAC - Toys for Tots - 10 am Croswell
- 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 *

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.)

April Meeting

Meeting started at 6:07 PM with 13 members present. The field status was discussed.

Doug/Gary made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Doug/Keith made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Both motions passed.

The passing way of Ted Werner was brought to the club. He was one of our lifetime members.

We discussed the donation requests for the Fun Fly. Mike Grant will donate a couple kits and solid surface cutting boards to be used for the raffles. Fuel prize for the pilots with the most flying was suggested.

We will ask the club members to bring a case of pop for the concession stand. Also if anyone has a cooler, please bring it with ice. Mark and Doug will bring a case of water. We need to see if Sam's will again give food donations. The sound system is lined up for us. Redline Racing will be using the battery powered one.

Port Huron Hobbyfest will be in Pine Grove Park the day after our fun fly. Todd and Ron are dedicating the day there. We're planning on having some static displays and maybe flying some electrics. Maynard has also said he may bring a static display.

April 24th will be our rescheduled field workday for setting up the shed. Brian was volunteered to roll the field this weekend by Doug.

We now have a Forum available to members for use from our website. A Redline Racing member suggested we monitor its usage. There currently aren't any restrictions to joining the forum list. A valid email address is all that's required. This may change.

The status of the Eagles search for a new field was brought up. They have 2 fields they are pursuing, but neither would be ready for immediate flying.

We added a new member during the meeting. Maynard LaParl has just joined. He told us the story of having his plan crash while he was cooking hotdogs.

The head of the 4H fair is now aware of spectators who violated our field during last year's 4H Fair.

Redline Racing will be having a cleanup Sunday of their indoor track. They will now be moving back outdoors.

Electrical drop at the field was revisited. Kirk provided that it would cost \$800 to \$1,000 to bring electricity to the field because of wire size requirements.

Mike Grant is our new Safety Officer and Gary Smedes was volunteered for the position of Field Marshall.

Gary/Sheila made a motion to end the meeting at 7:08 and move to the field to further discuss electrical box placement and where wiring would need to be run.

Financial Report

Beginning Balance **\$1,349.54**

Income Dues \$ 375.00
(Includes \$90.00 brought by Sec.)
Donation-Ed London \$ 50.00

Total Income **\$ 425.00**

Expenses

Postage/Newsletter \$ 11.47
Kirk/Tractor \$ 223.69
Total Expenses **\$ 235.16**

Ending Balance

Checking \$ 1,539.38
Cash on Hand \$ 0.00
Grand Total \$1,539.38

Membership

Junior 5
Senior 11
Lifetime 3
Regular 26
Total 45

New Members

Maynard LaParl
Mike Roberge
Doug Brown
Harry (Bud) Joachim
Eugene (Gene) Lane

Port Huron Treetoppers AMA #1237

The club is looking for new members. They fly out of Birchville on Norman Road. It's only \$10 to join. This covers the 1st year dues and initiation fee.

Contact: Glen Kolar
810-385-3588 or WA8HEH@tir.com.

Redline Racing

The snows gone, so we're moving back outdoors. It's time to get out your gas-powered buggy or truck and meet us at the track.

We will be starting our outdoor racing Sunday 16th, weather permitting. Registration starts at 11 am with races beginning at 12 pm. Racing will be EVERY Sunday there after.

Practices start at 4:30 pm Wednesday and are free.

If you sign up for Redline Racing at the races, race fees are waived for that day.

Emergency Safety Alert from AMA Lithium Battery Fires

Lithium batteries are becoming very popular for powering the control and power systems in our models. This is true because of their very high energy density (amp-hrs/wt. ratio) compared to NiCads or other batteries. With high energy comes increased risk in their use. The, principal, risk is FIRE which can result from improper charging, crash damage, or shorting the batteries. All vendors of these batteries warn their customers of this danger and recommend extreme caution in their use. In spite of this **many** fires have occurred as a result of the use of Lithium Polymer batteries, resulting in loss of models, automobiles, and other property. Homes and garages and workshops have also burned. A lithium battery fire is **very hot** (several thousand degrees) and is an excellent initiator for ancillary (resulting) fires. Fire occurs due to contact between Lithium and oxygen in the air. **It does not need any other source of ignition, or fuel to start**, and burns almost explosively.

These batteries must be used in a manner that precludes ancillary fire. The following is recommended:

1. **Store, and charge, in a fireproof container**; never in your model.
2. Charge in a protected area devoid of combustibles. Always stand watch over the charging process. **Never leave the charging process unattended.**
3. In the event of damage from crashes, etc, carefully remove to a safe place for at least a half hour to observe. Physically damaged cells could erupt into flame, and, after sufficient time to ensure safety, should be discarded in accordance with the instructions which came with the batteries. **Never attempt to charge a cell with physical damage**, regardless of how slight.
4. Always use chargers designed for the **specific** purpose, preferably having a fixed setting for your particular pack. Many fires occur in using selectable/adjustable chargers improperly set. Never attempt to charge Lithium cells with a charger which is not, specifically, designed for charging Lithium cells. **Never use chargers designed for Nickel Cadmium batteries.**
5. Use charging systems that monitor and control the charge state of each cell in the pack. Unbalanced cells can lead to disaster if it permits overcharge of a single cell in the pack. If the batteries show **any sign of swelling**, discontinue charging, and **remove them to a safe place outside** as they could erupt into flames.
6. Most important: **NEVER PLUG IN A BATTERY AND LEAVE IT TO CHARGE UNATTENDED OVERNIGHT.** Serious fires have resulted from this practice.
7. Do not attempt to make your own battery packs from individual cells.

These batteries CANNOT be handled and charged casually such as has been the practice for years with other types of batteries. The consequence of this practice can be very serious resulting in major property damage and/ or personal harm.

Safety Committee

Academy of Model Aeronautics

5161 E Memorial Drive Muncie, IN 47302

FIASCO Flyer Kits
AVAILABLE NOW AT AN INTRODUCTORY PRICE



The FIASCO is a performance oriented .40-size Sport Model. The airplane is responsive and tracks as if it were on rails. It is highly aerobatic with a fast roll rate, a very high spin rate and will even hold a knife edge. It is stable throughout its speed range, from low and slow to all out. Its high, wide stance landing gear provides excellent ground handling on both grass and hard surfaces. For those who do not want to push the edge of the envelope, reduce the rates, throttle back and the FIASCO transforms into an excellent advanced trainer.

The FIASCO is available in both a Sport version (4 channels) and a Flap version (6 channel radio recommended). The Flap version adds another dimension to this model. The flaps can be extended at any speed with no tendency to balloon and can be extended to 90 degrees to act as speed brakes.

The FIASCO is of all wood construction and available in both a kit and Custom ARF formats. The Custom ARF format allows you to pick the colors of the model along with the wheel package (Grass or Hard Surface). Engine choices are the Thunder Tiger Pro .46 or the Super Tigre G45. **The FIASCO is an all around FUN airplane to fly.**

Fiasco Sport Custom ARF.....\$189.	Fiasco Sport Kit.....\$ 89.*
Fiasco Flap Custom ARF.....\$199.	Fiasco Flap Kit.....\$ 99.*
Fiasco Sport Custom ARF w/Engine....\$289.	Shipping for Custom ARF's...\$30. Kits...\$10.
Fiasco Flap Custom ARF w/Engine....\$299.	*Kits will be available in mid May

Introductory prices valid thru August 31, 2004

Special Club Plane Drawing

For each FIASCO sold during this introductory period, the purchaser's name will be entered into a drawing to be held September 1, 2004. The club, to which the winner of this drawing is a member, will receive absolutely free, one FIASCO Sport Custom ARF with engine for use as a club plane.

For more information contact Jim Brady at AeroCrafts (505) 443-1890 or email; jim19@tularosa.net.

AeroCrafts 1201 Lovers Lane Alamogordo, NM 88310

Grants Custom Aircraft Kits

Wing	Span	Scale	Wing Area	Wt	Len	Engines	Control Surfaces
PBY 5-1 Catalina							
106"	1/12	1270 Sq In	23 lbs	64 "	.60 2-Cycle	3 surfaces & Motor Servo, Motor Trim	Servo, Landing Gear Valve Servo, Float Valve Servo
					.90 4-Cycle		
Grumman G-44 Widgeon							
80"	1/5	15 Sq Ft	24 lbs	60"	.60 2-Cycle	3 Control Surfaces & Motor Servo, Motor	Servo, Landing Gear Valve Servo, Float Valve Servo
					.90 4-Cycle		
Republic Seabee							
70"	60	630 Sq In	8 lbs	48"	.40 2-Cycle	4 Control Surfaces	

Kit construction will entail some grinding and filing of some of the joints and finish assembly

For more information, contact Mike at (810) 329-6406

More kits becoming available soon.

Field Work

Have you seen our field? If not, why not? On Saturday April 17th, the day we originally scheduled for our work day, some of the die hard members braved the threat of rain to put up our new shed.



New Drive Going In

Our rescheduled work day was Saturday, April 24th. The day started with Greg Feyers bringing the gravel.



His friend, Ben, donated his time to level out the driveway with the bulldozer.



Many helped put the canopy back up with the new tie-downs Keith brought.



Mike Grant brought one of the (silver) kits to be donated at our fun fly. He even brought the original display model to show us.



Todd displayed his new dew. I believe I have more hair than Todd now.



Kirk brought his shop so he could weld the roller to the back of the mower deck on the duck. This way we can cut and roll the field at the same time.



After the workday some of the guys got some flights in.



Portable Tether

by Maynard LaParl



There may be times when it may not be practical to stick a probe into the ground to act as a tether to hold your plane from attacking you while you are starting or working around your plane while it is running.



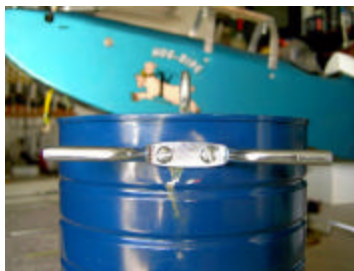
I came up with an idea which works great. I found a 3lb. coffee can in my garage.



Went to the local hardware store a purchased a small bag of read-mix cement, a breeching snap, a handle and a 3/8 inch eye bolt.

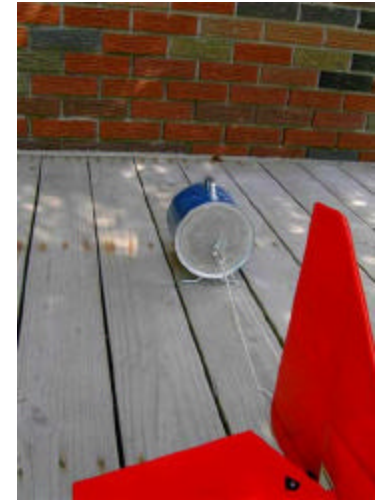


I then proceeded to mix the cement and poured it in the coffee can and inserted the eye bolt with a washer and nut screwed on the end. I let it stand a couple of days to dry.



Then I attached the breeching snap to my tether and tied the other end directly to the eye bolt. The whole thing weighs 14lbs.

I then attached my Sid Kadet and my Ultimate biplane to it and started both engines. {I did not take any pictures of that.} It did not budge.



Now, I can take my planes to any part of the flight line without trying to pound a screw driver into clay or any hard ground.

