

# THUNDERBOLT



First Aero Squadron  
Chapter 006



## February Club Meeting

Monday, February 4th - 7:00 PM

Joe's Hobby Center

S.E. Corner of Grand River and Drake

### President's Message - Aaron Avery

Wow, the last club meeting was great! Not only was attendance excellent, but the guest speaker, Dave Camble, who was brought to us by Jim Young, was captivating. As I looked around the room, it was pleasing to see that everyone seemed to be having a great time as Dave introduced many of the very small but highly technological engines and motors that he brought with him. Furthermore, his demonstration of how to apply balsa sheeting to a foam wing using an air pressure system is something that many of us had never seen before and thoroughly enjoyed watching. Thanks again to Jim and Dave for your time and effort.

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2002  
Ribcracker  
Board of  
Directors

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Ribcracker web page: <http://www.geocities.com/ribcrackers>

President's Message - cont. from page 1

As you can see by the included 2002 club schedule, numerous events have been planned. An important event that is scheduled for March 17, and quickly approaching, is the club swap meet. Once again Dave Schiavolin and Vince Blaskey have generously volunteered to organize this important fundraiser. As of right now, Dave and Vince are working to spread word of the event to as many vendors and potential buyers as possible. In addition, they are also looking for club members who would be interested in volunteering to work at the swap meet. If you would be interested in helping or selling, contact Dave or Vince at the numbers provided below. In the mean time, share news of the event with as many people as you think would be interested. Remember that the money from fundraisers is what provides the club with the means to give back to the membership in ways beyond just providing a safe place to fly model aircraft.

Now, back to this year's number-one agenda item: finding a new airfield. The club needs someone who is both willing and able to chair an Airfield Acquisition Committee. If you are interested in doing this, please let me know as soon as possible. If you would be interested in participating in the search process but wish not to be the chairperson, please let me know that too. This is not a task that any of us can afford to sit around and wait for someone else to do. This is a job that must be approached aggressive, professionally, and relentlessly. The more people who become involved, the easier it will become. People always speak the loudest together. In addition, success in acquiring a field will be greatly aided by the many connections to the "right people" that only the membership network can provide. Whatever your potential contribution to this effort may be, it could be the missing link that is necessary for Ribcrackers to find a new flying site.

In closing, if you're a winter flier, stay warm. If not, I hope your spending many warm evenings working on that new plane that will debut some time this spring. Whatever you're doing, have fun and be safe. I look forward to seeing you at Joe's Hobby Center on February 4<sup>th</sup>!

Vince Home: (248) 624-9442
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Dave Home: (734) 397-1951 Work: (248) 477-6266
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January Meeting Minutes:

Meeting called to order 7:05 PM.

Minutes were approved.

Reports:

Pres: Airfield,

Vice: Working on jobs for the fields for the summer, volunteers for safety officers

Treasurer: All good

Secretary: Roster updated. Around 136. Renewals still going on. Swap meets coming up,

Video Librarian:

Editor:

Old Business:

(tumble weed blows by)

New Business:

Speed 400 pylon racing

Budget was approved

First flight of the year, get entries in

Ten things to do on a cold winter's day - Jim Young

While some of us enjoy flying all year 'round, not every winter day is made for flying. For those days that are too cold or windy to venture out, here are some things to do for your models:

- 1.) Cycle your transmitter and receiver batteries. If you don't have a battery cyler, you should look into one. Charge up your batteries and cycle each pack a couple of times. Mark each pack with it's capacity and date you cycled it. If the capacity has dropped below 90% of the rated capacity, time to think about replacing it.
- 2.) Mark your servo leads. Get some self-adhesive labels and label each of the servo wires in your models. I don't know about you, but after you cram all that wiring in your fuse it's hard to tell where it's going or where it came from. Do you have two servos in your wing? Are the leads marked right and left or do you just guess when you plug them in? Mark the leads going to the receiver with the channel number on the receiver. This way if you swap a receiver between two planes, they're easy to re-hook up. While you're at it, unplug and re-plug all of the servo and battery lead connections. This will clean the contacts.
- 3.) Put some after run oil (AKA transmission fluid) in your engines and turn them over. If you haven't flown a glow engine in a few weeks this will help keep it from rusting in your basement. Glow fuel attracts moisture which means rust! This is a good thing to do after each flying session. The next time you start the engine, you'll get some white smoke but it will burn off quickly.
- 4.) Get out your covering iron and tighten up your covering. Clean up your plane to remove all the fuel residue (or electrons) and tack down any loose edges. If the covering won't bond, use some Balsaright to secure it. Remember that emergency repair you did with duct tape last summer? Why not take the time to repair it right?
- 5.) Are all the trim levers on your radios centered? Take some time and adjust the control linkages so you can center them. While you're at it, make sure all controls are working and don't bind or stall your servos.
- 6.) Do you have a computer radio? Did you ever read the manual and come across the pages where you can write down all of the model settings? Why not fill them out? Most of the programs are backed up by lithium batteries which will last several years. However, one of my radios "locked-up" last year and the only way to get it back was to remove the battery and reset it. This lost all of my model setups so I sent a lot of time re-creating them.
- 7.) General maintenance. Go over each of your planes and look for anything loose or damaged.
- 8.) Clean out your field box. Just do it! You don't need all those burned out glow plugs and prop parts! Recharge your starter battery and glow drivers while you're in there.
- 9.) Make some wheel chocks for your models. Put some Velcro on the bottom so they won't slide around in your car.
- 10.) Balance an extra prop or two for your models. Add white tips to all of your props too!

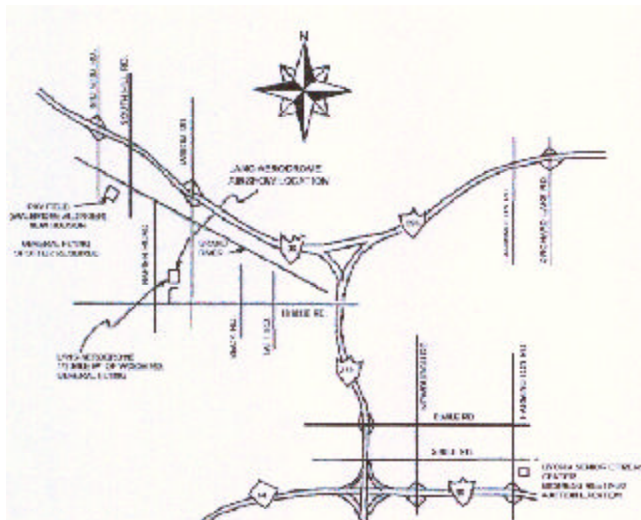
I know this doesn't sound all that fun, but it's better to do this stuff now while the snow is flying rather than when it's warm outside and you wish you were flying.

Local Coming Events

February 4 - Ribcracker meeting at Joe's Hobby Center

March 17 - Swap meet at Livonia Senior Center

Dave Hurt  
2850 Carpenter Ct.  
Walled Lake, Mi 48390



Reminder to our members-  
If you're the last one leaving Lang,  
please make sure the gate is locked  
and the key holder is closed fully and  
locked. If the gate is not locked, we  
might enter to find our field or club  
property ruined or destroyed. Our  
security is your responsibility.