

# Propwash

Official newsletter of the Propnuts Radio Control Model Airplane Club  
Highlands, Texas

www.propnuts.com

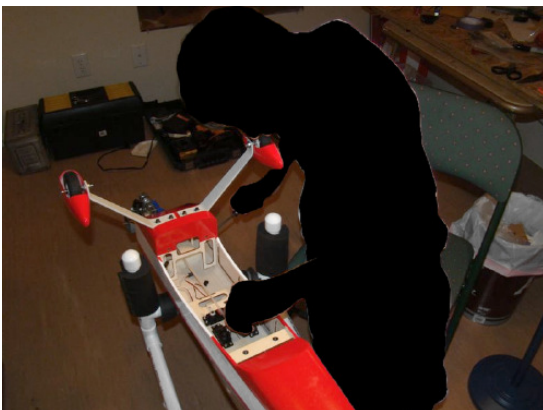
Editor: Paul Shaffer

December 2009

**A**s I set here working on this newsletter, the weatherman has just said rain Monday and Tuesday and then more on Friday. Wow looks like winter is here. Sometimes the bleak and blustery fronts have a break in between them that presents an opportunity to get some quality flying time in, if you are ready. What I'm trying to say is don't push everything back in the corner, keep something ready to go all the time.  
*editor*

**The Black Wire Disease - What's the Cause?**  
The black wire syndrome is an occurrence in battery packs (Ni-Cds) where the negative wire becomes corroded (turns from shiny copper to blue-black). This is the result of either a shorted cell in the pack, the normal wearout failure mode of Ni-Cds, or cell reversal when a pack is left under load for an extended period. The sealing mechanism of a Ni-Cd cell depends to some degree on maintaining a potential across the seal interface. Once this potential goes to zero the cell undergoes what is called creep leakage. With other cells in a pack at some potential above zero the leakage (electrolyte) is "driven"

*(Continued on page 2)*



Answer to last months silhouette on page 2.  
Know who this is?

### Club Officers:

**President:** Allan Smith  
**V. President:** Marty Mankinen  
**Secretary:** Tas Crowson  
**Treasurer:** Mike Irwin  
**Safety Officer:** Martin McCoy  
**Directors:** Dan Jenkins  
David Peterson  
Blake Shelly

### Coming Events

**Club Meeting**  
**December 15, 2009, 7:30 pm**  
Highlands Community Center  
Highlands, Texas

Jan 29—31  
Tejas R/C Air Show 2010  
Any Type RC Aircraft  
Mid Valley Airport  
Weslaco Texas

Merry Christmas Everybody



**Happy Birthday**  
To these members in  
**December**

**Bobby Clark**  
**Ron Etzel**  
**Charles Stevens**

### PROP-NUTS R/C CLUB, INC.

**Minutes of the Meeting Held**  
**November 17, 2009**  
**Highlands Community Center,**  
**Highlands, Texas**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM.  
Fifteen members signed the attendance log.

**MINUTES:** As published in the newsletter.

**MOTION:** By Marty Mankinen, second by Bill Blakeney to approve the October minutes as published, Approved by a show of hands.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mike Irwin gave the treasurers report.

**MOTION:** By Marty Mankinen to approve the treasurer's report, Second by Bill Blakeney. Motion approved by a show of hands.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The Christmas party will be at the Monument Inn on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Allen will send out invitations and a E-blast.

**MOTION:** By Marty Mankinen to approve \$250 for door prizes. Motion seconded by Bill Blakeney. Motion passed by a show of hands.

Allen reported that the web site problems have been resolved.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**2010 renewal applications have been mailed,if you have moved or changed address and did not inform the club secretary you probabally did not receive one. Please e-mail me at tcrowson@flash.net with your correct address. TAS**

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**Field Maint.**

The shed painting is still on hold president Smith indicated that he is looking into bids.

We obtained crushed concrete fill for the holes in the driveway, Blake Ramsey spread it out.

**Safety:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Pattern event: The possibility of conducting a pattern event on the last weekend in June was discussed, it was indicated that Mark Hunt and Rich Lewis might be available to assist running the event.

**MOTION:** By Marty Mankinen to approve a pattern event for June 26-27,2010. Motion seconded by Charlie Brown, motion passed by a show of hands.

Carl Allen indicated that he has a griddle we may get to replace Ivans griddle.

**ENTERTAINMENT:**

**MODEL OF THE MONTH:**

**AIRCRAFTUS FRAGMENTUM:**

Bill Blakeney lost his Twinstar on its first flight, he suspects that one engine quit and the plane spiraled in.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Taswall G. Crowson, Jr.  
Secretary



Last months silhouette was Tommy Curry.

An advertisement for Precision Model Products by Romco Manufacturing, Inc. The ad features a logo with the word "RETURN" in a stylized font and a graphic of a propeller. The text includes the company name, address (100 West 1st Street, Deer Park, Texas 77536), and quality claims: "Quality—Unsurpassed" and "Varity—Unmatched".

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along the negative lead. It can travel for some distance making the wire impossible to solder and at the same time greatly reducing its ability to carry current and even worse, makes the wire somewhat brittle. A switch left on in a plane or transmitter for several months can cause this creepage to go all the way to the switch itself, destroying the battery lead as well as the switch harness. There is no cure. The effected lead, connector, switch harness must be replaced.

This leakage creep takes time so periodic inspection of the packs, making sure that there are no shorted cells insures against the problem. The cells should also be inspected for any evidence of white powder (electrolyte mixed with carbondioxide in the air to form potassium carbonate). In humid conditions this can revert back to mobile electrolyte free to creep along the negative lead. Some "salting" as this white powder is referred to, does not necessarily mean that the cell has leaked. There may have been some slight amount of residual electrolyte left on the cell during the manufacturing process. This can be removed with simple household vinegar and then washed with water after which it is dried by applying a little warmth from your heat gun..

C. L. Scholefield  
Manager (retired) Battery Design and Application Engineering  
General Electric Battery Business Department  
Gates Energy Products  
Energizer Power Systems

(when storing models for any length of time, (as in long, cold, nasty winters) always unplug the battery pack from the system)



# Odyssey R/C Hobbies



- \*R/C Airplanes
- \*Cars
- \*Boats
- \*Rockets
- \*Plastics
- \*HO & N Scale Trains
- \*Educational/Science Kits
- \*Paints and Glues
- \*Tools & Wood Supplies

**1020 Nasa Parkway  
Webster, TX 77598  
281-557-1424  
at I-45 and Nasa Parkway**

M-Sat 10:00am to 7:00pm  
Sun 12:00pm to 5:00pm



## Instructions for carburetor adjustments on small two cycle gasoline engines.

First turn the HI and LO adj. screws all the way in. Then back out each 1 1/2 turns. This seems to be a universal starting point for-adjusting most small engine carburetors. Using the choke, start the engine. Keep the engine running as slowly as possible by feathering the throttle. Run the engine long enough to bring it up to operating temperature.

Adjust the throttle stop idle adj. for a medium fast idle. Then turn the LO needle clockwise until the engine -just starts to stumble. Then slowly back it out, counter-clockwise, until the engine steadies out and then starts to stumble again. Then turn it back in about 40 percent of the difference from these two positions. This gives a slightly rich mixture. Nothing is harder on these small engines than a lean setting.

Once the idle speed is set, rev the engine up to about 80 percent of it's maximum speed and do the same in and out adjustment of the HI needle.

Check that the engine accelerates smoothly from idle to high speed. A tendency to bog down would mean you turn the LO needle in a little. If it sounds like it's starving when you're accelerating, You turn the LO needle out a trace until it's smooth. If the machine coughs and dies when you squeeze the throttle, it's too lean. Open the LO needle slightly. If it slows down and then revs up, it's too rich, close the LO needle slightly.

Once these two needles are set, adjust the idle stop screw for proper idle. Too low a idle speed can cause a air cooled engine to overheat.