



# PROP WASH

January 2017

## Last Meeting

Jan. 18, 2017

Membership: ~25  
In Attendance: 9  
Guests: 3

## Topics

Applications / Dues  
GeoTex Runway  
T-Shirts  
Treasurer position  
Web page & Facebook  
Swap Meet  
Bylaws

## Upcoming Events

*Firelands Float Flyers*  
**Winter Indoor Flying**  
Jan. thru March  
(every Saturday)

*Eagle Squadron*  
**Indoor Flying**  
Jan. thru March  
(every Sunday)

*Wayne Country RC*  
**Multi Club Swap Meet**  
Feb. 18

*Lima Area RK Society*  
**10th Swap Shop**  
Feb. 26

## Next Meeting

Wednesday  
Mar. 15, 2017  
7:00 PM

@Marc's

At the last club meeting, we gained **new members**, Jim Kingsley and Jim Shickley!

**2017 dues** are being accepted. If you have not yet paid, and can not attend the next meeting, you may request an application and mail it in with payment. We ask that all **members submit application/payment by March 31**, so that we have a better estimate of available resources this spring, and can put plans in place to have the field ready for use ASAP.

Membership descriptions and dues were slightly tweaked for clarification. "Family member" only applies to a spouse, and the Junior membership age was increased to 18, which correlates with the AMA's definition.

Norm Kummeren asked about potentially installing a **Geotextile runway**. Geotextile is a generic name for fabric commonly used as a base layer to stabilize ground surfaces for various functions. Think of it like a heavy, woven, permeable tarp. It is also considered by many to be a very good surface for model airplane runways, and is becoming popular in this application. Price varies substantially based on type, weight, and density. Norm has identified some particular offerings used by other clubs, and the best price is currently at \$275 per 17.5' x 258' roll (+\$180 shipping from PA). Initially, we're considering two rolls, to yield a 34' wide runway, totaling \$730 (+ tax). The greatest benefit would be to the smaller scale planes, but not exclusively. Large scale prop strikes are known to slice through it, but it can be repaired via patching.

Such an improved runway would not only expand the range of planes that can be flown at the field, but also reduce the grass mowing workload, and entice new members to join, which in turn assists with the payback.

Jim Kingsley's daughter-in-law recently opened a printing shop in Avon, called "Big Frog". He will get a price estimate for 50 new **T-Shirts**, since our inventory of shirts is depleted.

Following the meeting, Jim Shickley offered to fill the **Treasurer position**, providing another discrete officer to assist with operations. A vote of approval will be taken at the next club meeting.

Jim has also donated webspace and is developing a **website** for the club.

A **Facebook** page had previously been created by Bill, and he will monitor it for member requests. Look for it as "**LZ RC Club**".

Participation and attendance at our 3rd annual **swap meet** didn't match that of previous years, but the club did make a little money. And it was nice to meet new friends, and catch up with others.

Though it was agreed not to have a February club meeting, the officers met on 2/7 to discuss **open issues**. In addition to the geotex runway, we are also shopping sheds and mowers. Bill is looking into a 10' x 14' shed (pre-built & delivered) that may be available for approx. \$1,500. And the current plan is to procure a used mower to get us through our first year. If the fabric runway can be installed, a relatively modest mower may be adequate for now. There is also some concern regarding the results of last year's preparation and seeding, and just what will be required when we resume working on it this spring.

The **bylaws** are being updated to reflect the current status of the club, and will be available for review at the next club meeting. One notable addition is a requirement for all members to demonstrate basic flight competency to a club (safety) officer. Given the additional responsibility of flying so close to a busy highway, this new stipulation was justified. In the absence of a dedicated Safety Officer, any club officer may serve as witness.

Jim Shickley is also working on our new **membership cards** and **parking passes**, and expects to have them available at the March meeting.

In this issue, I've included a **Tech Tip** article that I hope some of you find informative. If you ever read anything in these pages that you believe is incorrect, please let me know. Accurate information is important, and all statements are to the best of my knowledge. The last thing I want to do here is mislead anyone.

I hope to see you at our next meeting: Wednesday, **March 15**, 7:00 PM at Marc's. Since seating is limited, you may want to bring a chair. Until then...

Stay warm!

Jeff Williams  
Secretary, LZRC

Special thanks to...  
**Krueger Insurance Agency**

11418 Bellamy Rd.  
Berlin Heights, OH 44814  
419-588-2335  
agency@mail@kruegerins.com

## Upcoming Events

### Winter Indoor Flying *Firelands Float Flyers*

January 7th ~ March 25th  
(Every Saturday)

Flying begins 9:00 AM, lasts until 12:00 PM,  
or longer if church does not have other events scheduled.

New London First Baptist Church Gymnasium  
432 Park Ave (SR 60)  
(Across the street from New London Schools)  
New London, OH 44851

We ask for a donation of \$5.00 per Saturday  
to cover gym use.

Micro-helicopters & park flyer aircraft welcome.

**Helicopters larger than 180-class not permitted.**

Please contact Bob James (419-929-6400)  
or Mike Sommers (419-706-6873)

### Multi Club Swap Meet/Auction *Wayne County RC Club*

February 18th  
10am - 2pm

4599 Burbank Rd.  
Wooster, OH

Ample parking, Easy access,  
Food & Drinks available

Admission: \$5  
(Spouse, Kids under 12: FREE)

Gerald Brown, CD  
fbandgb@aol.com

### Indoor Flying *Eagle Squadron*

January ~ March  
(Every Sunday)

6:00 - 9:00 PM

St. Joseph Convocation Center  
333 Thoman St. (SR 61)  
Crestline, OH

Admission: \$5

Must be an AMA member  
Only small aircraft  
No Free Flight aircraft  
Spectators welcome

### 10th Swap Shop *Lima Area RadioKontrol Society*

February 26th  
9am

Wapakoneta High School  
1 Redskin Trail  
Wapakoneta, OH

Admission: \$3  
(Kids under 12: FREE)

Concession stand on site

<http://larksclub.homestead.com>

Rodney Metz, CD  
dts@bright.net

## Upcoming Events

### 28th Annual Swap Shop *Ravenna Thunderbirds RC Club Inc.*

**March 5th**  
**10am - 1pm**

Maplewood Career Center  
7075 SR 88  
Ravenna, OH

3 Door Prizes, Raffles, Refreshments

Admission: \$4  
(Spouse, Children: FREE)

[reventhunderbirds.com](http://reventhunderbirds.com)

Daniel Porcase, CD  
[dannyspeed@aol.com](mailto:dannyspeed@aol.com)

### 9th Annual Swap Meet *Eagle Squadron*

**March 11th**  
**9am - 1pm**

Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ  
Shelby, OH

50/50 Raffle  
Food & Drink available

Admission: \$5

[eaglesquadronrc.com](http://eaglesquadronrc.com)

Norman Elliot, CD  
[dancelae136@aol.com](mailto:dancelae136@aol.com)

### 47th Annual Model Show & Swap Shop

*Westerville Model Aero Assn*

**March 18th**  
**8:30am - 1pm**

Northland Performing Arts Center  
4411 Tamarack Blvd.  
Columbus, OH

Admission: \$5  
Under 12: \$3  
Under 6: FREE

[wmaa-wags.org](http://wmaa-wags.org)

David Dumond, CD  
[david.dumond@att.net](mailto:david.dumond@att.net)

### NEF (NE Ohio Electric Festival) *Ohio Indoor RC Flyers*

**March 25th**  
**(One day only this year!)**  
**9am - 9pm**

University Of Akron  
Stile Athletics Field House  
Akron, OH

Spectator Admission: \$5  
Pilot Registration: \$25  
Under 12: FREE

Musical airplanes, Combat, Prizes, Raffles...

[ohioelectricfly.org](http://ohioelectricfly.org)

Anthony Husak, CD  
[racer749@gmail.com](mailto:racer749@gmail.com)

*If you plan to attend any events published, I recommend you confirm the details.  
These listings are typically based on the AMA's event calendar at the time of listing, and I can't guarantee accuracy.*

## Tech Tip DC Clamp Meter

If you design your own power systems (motor / ESC / battery / prop combinations), you probably already have a watt meter to measure the power generated by your setups. This helps a builder to determine what component specifications are needed to optimize performance, while minimizing weight and cost. Without this knowledge, you may unknowingly pay more money for a bigger ESC that adds undesired weight. Conversely, you might install an ESC that is too small, which could result in catastrophic failure at the worst time! This information can also help you find the best prop for your application, or adequate battery capacity & output. You get the idea.

Well, a lesser known alternative to a traditional wattmeter is a DC Clamp Meter. The beauty of this instrument is that it can measure current (Amps) by simply clamping its jaws around the outside of a wire, with no physical connection. So, you can use it to measure virtually any device/circuit, without concern for the type of connector it uses. It's also a full-fledged DMM (digital multimeter), allowing you to measure other electrical characteristics (volts, ohms, continuity, etc.) via its standard probes. Its versatility makes it very handy for a DIY kinda guy.

The only disadvantage is that it does not simultaneously display the voltage and calculate the power (Watts) for you. But for sizing components, current is what you are generally most concerned with. And you can still get a good estimate of power by simply multiplying the voltage of your battery pack (or other power supply) with the measured current.

The clamp meter costs about twice as much as a hobbyist's watt meter, but still isn't expensive at \$30-\$40. Just be sure it is rated to measure DC current via the clamp. Many -- especially the cheaper ones -- can only measure AC current this way.

I've been using the Mastech MS2108A for a few years now, and been very happy with it.



## Industry News

### **Hobbico, parent company of Tower Hobbies, in financial distress?**

On Dec. 30, employees were notified that the Employee Stock-Ownership Plan (ESOP) will be modified, and distributions deferred, with no payment date given.

"Hobbico has experienced many difficulties this last year..."

"As a result, important sales, operating expense and productivity goals were not achieved. It is expected that 2017 will also be a challenging year for the business."

- Hobbico President & CEO, Wayne Hemming

[www.news-gazette.com](http://www.news-gazette.com)

## \*\*\* Wanted \*\*\*

### **Airplane kits of all kinds**

R/C, F/F, U/C, doesn't matter.

I'll look at anything you've got, and if I like it, we'll talk price.

No ARF's!

Dan Gaston  
Design@AeroCorpInc.com

Feel free to submit your own content for these pages.  
And if you believe any of the information provided here is incorrect, please let me know.