

# INVENTORS COUNCIL

OF MID-MICHIGAN

PO Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

Web Site: [INVENTORSCOUNCIL.ORG](http://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 EIGHTTEEN

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2015 7:00PM

NUMBER EIGHT

## Thursday August 13 2015 Meeting

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

We will show our inventors how to set up a company for \$25.00 or less.

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 July 9, 2015 Meeting

We talked about how to create a development file for your invention ideas.

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

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

It was be a hands on learning night.

## A Self-Examination: Inventor or Dreamer?

What is an inventor? My definition of an inventor is someone who sees a problem and creates a usable or improved solution to that problem. Notice that I did not say a sellable, profitable, or patentable solution to the problem.

Ideas come to everyone. Taking action to create and demonstrate a solution to the problem are done by very few. Inventors want to change the world, or at least improve the solutions in it.

The first utility (full) patent was issued in 1836 and was the only one issued that year. As of June 2007 there have been 7,155,746 issued according to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Many of these patents are issued to employees of large corporations which is a standard filing practice by many corporate engineering groups.

It has been estimated that fewer than 5% of all patents awarded actually make a profit.

Those are long odds, but this figure demonstrates that being issued a patent is no guarantee of success.

ICMM  
Home of the Happy Inventors



## MARKETING

Hints from the Fog  
by Mike Ball, President



Ask yourself some of these questions.

- Would you rather watch television than read? If the answer is yes, you will not make a good inventor.
- Have you ever written a poem, a book, a story or other creative work? If the answer is yes, you have demonstrated some traits an inventor needs.
- Have you ever sketched an idea on a piece of paper? If yes, you probably have the skills to be an inventor
- Do you work until an assignment is completed correctly? If yes, then you have the “stick-to-it-ness” of an inventor.
- Do you like to create things with your hands? If yes, you definitely can be an inventor.
- Do you give up easily? If yes, you should not try to be an inventor.
- Do you hate negative feedback? If yes, you will be a poor inventor.
- Can you follow a written process? If yes, then you can succeed as an inventor.
- Are you afraid of taking risks? If yes, you do not want to be an inventor.
- Are you willing to risk your time and money on an idea? If the answer is no, you should not become an inventor.

I don't want to be too hard on the reader, just realistic. Almost anyone that is willing to work can be a successful inventor. But not everyone can be a successful business person.

Inventors enjoy the challenge of creating solutions and solving problems. They may need to partner with someone that enjoys marketing, selling, promoting, etc. Work to your strengths not your weaknesses. You should network with others to fill in the gaps in your skill sets.

## 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

**Bob Ross 1919 - 2004**  
*Inventors Education Column*

## *Inventors Resources*

**Michigan Inventors Clubs**  
Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan  
[Inventorscouncil.org](http://Inventorscouncil.org)

**Muskegon Inventors Network**  
[Muskegoninventorsnetwork.org](http://Muskegoninventorsnetwork.org)

**Grand Rapids Inventors Network**  
[GRinventorsnetwork.org](http://GRinventorsnetwork.org)

**Jackson Inventors Network**  
[Jacksoninventors.org](http://Jacksoninventors.org)

**MidMichigan Innovation Center**  
[ww.mmic.us](http://ww.mmic.us)

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