

The Broken Prop



NOVEMBER 2005 EDITION

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

Officers for 2005:

President

Gary Smedes
586-727-4507

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:

Ray Dart

Instructors:

Todd Litke 810-824-0385
Ed London 810-922-0464
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

President's Perspective

At the last meeting we discussed the subject of over flying the west fence (the crater) and what possible solutions could be implemented. There were suggestions from doing nothing to throwing members out of the club, otherwise known as "Zero Tolerance". I personally felt that something had to be done, but I wasn't sure what. Throwing members out of the club seemed a little extreme but if that's what it takes then I have no choice.

Fortunately, we were able to find a middle of the road solution. Someone at the meeting suggested using the grievance process that is already set up in the Bylaws. This was right up my alley. The 'do nothing' and 'zero tolerance' approach were too extreme, where this is right in the middle where I like to be. The problem with all the other suggestions was they didn't give the violator a chance to change or correct their flying habits. I have a strong feeling that most of the incidences were not done on purpose but by accident. If that is the case, then the pilots don't even know they are doing it. This process will hopefully help with that problem and help identify the offenders so that the club can work with them to correct it.

So if someone tells you that your flying over the fence, don't take offence to it - say "Thanks" or OK" and correct your flight pattern. Just remember if you don't, that verbal warning is the first step to the grievance process, which does end up in expulsion.

It is understood by everyone that this problem will continue due to anything from bad depth perception to just bad judgment. But if we work together, we can at least keep it to a bare minimum if not stop it completely. All it takes is a small change in your flying habits.

And just for clarification, the "fence line" is not the physical fence itself, rather a line that runs up the fence line **all the way** up to Lapeer Rd. So those of you who like to make a wide approach, past the fence, but not physically over it, need to make an adjustment in your flight path. Also, grievance forms are available off the club website for download and must be signed by a witness. Again, no one is looking to throw anyone out of the club, rather just to solve an ongoing problem.

Hope to see you at the next meeting for Officer Nominations. Make sure you first ask the person you're going to nominate if they're interested. This will make voting possible in December, as our bylaws require.

EVENTS CALENDAR

November

9th - **Propbusters** Club Meeting – 6 pm – Goodells
(Nominations for 2006 club officers)
13th - Northville Swap
18th - Birchwood Sports dome – electrics – 9 pm

December

14th - **Propbusters** Club Meeting – 6 pm – Goodells
(Voting for 2006 club officers)
31st - **Deadline for 2006 dues Renewal**

January 2006

1st - **Port City RC'ers** - New Year's Day Chili Pig
Down and Fun Fly – Muskegon, MI –
www.portcityrc.com
22nd - **RCCD** – Swap Meet
29th - **Propbusters** Swap Meet & Pancake Breakfast

February 2006

15th - **Skymasters Swap Meet** – Larson Middle
School starting at 7:30 pm (Setup at 5 pm)

Financial Report

Beginning Balance **\$2,147.42**

Income

Dues	\$ 175.00
Donation	\$ 5.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 180.00</u>

Expenses

Ed L. – tractor/gas	\$ 241.65
Keith G. – postage	\$ 15.17
Mike G. – shed	\$ 101.93
Carl's Septic	\$ 25.00
Pine River - hats	\$ 152.64
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 536.39</u>

Ending Balance

Checking	\$ 1,791.03
Grand Total	<u>\$1,791.03</u>

2005 Membership

Junior	7
Senior	17
Lifetime	2
Regular	38
Total	64

2006 Membership New Members

Junior	1	Robert Hoffman
Senior	6	
Lifetime	2	
Regular	10	
Total	19	

2006 Membership

It's time to **renew your membership**. Dues are due from September 1st to December 31 for 2006. If you renew now, you can avoid the **\$10 late fee** for all those members who renew after December 31st.

So far 30% of the members have renewed.

October Meeting

The Meeting started at 6:05 pm on October 12th at the community center building with 11 members and 1 guest present. Doug/Mike made a motion to accept the secretary's report with the amendment that Ed L will purchase all the gas so all receipts will come from him. Doug/Ron made a motion to pay bills. Doug/Jack DeL. voted to accept the treasurer's report as read by Ed. All motions passed.

Mike Grant gave the report about the completed shed with discussion following on ways to lock the shed. We will also see about storing the tractors in the barn at the park. **Tom Nichols** talked about ways to winterize the reel mowers. He's already put antifreeze in the duck. The duck was dripping gas out of the sediment bowl at the bottom of the tank. **He** is going to install a new gasket. The woods was out of oil the last time Ed L. went to start it. Anyone using the Woods, please verify the oil level.

Over-Fly incident. We discussed the success of the past flight line change. Doug/Jack made a motion to move the flight line permanently. Motion failed after much discussion.

Doug/Mike made a motion to expel any member who purposely over-flies the fence. Motion failed with a vote of 3 to 8. Gary read the grievance procedure from our bylaws. We discussed the lack of a Grievance Form. Jack/Doug made a motion to have the secretary make a Grievance Form and make it available to the club via the website and newsletter.

Flight Line. Gary/Doug made a motion to extend the fence line to Lapeer road. There will be no flying north of the pit. Motion passed. It was also reminded about the "No flying over the fields when farmers are working their fields" policy.

We will be having the swap here again with a tentative date of Sunday, January 22, 2006. Ed will verify dates of other clubs' swaps. Club officers will nail down a definite date before the next meeting.

A motion tabled earlier this year was brought back up. Ed/Ron made a motion to make a standard dues rate for regular and senior members. Motion failed.

Winterizing the port-a-john. Sheila will contact Carl's Septic about what we should be doing. The toilet has been recently cleaned.

We had a guest today named John Diver.

November 4th is the first Dome flying date. Cost is \$15. More dates will be based on the number of pilots at the 2 events scheduled. They need at least 10 pilots to continue.

Sheila/Ron voted to close the meeting at 7:39 pm.

For Sale

Aspire Hanger 9, 2 Meter electric sail plane. Excellent condition – ready to fly. Hitec Focus 3 radio (3 channel), batter, charger. \$200.00
Call Ed (810) 367-6367

Keller Lark OS 108 2 stroke, 537 servos
1100 mah Battery pack, switch harness \$400
Edge 540 – Hangar 9 ARF ¼ scale new \$200
Hobby Star 60 with Futaba Radio and
MDS 68 Pro engine – new build \$275
JR Quatro 4 channel NIB \$125
MDS 58 Pro New \$60
SeaMaster 40 size w/OS 61, Futabo
Radio. Ready to fly \$225
Various transmitters
Extra 300 Great Planes 40 size
Brettlng kit \$100
Ray Dart 326-0929

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

Contact: Mike Grant at (810) 329-6406

Space Available

If anyone has something to sell, classified ads in the Broken Prop are free. Send information by Email or US Postal to the club secretary.

Winter Electrics Indoor Flying

Indoor flying is going to be starting soon at the Birchwood Sports Dome. The first two dates are Nov 4th and 18th. Further dates will be posted on the Dome's website and in the newsletter when available. For more info contact Steve Drake at the Birchwood Sports Dome (810) 385-3663

www.BWSportsDome.com

Fun & Friendship First

For those of you that were not at the last meeting we will be implementing the grievance procedures outlined in the Club Bylaws for those that persist in flying over the 'No fly zone', or the west fence line. If you happen to be at the field when someone flies over the fence please let them know that they did so. However, I am asking you all to be courteous about it and do it in a civilized manner. We're all friends here and this is supposed to be a fun hobby.

Those of you that are being told should not take this as a threat or some kind of warning, but as one member helping another to hone their judgment skills. Trust me, it's much easier to judge the distance when you're not the pilot. Even if you don't think that you went over the fence, in my opinion, you're too close. Change your flight path. If you keep flying over the fence, the person that saw you fly over can now start the process.

The first section in our bylaws suggests that most grievances can be handled informally by the executive board, and most will still be handled in that way, whenever possible. It is important to remember that the privilege of using our field comes with some restrictions that we must adhere to, and are not open to interpretation. If any member refuses to follow those guidelines, it reflects poorly on the rest of the club members. As a club, we should not let any one person ruin a good thing for the rest of the members.

Grievance forms are available for download off the web site and should be filled out completely, along with a witness's signature, then handed off to one of the officers. We will take it from there. Here is the Grievance procedure for quick reference:

Article IV – Grievance Procedure (Flight and Ground Safety Rules)

Section I.

The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to enforce existing safety rules by providing a progressive disciplinary system when needed. Although most complaints can be resolved informally, if a complaint is serious or cannot be resolved informally, the matter should be referred to the Safety Officer for its consideration by means of a Grievance Form to be filled out and turned in to the President. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.

Section II.

The Safety Officer shall use their judgment in carrying out action on the following:

Continued on next page

Birchwood Dome Flying



There were 6 Pilots trying their skills flying their electrics up at the golf dome this past Friday. The new layout added some new challenges, and some that we've seen before...by the same person.



If we want to keep flying, we need to get the word out more. We will be flying again on **Nov 18th** started at 9 pm and running until midnight. Cost is only \$15. Spectators can come and check out the fun for free.



Grievance Procedure Continued

- A. A Grievance Form will be filled out and turned in to the President. At least one witness is required.
- B. First Violation
 - i. Viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered.
 - ii. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
 - iii. A verbal reprimand will be given to the accused by the Safety Officer, and this will be recorded in the club files.
- C. Second Violation
 - i. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
 - ii. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the President.
 - iii. If the President so decides, the flying privileges of the accused will be suspended for 30 days. Written notice of this shall be issued and a copy published in the club newsletter.
- D. Third Violation
 - i. The President will notify the accused in writing and the club members via club newsletter that the club will vote on the expulsion of the accused at the next meeting.
 - ii. Said expulsion will last for one-year minimum. (Longer if deemed necessary by the club members).
 - iii. A member may be expelled from the club only upon a 2/3 majority vote of the members present at the meeting.
 - iv. Voting will be by secret ballot at a regularly scheduled meeting.
 - v. The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.
- E. The three actions will not be enforced unless they are accumulated within a two-year period of time.
- F. Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliation action against the person filing said Grievance, will be subject to immediate expulsion from the club. This is to include threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the members of the club.

Propbusters Club Grievance Form:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Nature of Violation: _____

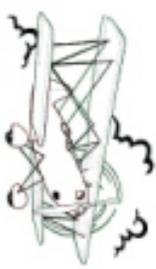
Member Signature: _____

Witness: _____

Additional Witnesses (not required): _____



**ST. CLAIR COUNTY PROPBUSTERS
R/C MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB PRESENTS:
OUR 7TH ANNUAL**



R/C SWAP MEET

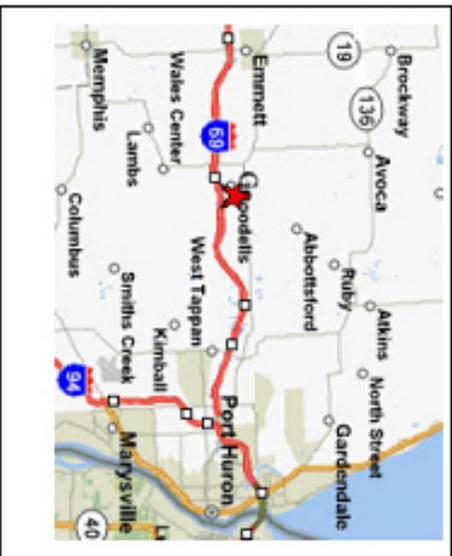
Open to
The Public
SUNDAY - JANUARY 29, 2006 8:00 am to
1:00 pm

FREE TABLE SPACE - \$3.00 ADMISSION

If you have something to sell that is R/C related,
Call Sheila O. at (810) 367-6367 to reserve a table today.
Be sure to arrive a ½ hour early to set up your table.

Pancake Breakfast at 8:00

Come early for the Pancake,
Sausage, and Egg Breakfast!



R/C MODEL SUPPLIES OF ALL TYPES - NEW & USED

PROPBUSTERS SWAP MEET IS LOCATED
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING AT
GOODELLS COUNTY PARK ON COUNTY PARK DRIVE.

WWW.SCCPROPBUSTERS.COM