

Fred Meyer  
834 Shennecossett Road  
Groton, CT 06340  
News Letter Editor 860-445-7694  
e-mail: fmeyerrc@gmail.com



Meeting date: Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30PM.  
The Meeting location is the new Salem Library  
Located on Rt 85 about one mile north of the Salem  
Four Corners.

Visit RC Propbusters online at:  
<http://www.rcpropbusters.com>

## January 2015 NEWSLETTER

***SAME REQUEST PEOPLE. I AM STILL LOOKING FOR INPUTS FOR THE NEWSLETTER. BUILDING TIPS, GREAT MODELS OR COMPONENTS YOU MIGHT RECOMMEND, AND DON'T FORGET WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT FORUM SET UP ON OUR WEBSITE SO PLEASE USE IT.***

### TIP OF THE MONTH

#### A Handy Profile Airplane Stand

Profile models can be awkward to work on after they are assembled, and most work stands seem to be made for airplanes with full rounded fuselages. While assembling a profile model, this author discovered that a Black and Decker Workmate stand would make a perfect profile stand. He could easily hold the plane level; either upright or upside-down, securely by opening the width to slightly more than the fuselage thickness. Holding the model vertically was merely a matter of inserting the fuselage up to the wing and gently clamping it in place. The Workmate stand makes a great extra set of "hands" while installing hinges, the motor, radios or covering your profile model.

*Fred Centrella, Prospect, CT*



### RC Propbusters Meeting 01/20/2015 Agenda

1. Call To Order.
2. Reading of Minutes of last Meeting.
3. Financial Report.
4. Committees Reports.
  - a. Upcoming Events
    - i. Improved Web Site
      1. Pay Pal Progress
      2. Comments
5. Old Business
  - a. Search for a field to purchase
6. New Business
  - a. Any new business from the floor?
  - b. Distribution of new CLUB fliers.
7. Event planning
  - a. NEPRO May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 & Sept 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> 2015
    - i. Dennis Duplice - CD
  - b. AEROTOW May 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup> 2015
    - i. Steve Pasierb - CD
  - c. MEMORIAL EVENT June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 2015
    - i. Fred Meyer - CD
  - d. Helicopter Event July 18<sup>th</sup> with 19<sup>th</sup> as rain date.
    - i. Walter Johnson - CD
8. We need to schedule a Neighborhood Fun Fly this year
  - a. Suggest Aug 15<sup>th</sup> with 16<sup>th</sup> as a rain date.
9. Club Fun Fly & Pot Luck
  - a. Labor Day is Sept 7<sup>th</sup> 2015.
10. Good and Welfare
  - a. Ideas for school or group presentation to local organizations.
  - b. Ideas for demonstrating how to do various radio installations, covering, & construction techniques.
11. New Members
12. Model of the Month
13. Motion to Adjourn

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEB SITE. [WWW.RCPROPBUSTERS.COM](http://WWW.RCPROPBUSTERS.COM)**

## INSTRUCTORS

TOM VERNON - CHIEF PILOT	860-859-1548	BOB BOUDREAU - FIXED WING	860-443-8421
JOE COMEROSKI -HELI	860-848-3184	RON CZIKOWSKY - FIXED WING	860-388-2953
DENNIS DUPLICE-Fixed Wing	860-376-6230	BRIAN JOLLICOEUR-FIXED WING	860-464-9315
RICH IPPOLITO -BOTH	860-443-0085	FRED MEYER - FIXED WING	860-445-7694
ROBERT LARSON - BOTH	860-526-2267	MARK O'CONNELL - BOTH	860-367-9067
BERNIE LISKOV - FIXED WING	860-460-7095	LEN BUFFINGTON - *GLIDERS	860-395-8406
KYLE SWAIDNER - ** Gliders	860-405-5304	RICHARD CROOKS - FIXED WING	860-446-0050

\*Len Buffington is a Glider and Aero-Tow expert that can also help with your fixed wing flying.

\*\*Kyle Swaidner flies everything, but he is offering to introduce everyone interested in side arm & discus launched GLIDERS. Give him a call if interested.

IF YOU ARE A STUDENT HOOK UP WITH ONE OF THESE MEN AND GET TRAINED.

ANY CLUB PILOT CAN TRAIN YOU, BUT AN INSTRUCTOR MUST SIGN YOU OFF.

## MODELS OF THE MONTH

None

As you all know, I have been requesting inputs from all club members; the reason for this request is to share your knowledge, ideas, and recommendations with your fellow club members.

I am certain all of you have experienced tail wheel issues with your larger aircraft from time to time. I for one have a major problem with the tail wheel on my 1/4 scale Pawnee because I used a larger older engine (very reliable, powerful and runs great) that required me to place the batteries in the tail of the aircraft. This resulted in a double leaf aluminum tail wheel assembly to flatten out after 1 or 2 landings.

I for one will be anxiously waiting for the results of the following article from Len Buffinton and I will use whatever techniques he has devised for a strong reliable tail wheel that will withstand the abuse of multiple landings...so thanks Len for the first input to the newsletter on a subject that should be very useful for everyone flying giant scale aircraft.

*Fred Meyer Newsletter Editor*

# Making a fiberglass tail wheel spring

*Len Buffinton*

Being a tow pilot at busy aero-towing events has taught me how critical tail wheel steering can be when dealing with any powered aircraft. Since most of the tow planes we use are large-scale ARF type models, they're more than likely coming from overseas and contain cheap crappy metal parts. The tail-wheel leaf springs will be no exception. Even with the highest quality ARF's on market or the most expensive, the metal will usually not withstand the constant take off and landings many of us will put the model through.

During the course of the summer flying season, the tail-wheel spring on my Aeroworks Carbon Cub has slowly straightened out and ceased to look like a spring anymore. The Carbon fiber units available are fine for weekend flying, but also will not withstand constant abuse over time. (We've tried them)

Because buying a replacement from Aeroworks is really expensive, hard to get and the same results are certain, I've decided to experiment with making a new spring out of fiberglass and Kevlar.

This month I'll show you how it's done, next month we'll see if it worked.

1) Using the original bracket, I carefully bent it back to the original shape and traced the shape onto a clean grained 2x4.



2) Cut the shape of the bracket on a band saw, you only need to make one cut. Try to be as smooth as possible because this is the shape the part will be.

3) If you need to clean the cut up, do so with a round sanding drum or a belt sander. Be careful though; only knock down the high spots.

4) The wood shape becomes "the mould" which will produce the actual part, so you need to protect it from resin sticking to it. ***The best-kept secret in fiberglass work is duct tape, which really is the best release agent available. Apply duct tape anywhere fiberglass resin can touch.***



5) We want a smooth finish when we're done and really don't want to do a lot of sanding and finishing, plus we need something to smooth out the saw marks in the wood. In this example, I'm using some G-10 I have kicking around the shop. G-10 is a fiberglass sheet material, which is already cured, very smooth and available in many thicknesses and sizes. Depending on how thick it is, depends on the flexibility.

I cut a couple pieces just wider than the 2x4 and a good bit longer. Cover one side of the G-10 with duct tape. This will get clamped into the mold when we're ready to close it up.



6) Fiberglass comes in countless variety and many weights, sizes and configurations. For this project, any type of medium weight 6 – 8 oz cloth will work.

Cutting the cloth with standard scissors can be a problem, so using a rotary cutter and a cutting mat makes this a breeze. They're cheap and readily available, plus useful in all sorts of other applications.

Lay out the cloth on a cutting mat, cut the fiberglass wider than needed and longer than needed by at least 1". Make 5 pieces cutting in the same direction, than make 5 more cutting at a 45 degree angle to the cloth you just made.

Fiberglass gets it strength from crisscrossing the fibers, so we'll be alternating the pieces as we go.

7) In this application, I'll be using some Kevlar as an experiment to see if it adds any benefit to the part. Unfortunately, Kevlar is impossible to cut without special cutters, so using scissors; I gnawed my way through until I made two pieces that would work.

8) Put gloves on and mix your resin. I'm using epoxy resin (West Systems) but any slow set epoxy will work. You can use boat resin, which is typically polyester, but the smell and set time makes it difficult. Lay out a piece of wax paper or plastic on the bench top. Starting with a straight cut piece of cloth first, wet out the fiberglass until its clear, than apply a 45 degree cut piece. Be careful, the angle cut pieces will tend to stretch like a finger trap, so be easy with the brush. I put in the Kevlar next then kept alternating cloth until it was all used up.



9) Place the layup onto the G-10 then sandwich with the other piece, place it in the mould and clamp it all together. I needed to screw one end together to help align it all up.

10) Wipe up the extra squeezed out resin and set the whole mess aside for a day or two.

(Cleaning up with rubbing or denatured alcohol works great with epoxy resins.)

After the resin has set up, I placed it on a heater (not open flame) to help with the cure.

**Next month we'll see how it all worked out!!**

# Minutes of the December 16, 2014 RC Propbusters Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM with absolute record of 48 members present.

## **Board Members introduced to the membership**

### **Model of the month**

- None

### **New Members**

- None.

**Minutes** of the November meeting read and accepted.

**Treasury report** for September/November 2014 was read by Ron Czikowsky:

- Beginning balance was \$19321.71
- Expenses were : 534.59
- Income was : 1773.10
- Ending balance as of 12/16/14 was \$20559.92

Treasury report accepted.

- Ron and Denis gave an update about depositing the club funds into interest bearing investment and Debit card linked to our checking account.

### **Committee reports:**

- Weather station: project has been withdrawn.
- Peter: will look into the possibility to set up an online membership form submission. We need to have proof of AMA membership.

### **Old Business:**

- Still searching for a field.
- Tom, changes in bylaws: Changes to monthly meeting time (7:30) – Has been accepted.
- Indoor flying at COMO – weekly possibility after Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> on Friday nights. 7pm – 9:30pm
- Bernie did show the “Public Welcome” sign which will be placed under the sign at the field.
- Fred and the Public relations committee. Propose a ½ page add in a 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary publication of Troup 75 boy-scout publication. Also proposed to have a Neighborhood Fun-Fly event.

### **New Business:**

- Installation of officers. Peter Sylvester as secretary did cast the vote for the officers to be accepted.

### **Events**

- January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year’s First Flight.
- Dennis, Nepro: May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19-20<sup>th</sup> of Sept.
- Aero-tow, Lenny: May 14-17<sup>th</sup>
- Memorial event: Jun 13-14<sup>th</sup>. Come fly whatever you want. Fred asked for sponsorship and raffle donations.
- July 18<sup>th</sup> – Heli Fly-in Event
- Neighborhood Fun-fly Aug 15<sup>th</sup>. Dennis: Looking for somebody to head up this event.
- Labor day pot-luck fun fly Sept 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Motion made to accept these events.

### **Good and Welfare :**

- Ron did service and put away the lawnmower.
- We satisfy the requirements for a “AMA Gold leadership Club”. Fred did submit an application.
- Lenny was elected on the Horizon Team.
- Plan to print 250 to 500 club brochures approved.

### **Club Officer attendance:**

President       Vice President       Treasurer       Secretary

Adjourned at 8:30

*Respectively submitted by Peter Sylvester.*