



The Dead Stick Flyer

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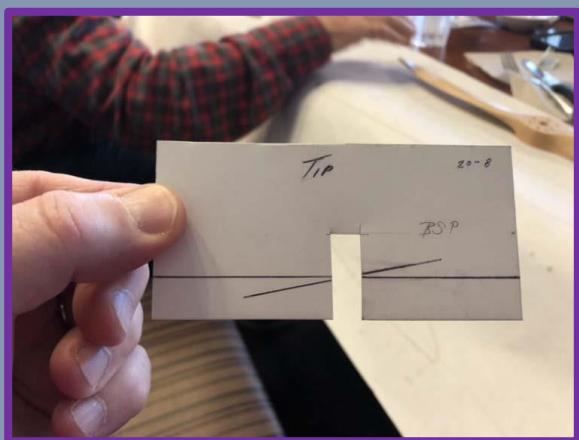
Leo Behr's Home Made Propellers

Leo Behr, a long standing SHRC member, came to the January 10th meeting and provided us with a Show & Tell of his handy craft of making his own hand-made wooden gas engine propellers. Leo has been making his own propellers for many years ever since his 1st endeavor with a gas engine powered plane and, quickly breaking a couple props, realized they are expensive to buy so he proceeded to learn how to make his own.

After several iterations and years of making props he now can create a 19", 20" or 22" prop in under 5 hours completely finished with a smooth lacquer finish. Leo's props look just like a professionally produced prop.



Leo said he researched the design and dimensions required to make the propellers that can withstand the stress and provide the correct performance for an RC model gas engine. He made various prop dimensional and airfoil templates and divided the prop into quarter sections that allow for easy airfoil shaping with sanders.



Nice work Leo!

Leo said he does not use tools like spoke shaves or planes, just ordinary sanders. His process begins with white maple purchased from Home Depot or Lowes, cuts the wood into a blank of the intended prop length, and starts with the center hole used for the engine lock down bolt. From there he proceeds with the prop shape and airfoil pitch blending. He continually checks his progress with his metal templates until the prop meets his designs target shape and then applies a final sanding finish.

