

Inventors Council

OF MID-MICHIGAN

PO Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

Web Site: INVENTORSCOUNCIL.ORG

The Inventors Council is an independent, non-profit 501 C-3 corporation formed to help inventors pursue their dreams of bringing new and innovative products to market. Our goal is to help fellow inventors succeed in the most efficient and least costly manner possible by providing education and business networking.

Founded by Robert (Bob) Ross in 1995

We meet monthly at Walli's Restaurant, 1341 South Center Road Burton, Michigan. Just Two blocks south of I-69, Exit 139

VOLUME EIGHTEEN

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015 7:00PM

NUMBER SEVEN

Thursday July 9, 2015 Meeting

We will be talking tonight about how to create a development file for your invention ideas.

We will be working on the Cross Breeze product that Members worked on with Fred Elvin and Mike Ball.

Cost reduction and design iterations will be the focus. We are working to actually produce this product.

It will be a hands on learning night.

Come and network and learn from others.

See you all at 7:00 pm for a fun night of learning and helping each other.

Thursday June 11, 2015 Meeting

We worked on the development file from Mike Ball and talked about his actual ideas that *did not work*.

We went into why the ideas did not work. Mike offered to let members try their hand at the ideas.

Instead of being afraid to let people know about his ideas and inventions, he opened the inventions to everyone. I was a lively night.

Failed Invention Ideas

Here at ICMM we stress economic safety when working on our inventions. We take the numbers approach to most of our small inventions. We give you formulas and research to make sure you understand that risks you face and to quantify things so you know if you will make money (or not lose much) before you proceed to produce your idea (invention).

Last meeting, Mike Ball showed some ideas that did not work out for him and talked about the money he lost on some of his ideas and why they did not work.

Let's look at what some ideas Thomas Edison had that did not work and lost tons of money.

(1) Edison's Failed Inventions

Edison had 1,093 patents for different inventions. Many of them, like the light bulb, the phonograph, and the motion picture camera, were brilliant creations that have a huge influence on our everyday life. However, not everything he created was a success; he also had a few failures.

One concept that never took off was Edison's interest in using cement to build things. He formed the Edison Portland Cement Co. in 1899, and made everything from cabinets (for phonographs) to pianos and houses. Unfortunately, at the time, concrete was too expensive and the idea was never accepted. Cement wasn't a total failure, though. His company was hired to build Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. What else do you think Edison tried to create?

ICMM
Home of the Happy Inventors



MARKETING

Hints from the Fog
by Mike Ball, President



Invention Review Panel

For objective evaluation and priceless feedback, share your invention ideas with an educated group of inventors, business owners, engineers and authors!

Our Panel will sign a non-disclosure agreement to guarantee your ideas are kept secret while we provide you with the input needed to make decisions, no matter what stage of the invention process you're at!

There's a \$25.00 Donation for a Review. The Panel meets at 6:15pm before each meeting. Call Panel Chairman Rick Mason at 810-659-7935 for an appointment.

Review Panel Members
Marty Sovis Rick Mason
Jim White

Inventions that failed (cont.)

(2) Edison's Failed Inventions

From the beginning of the creation of motion pictures, many people tried to combine film and sound to make "talking" motion pictures. Here you can see an example of an early film attempting to combine sound with pictures made by Edison's assistant, W.K.L. Dickson.

By 1895, Edison had created the Kinetophone--a Kinetoscope (peep-hole motion picture viewer) with a phonograph that played inside the cabinet. Sound could be heard through two ear tubes while the viewer watched the images. This creation never really took off, and by 1915 Edison abandoned the idea of sound motion pictures.

(3) Edison's Failed Inventions

The greatest failure of Edison's career was his inability to create a practical way to mine iron ore. He worked on mining methods through the late 1880s and early 1890s to supply the Pennsylvania steel mills' demand for iron ore. In order to finance this work, he sold all his stock in General Electric, but was never able to create a separator that could extract iron from unusable, low-grade ores. Eventually, Edison gave up on the idea, but by then he had lost all the money he'd invested.

You can see that even big inventors can fail. Some of us have succeeded in getting our inventions to market. Some succeed more than others, but an inventor always is thinking how he can improve or create a new solution to a problem.

Some people are afraid to risk time, material or money on their ideas. Here at ICM we preach financial security and to make sure an inventor understands the risks and rewards of the invention.

Mike Ball openly showed his failures and analyzed the reasons why his invention did not succeed. He did not show his successes as those are known.

He has the inventors disease of "I can do it better than that" and is always watching for opportunities. It is the fun of discovery that keeps inventors moving, not financial gain. Money will come with good ideas and execution of a plan, but the fun is in the creative process/

Make your dreams (ideas) come true but in a process that provides known risk and reward processes. Network with other club members and learn from each other.

Bob Ross 1919 - 2004
Inventors Education Column

Inventors Resources

Michigan Inventors Clubs
Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan
Inventorscouncil.org

Muskegon Inventors Network
Muskegoninventorsnetwork.org

Grand Rapids Inventors Network
GRinventorsnetwork.org

Jackson Inventors Network
Jacksoninventors.org

MidMichigan Innovation Center
www.mmic.us

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