

LOKI RESEARCH

ROCKET MOTORS AND ACCESSORIES

October 25, 2015

This document is meant to clear the air once and for all. I do not wish to have stories and rumors of stories told about myself over the next decade. In the hope of preventing that, I am sharing with everyone the following facts about my dealings with Wildman Hobbies (WMH) over the years in response to recent postings on The Rocketry Forum about the post I made here. As a foreword, I would ask that you not confuse [forgiveness](#) with condoning, excusing or reconciliation as they are different from forgiveness.

When you have such issues, people are going to keep asking questions. When people ask me questions, I like to give them correct, detailed, honest answers. Why don't I let it go? I don't let it go because these issues affect my business, my livelihood, and my enjoyment of traveling to Princeton, IL every Halloween to have fun with a lot of old friends. Those issues are not easily forgotten, but they are forgiven. <http://www.rocketryforum.com/showthread.php?122905-Loki-Research-2015&p=1456750#post1456750> If you don't want to hear my answers, simply leave when I give them. There is no need to complain or insult me in front of others who would rather be educated on the subject matter from my perspective. All are welcome to discuss these things with me if done so in a polite, cordial manner.

To quote from the following TRF forum thread post found here. <http://www.rocketryforum.com/showthread.php?122905-Loki-Research-2015&p=1508531#post1508531>

Bottom to top here.

Quote = Me I am speaking in part here to address the question above. Or more so, to close it. At Airfest this year, I was confronted by Tim (@110db) for being too close to his trailer or something while talking to a mutual friend of ours who was parked right beside him. I was told in no uncertain terms to GTF out of here, several times. Meanwhile, I made an attempt to speak with him civilly, and I succeeded, on my end. In between his yelling profanities at me, I forgave him for all he had done and I apologized to him for all which I had done to him. It was all thrown back at me with utter contempt in a loud theatrical display of rage and emotion with a whole slew of false accusations thrown at me to boot, all at the top of his lungs. (that's how things like gun control get traction, with loud overbearing emotion, not logic and hard facts) There was only one other person there (our friend) to hear the words that I spoke as I retained my calm demeanor the entire time. It went about as badly as one could imagine and the, um, feedback I got from him put a damper on my entire weekend. However, my heart is now free of a burden that has long weighed heavily on it and I am very thankful.

QUOTE = Tim Lehr Once again you a full of \$hit.

I walked out of my Motorhome to find you in MY Camp right outside the Motorhome door under the awning in the dark. That's when I said what the F are you doing here and you walked up to me and FORGAVE ME.

You NEVER Apologized you FORGAVE ME and my reply was "you forgave me for what, being your friend". there was more content in there and a couple of F U's I am sure, but That's where the conversation ended and I walked away from my own motorhome to get away from you.

Let the accuracy of Mr. Lehr's second sentence be an indication of the validity and/or accuracy of all others he makes.

1) It was daylight/sunset. Anyone who was within shouting distance knows it was daylight at the time this occurred. The difference between the two is easy for most people to tell, but for those who can't tell or can't remember facts accurately (day light or darkness), they are likely to have more trouble recounting the more detailed facts of any event accurately. I am more likely to put my trust in those who can recall such things clearly without impairment.

2) I was 5-6 feet away from John Clifton's vehicle talking alone with Greg Muri which put me at the northern most edge of the WMH camp, parallel to the front bumper of his camper. The closest people around at this time (including John) were at the back of the camper around the trailer area talking amongst themselves, 20 to 30 feet away.

3) The first thing I said after being told to "get the F out" was that I would like a minute or two to speak with Mr. Lehr in private. It immediately became apparent that this would never happen. Had he stopped shouting at the top of his lungs for more than 3 seconds, he would have heard me apologize.

4) One could make a quick list of others individuals in the rocketry hobby & business who have had conflicts and very negative outcomes when doing business or trying to do business with him. Curtis Turner, Jeff Taylor, Paul Robinson, Jim Harris, Eric Foster, Dave McVeigh and I, just to name a few business owners, have all had very similar experiences. Should each of these people have no reason to forgive him as well? Pointing towards this list of other individual conflicts, one can easily draw their own conclusions as to the common denominator, one individual among all others who is who is unreasonable and difficult to deal with when resolving a difference of opinions. If these other individuals had forgave him as well, would he feel the same towards them as he does towards me? "forgave me for what? being your friend?" He hasn't been friendly towards me in four years now.

5) "All of this because I won't sell your products." That my friends is the cherry on top. This is completely delusional. If it isn't delusional, then it's a flat out lie. At only one time (MWP 9) have I ever entertained the idea of WMH carrying my products and it went absolutely nowhere.

At MWP 9 I was invited by the club to attend MWP and sell Loki products to the fliers, but there was a catch. In order to comply with the clubs "sole vendor" policy, I would be required to sell them through Wildman hobbies, in effect, making them a Loki dealer for the weekend. All commercial product sales (reloads and hardware) were done through WMH. People were directed to WMH to pay for their items and came to me to pick them up. I was parked directly beside WMH. During the launch I spoke with Mr. Lehr about WMH becoming a Loki Dealer. Of note was his adamant statement that "I must support my dealers and I must be a manufacturer, not a dealer". Also of note was the fact that TQC/QCRS had their annual "sole vendor" policy vote the Sunday of this launch. Although I was a full TQC/QCRS member and parked directly beside the clubs Prefect and President (Mr. Tim Lehr) for the entire weekend I was never informed that the vote was taking place or had taken place, even though there were only 4-5 vehicles left on the field when I left for home from the launch Sunday. I would be informed of the vote in the months to follow, and apparently, I wasn't the only one who was upset about the way the vote happened. There was much debate about this among the TQC BOD members. Then next year the vote would take place by e-mail ballot. But wait a minute, I didn't drive home when I left the field. I drove to Mr. Lehr's home, about 15 minutes away to settle up on the money paid to him for the products I sold at the launch. Yes, I did all the work that the "dealer" would normally do for "their" share. It felt more like I was paying him "protection" money in order to operate. In fact, that's exactly what I had done.

At Airfest the following summer, I had spent a half hour or so sitting beside the WMH trailer one evening speaking with Mr. Lehr, Braden Carlson, his father and a few others. The subject of WMH becoming a Loki dealer had not come up once since the MWP 9 launch and it never did again. That was perfectly fine with me. A few months later and MWP 10 was right around the corner. I was contacted by a TQC BOD member who once again extended an invitation to MWP a month or so before the launch. I was told that it would be possible for me to do the same thing we did last year in order for me to sell my products. I politely declined and said I would rather just attend the launch to fly rockets. Had I really wanted WMH to carry and sell my products, surely I would have taken this opportunity to get my foot in his doorway again. As history shows, I did no such thing.

Less than 1 week before MWP 10, I had realized that in order for me to make the 6 hour drive each way and 3 night hotel stay, I needed to pay for the expenses of the trip. If it were a business trip, it could be wrote off on my taxes. So I did what I

thought was in my own best interest. I had a "Made in the Midwest" pre-order sale for delivery to the MWP 10 launch the evening of the 24th of October. To add to the business part of the trip, I static tested two 76/8000 reloads and one 98/12,500 reload on the property of Steve Corbin's parents near their home in Princeton, IL. Steve Corbin is one of the two guys who run the fire wagon at MWP. <http://www.rocketryforum.com/showthread.php?43710-quot-Made-in-the-Midwest-quot-MWP-10-Sale>

The very same night I posted the sale online I got a call from the same TQC BOD member who had extended the launch invitation and WMH sales invitation, asking that I remove the sale from my website in the hope of extinguishing a fire I inadvertently lit under Mr. Lehr's back side. I did not comply and I had no reason to do so. My actions would not be interfering with the club or any of their rules or operations during the launch. However, the very next morning at 10AM I received a telephone call from Mr. Lehr in which I was yelled at, screamed at and shouted at for just over 1 hour about the sale I was having. The biggest issue it turns out was that I had the sale through Red Arrow. The second biggest issue was that I was not selling through WMH. The fact I was having it through Red Arrow Hobbies (a Loki Research Dealer) and not through WMH was more than Mr. Lehr could bare. Let me repeat that for a moment here. Mr. Lehr was upset because I was not selling my products through him, but through the Loki Research dealer Red Arrow Hobbies. I was not upset at him for not carrying my products. Anyone who tells you anything else is lying to you.

Why in the world would Mr. Lehr be the one calling me if he was in fact not going to **"try my very best to balance my interest between Wildmans and QCRS but it is very hard when you are patient about both."** As he said in post #19 of the "TQC BOD Discussions" pdf linked below? Wouldn't a different BOD member be a far better candidate to call me if the club had an issue? Well a different BOD member did call me, the night before. They called me because Mr. Lehr had a problem with my sale, not the club. Obviously this was one influence he was having on the club. It seems that the call from Mr. Lehr was also of a personal nature in which the rules he had established on behalf of the club were used against me, in his mind anyway. A conflict of interest you say? Outside party interests affecting the clubs BOD members and actions you say??? Without a doubt. That was my problem.

What power does anyone else in this hobby think they have over my business affairs or anyone else's when delivering product to customers in hotel parking lots? That is exactly what I did, and it was still an issue with Mr. Lehr. I was told on the phone by Mr. Lehr in no uncertain terms that I could not do this because I was "trying to skate around the clubs sole vendor rule", "trying to find any way I can to cheat them." Mr. Lehr had made a personal call to me as the owner of WMH using the club's own rules as his defense. Rules which were in fact put in place by himself as acting club President. If this is not a text book definition of a conflict of interest I do not know what is. Please note in the pdf document "Orders for MWP 7 Sept 2009" below, in post #19 at the top of page 12 where he says **"No they can preorder stuff from your buddies and have it delivered to the site."** Delivery of goods to MWP is something Al's Hobbies, Red Arrow Hobbies and others have done many times over the years, but not that they have gone without the same or similar harassment. His statement in bold above was either hypocritical or it was a lie.

So let me set one thing straight. I have no desire or need for WMH or any affiliations of WMH to ever represent or sell my products **Period**. There are plenty of people who could attest to me saying this statement to them in the years past. Make note of the linked documents provided below to see that historically, WMH selling my products was never and has never been the reason for any of this. It is merely an excuse used to confuse the points of a factual argument. This is a tactic often used when someone has no facts of their own to back up their statements. It is a fabrication from another person's confused reality. Daylight is dark. Dark is daylight.

Quote = Me TQC/QCRS has no rules over which motors can be flown. Indirectly however, they have rules over which motors can be sold/purchased there due to the "sole vendor" rule/vote the club has each year. If the club could vote on this "without" any outside influence, peer pressure, empty threats of no longer helping the club with equipment, or overbearing brow beating directed at club members in the time leading up to the vote, then perhaps the club might change it's tune, play a new record and allow other vendors to "help the club's" MWP launch grow into a true regional launch and not keep it the one vendor sand box it has always been.

QUOTE= Tim Lehr, You mean like outside pressure from you.
If any of you want to know the truth about this ask a QCRS CLUB MEMBER.
This all boils down to one thing.

No, I mean pressure from those imbedded deep within the heart of a club. Every club feels pressure from the outside, but ultimately, it is from inside, within the Board of Directors of each club that decisions are ultimately made. That is where a club needs to be free from other people's influence who wish to force decisions which benefit their own outside interests. This is called a conflict of interest and some people seem to be incapable of seeing this as very problematic. These conflicts of interest have always been the heart of the issue at hand within the TCQ club.

"Ask a club member." What an excellent idea. Be sure you ask someone with direct knowledge of the situation within an accurate historical context, not hearsay. A few individuals who have been with the club since before my time and during the time of my conflict with WMH should be able to privately provide anyone with the correct information you seek. All have served positions on the TQC board alongside other WMH parties. They have all resigned their posts, most due to conflicts and unsatisfactory results with regard to their position opposite of Mr. Lehr. Brent Hill, Ed Kruel, Kevin Kremer, Justin Farrand, Chuck Haskin and Steve Wilson are the people to ask. Ask anyone else and you are just hearing what was parroted around them.

Find one of these guys above and ask them the following 2 questions.

- 1) Which of these items is of the least concern to Scott with regard to the TQC club?
- 2) Which of these items is of the most concern to Scott with regard to the TQC club?

- A) Gross violations of the TRA Safety Code by the clubs leadership and the negative impact that could have on the club, and more so Scott's business.
- B) Conflicts of interest between WMH business interests and the club leadership interest and the ethics and morals involved.
- C) Annual manipulation and intimidation of club members to support a sole vendor vote for WMH.
- D) Scott wanting to sell his own products at MWP himself or through his dealers.
- E) Scott wants WMH to carry Loki Research products and they will not carry them.

Please keep in mind here, the items above are a list of topics that may have been discussed with these 2 individuals. These items are not to be taken as a direct attack on the club in question. They are listed to prove a point to the reader, so that they might establish for themselves what I feel is important and what I feel is not, with regard to the quotations above in this post. Feel free to report back with your answers, please.

September 30th, 2009 is when my relationship with Mr. Lehr changed forever.

This PDF is from the beginning of my friction with WMH, but not the beginning of the clubs friction. This was 6 years ago.

https://lokiresearch.com/images/Documents/Loki%20Orders%20for%20MWP7_Sept_2009.pdf

My screen name is SmokinJoe. (I use to smoke Camels but I have since quit smoking) Read it for your own education. You will clearly see that someone does not like being told facts, nor do they like it when others disagree with them.

11 months before this thread, I was launching my [6" little John from the away cell at MWP6](#) on a research N-5400 which is seen in my avatar on TRF and TQC. It made the cover of Justin's MWP6 video and the photo was taken by his dad Tom. I was one of the guys, part of the inner heart of the club. By the following September I was still part of the club and an active member on the TQC message board, but now I was employed by a competitor of WMH. A commercial motor manufacturer who unknown to me was one which WMH greatly disliked. Loki Research was a manufacturer who WMH had once carried up until July 2006 in Amarillo, TX at LDRS. I was told (by a former TRA BOD member and 2-3 others) that this is the point where Mr. Lehr supposedly dumped all his Loki Research product during the launch to customers at his cost after having some unknown disagreement with former owner Jeff Taylor. This same scenario of dumping hardware at cost would be repeated with Gorilla Motor Works around 2012/2013. (LDRS 25 took place in 2006, three summers before this 2009 thread)

This fallout with Jeff Taylor was all unknown to me and it would take 2 more years to pass and 3 different individuals to contact me as the new owner of Loki before I ever knew about it. I won't go into full details of the story, because I don't know them. What I was told was that Jeff Taylor had a 30% or 35% off sale at the LDRS launch right after delivering a large Loki order to WMH. This all sounded contrived and fabricated to me from the moment I heard it. I had just worked with Jeff Taylor for an entire year. We worked together through two Red Glare's, LDRS 29 in Potter, NY and the NERRF 5 launch plus every day at the shop. This didn't sound anything at all like the guy I knew and worked with. Either way, whatever had happened before had nothing to do with me, but it was now solidly stuck to my back. It has never come off.

It appears to me that Mr. Lehr is unable to separate his negative feelings for Loki Research or Jeff Taylor from his feelings for me. He has combined them all together and in the years since. In 2009, I never had a clue that this was the case. Ever since then it has been impossible for me to resolve any issues with Mr. Lehr. His disdain for myself and my company have apparently only grown. I have heard numerous times from old TQC friends over the years, stories of hearing about customers being told of how "Loki Research motors will blow up your rocket", words spoken by Mr. Lehr in the back of the WMH trailer. For this and other reasons, I forgive him.

The thread in the pdf above continued and evolved into the one here below. The clubs friction started some years before. I'm not sure when, but during this time is when I learned about it all, and this is what source of the "friction" in the club has always been about. It has absolutely nothing to do with WMH not selling my products. Read it for yourself. I never even posted in this thread. www.lokiresearch.com/images/Documents/TQC%20BOD%20discussions_Oct2009.pdf Read it and you will gain a wealth of historical insight into the heart of this issue as well as the manner in which my accuser operates. An issue which one can clearly see was an issue shared by several others in the club and still has been, up until the May 2015 TQC/QCRS launch where Mr. Lehr announced his resignation from the clubs Board of Directors. This one discussion and the issues therein had been ongoing ever since.

One of the things which was yelled at me at Airfest this year (2015) was that I had contacted the TRA BOD about Mr. Lehr. This is true. Contacted the TRA BOD about concerns of TQC Safety Violations which were allowed by Mr. Lehr and the clubs BOD. I can only hope that others would do the same when confronted with individuals who will not abide by the most basic rules of safety. I sight the 5g 98mm G-7300 Sparky which was allowed to fly at MWP 10, which I was in attendance. Calling something a G motor at a G impulse limited night launch with no FAA waiver does not make it legal. In Mr. Lehr's own voice. <https://youtu.be/6ToUO4Cu0Gg?t=6m40s> I do not support an environment where actions like this are encouraged and cheered on and I do not support those who lead by this example. For this reason, I have not supported the club since, but I have since forgave him for his actions.

Anyway, I was berated by Mr. Lehr for contacting the TRA BOD, even though he did the exact same thing to me in 2009 for when he contacted Ken Good about a certification issue that was ultimately up to my employer to deal with, not myself yet it was all being directed at me as if I were the company owner, which at that time I was not. The CTI hubcap has never been certified for use in Loki Research hardware. It has to be flown under the research rules yet this is mentioned no where in the advertisement linked below. Has anyone ever seen me say a word about the sale of this item at all, let alone throw a fit thrown at me in the "Loki orders for MWP 7" pdf linked above?

<https://www.wildmanrocketry.com/ProductDetail.aspx?product=2820>

I have posted links to pdf archives of the original web threads because it appears the website pages or the advertisements therein are infected with a virus. View them at your own risk if you have the appropriate computer security and Ad-Block software.

Aside from completely forgetting what I know and letting so many wrongs go uncorrected in a club which others and myself used to be a proud members of, I have done that which I felt was the right thing to do, including in the end here to forgive. And in those instances where it was not the right thing to do, I have given my apologies. Unfortunately, that will never be enough for some.

Once again, the issue is not WMH selling my products. The issue is not with the club. My issue (as well as other peoples) has always been rooted in the fact that of a couple of people were running the heart of the club to suit the business interests of WMH and then claiming they have done absolutely nothing wrong. Myself and others have had a big problem with the methods and practices by which WMH became and has remained the sole vendor of TQC and then claiming that they have done absolutely nothing wrong. Because of this and the sole vendor policy which was initially set in place by the direct inner workings of the clubs BOD members at that time, it has created other areas of conflict between myself and WMH.

I congratulate Mr. Lehr for finally stepping down from the TQC/QCRS board after more than a decade of serving influential rolls such as TQC BOD member, club president, club Prefect, club waiver holder while at the same time being owner of WMH. I strongly encourage other TQC club members to now step forward and fill the large voids left by former BOD members who have stepped down due to the many frustrations in dealing with the clubs conflict of interest. I ask all of the club members (both here and everywhere) to always seek those decisions which benefit your club and the safety of your fliers first and foremost, and consider all other outside influences a distant second or third. Four years ago I pulled all of my support for Tripoli Quad Cities, Prefect #39 because I was clear to me that it was a waist of my time and resources. TQC/QCRS now has an opportunity unlike they have ever had before, but it is the clubs members who must make it happen by working together, giving their time and talents. I am more than confident that the members of this club have it within themselves to grow their membership and their launches into something more than they have ever imagined before. You have nothing holding you back now but your *own* decisions. Please make them wisely.

As for Mr. Lehr and myself, I seek no further debate with him about the events discussed above. I have posted this history of events for others to accurately judge our actions and version of events against the other. I have put it all here in black and white because it has never changed from me and it never will. From this moment on, I don't want to worry about who I vend next to because of some old grudge, but I also don't want fabrications made and stories told about me that are not true over the years to follow, as so many others have.

Sincerely,

Scott Kormeier
President/Owner
Loki Research LLC.