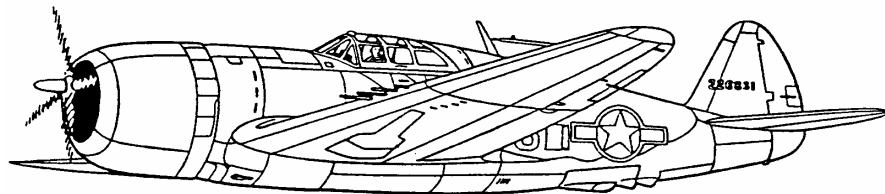


THUNDERBOLT



OCTOBER CLUB MEETING

MONDAY – OCTOBER 7th – 7:00 PM

Livonia Senior Citizens Center - Meet in the "Pool Room"

5 Mile & Farmington Roads – South-East Corner

President and Vice President's Report.....by Don Unsworth

Every month when the new issue of the AMA Model Aviation arrives, I usually read the messages of the President and the District VP. When the October issue arrived, I opened to the back of the magazine looking for an advertisement, only to find the "AMA Executive Council Meeting Highlights". I don't ever recall reading this section before, probably because of its location. I encourage all members to look at this section on page 153. There is some "timely" information about new rules on the separation of flying sites. I say timely, because as announced at the last three meetings, there has been discussion of another club trying to set up a field within the three mile radius of one of our fields. The Club officers are currently involved negotiating with that club on an agreement and hopefully will be able to report to you a successful agreement at the October meeting. Continued on Page 2

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RibCracker
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of
Directors**

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President's Message – Continued from page 1.

By the time you read this, the last Fun Fly and the Annual Picnic will have concluded, and most club related activities concerning the fields are drawing to a close. So.....it's time to post work hours. They will be made available at the next three club meetings. If you can't make the meetings, call or e-mail me. Gerald will need an accurate accounting to develop your dues for next year.

Thanks to all of you who pitched in this year to make the flying fields run smoothly. A special thanks to Joel Disbro, for a great job of cutting the fields and all of those "extra little touches". More to come on this topic of other club members who have worked hard for the club in the next newsletter.

I have received a few reports of the club rules being misinterpreted or "bent" a little. I am asking all club members to read the club Constitution and more importantly, the By-Laws. When in doubt, please call an officer for an interpretation. If we have a problem with the rules, we can change them with a vote of the club. Also on this subject, always pull a frequency pin when flying, and all of us must carry proof that we are members of the club.

At the September meeting, Jim Young asked for suggestions of discussion topics at our next meetings. Please call him with your suggestions. The October meeting will be held indoors at the Livonia Senior Citizens Center located on the SE corner of Farmington Rd. and Five Mile. We will meet in the "pool" room. See you at the meeting and good flying.

September Meeting Minutes – Sept. 9, 2002

The meeting started at 7:00 PM **SHARP!!!** First up was the introduction of a couple of new members. R. Wilfong then provided the group with a financial report of the budget vs. actual expenditures. Our club is solvent and in good shape (but still in need of another flying site). The club members present were requested to stay after the meeting and move the bleachers closer to the fence to assist spectators and to help keep those spectators out of the pit area.

A discussion took place concerning the MISS (Michigan International Soaring Society) and their field's proximity to Ray Field. It has been learned that their club/field will only allow gliders; as electrics make too much noise for the surrounding area! It was also discussed that during normal MISS flying active times, there should be no issues with frequency interference. This statement was also supported by discussions with Pete Waters (local AMA frequency coordinator). Regarding frequency sharing, D. Unsworth agreed to discuss this issue with MISS officers, once a meeting date can be established.

Other discussions: All members must pull frequency pins and/or must show membership cards if they wish to fly at Ribcracker fields. Please note that our club is liable if a plane goes out of control and causes damages. All flyers must have a current AMA or Ribcracker membership card. All recently signed off students must carry either a student card or a copy of their sign-off sheet. Once a student is signed off, it is their responsibility to provide a copy to the club secretary and to also retain a copy for sign-off proof. This copy should be used at Ribcracker fields when flying and until the secretary can return a current club card. This is not a new rule, this is part of our club policies.

The club will hold a Fun-Fly and Picnic on Sept. 22 beginning at 10:00 AM (rain date will be on Sept. 29th). Joe DiDia brought in a couple of partially completed planes provided by an old friend of his and they were given away to grateful members. Mark Freeland also brought in goodies provided by Don Brann (who was cleaning his basement), so many more members went home with unexpected treasures. The club is looking for speakers or ideas for upcoming meetings. The October meeting place will be listed in the next issue of the Thunderbolt as discussions are still underway for the best place to meet.

Model of the Month: Shown was a small electric flyer built by Jim Young (since his last effort has been sidelined by a small munchkin that resides in his house. Also shown was a very nice Hanger 9 Cub by Rick Vera-Burgos. Jim ended as the month's winner.

Respectfully submitted by Dennis Robbins

The Squawk Box by Dennis Robbins

I must have been crazy! But, at least, I had company – and most are our/your board members. Why??? Good, I was hoping you'd ask. Being the Editor isn't too bad, cause if I get a pat on the back or a gripe about something I've written, at least I know you're reading this rag. But when I also volunteered to be a Safety Officer and to help keep the club a safe place to fly and visit...what a mistake! I thought it would be a worthwhile job, even pretty easy, with little to do and maybe even get a little respect. Hell; no-one else volunteered so I raised my hand, cause if I'm out at the field, then what little supervision is required, I thought I could/might help.... WRONG!!

Have you ever tried to tell someone that what they're doing might be unwise, unsafe or just plain Not-Too-Smart, and then ask them to stop that action? Use tact they said; and be courteous; and show respect. What I wasn't warned about was the reactions that would come back at me. You'd think I'd questioned their manhood, sort of thrown down the gauntlet with a challenge. And based on comments from other board members, (who also help remind others of unsafe activities) I'm not exactly alone (told you I had company!).

Still not with me....ok. How about...have you flown too close to the flight-line repeatedly when the field is busy and others are near (to me, busy means more than 4 or 5 members actively flying or preparing to fly). Has someone asked you to fly a little further out? How about bringing friends and significant others to watch? Do you have them sit or stand in the pits? or do you have them sit safely on the outside of the pit fence? (I understand being outside the fence is no guarantee of safety when SOME members are flying!) Are you aware of revving your engine and having dust and oil spray on another members equipment? Obviously, this isn't an all inclusive list, but I hope you get the idea.

So??? A couple of weeks ago I asked a member to alter his activity. The field was busy and many other members had mentioned to me that they were nervous with the actions of this flyer. OK...I said I'd be a Safety Officer and if someone needed to point out a problem, I volunteered. Right?! So I asked...very nicely....very calmly....Jeez...what a response! I bout' got my head chewed off! Strange thing is that I know this flyer and I know he's very good and not at all reckless, but during those busy conditions, he was missing a safety aspect that we all should respect. Other board members who have tried to promote safety have gotten similar reactions from our members. It's not like we're trying to run the show, we're just trying to prevent accidents and potential problems. We don't have rules just for the sake of filling up note books. The rules are for us, we identified their need and voted to have them. For our own safety and protection.

So now I'm opening up a can of worms because I would bet that when one of our more vocal members reads this, he'll say we should do away with all the rules! (or at least most) And I guess that would be fine if we flew alone at private and empty fields, with no-one else around to bother or hurt. But the fact is that we normally fly when others are around and we don't want to see them get hurt, or have them hurt us. And because we don't fly alone, we need some level of order and the rules set the stage for that order.

Bottom line – if you're asked to do or not do something in relation to our flying activities, you have a right to ask why, but don't take it so personally that you feel singled out. I've yet to meet or see a Safety Officer or board member intentionally harassing someone at our field just to give that person a difficult time. Think about why you've gotten a request. Think about the potential consequences. Think about your friends and their safety.

Next year someone else can be a Safety Officer. I wish them better luck than I've had.....

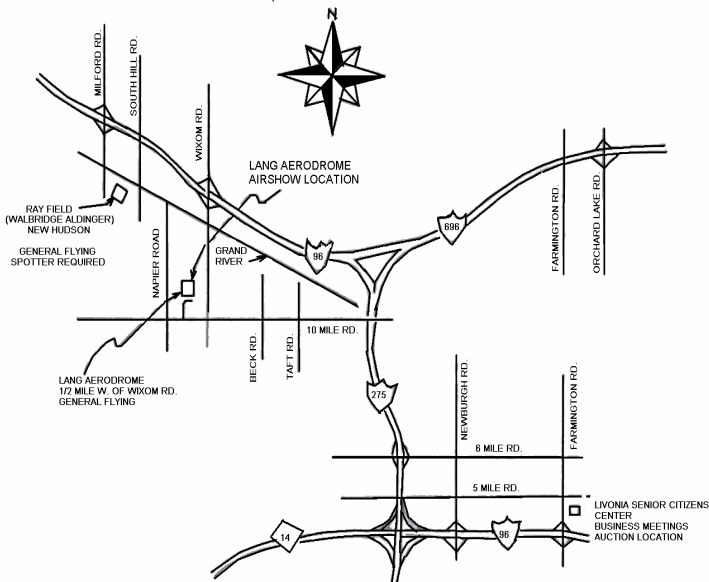
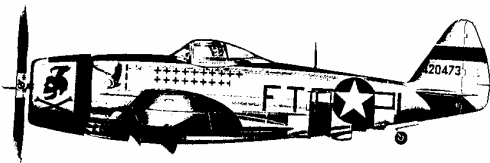
Why Planes Crash? (no specific order)

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Pilot Error | 12 - No Preflight Inspection | 23 - Linkage Failure | 34 - Bug in the Eye |
| 2 - Servo Failure | 13 - Structural Failure | 24 - Radio Failure | 35 - Battery Failure |
| 3 - Engine Failure | 14 - Sun Blindness | 25 - Mid-Airs | 36 - Lost in Cloud |
| 4 - Loose Covering | 15 - Radio Interference | 26 - Pilot Error | 37 - Stupidity |
| 5 - Hanger Rash | 16 - Bad Attitude | 27 - Bad Luck | 38 - Bad Construction |
| 6 - Bad Design | 17 - Pilot Error | 28 - Bad C of G | 39 - Bad Fuel |
| 7 - Bad Orientation | 18 - Flying Too Far Away | 29 - Flying Too Fast | 40 - Flying Too Slow |
| 8 - Flying Too High | 19 - Flying Too Low | 30 - Too Bold | 41 - Too Young |
| 9 - Too Old | 20 - Over Confident | 31 - Under Confident | 42 - Pilot Error |
| 10 - Lightning | 21 - Pilot Error | 32 - Wind Shear | 43 - Pilot Error |
| 11 - Sudden Storm | 22 - Pilot Error | 33 - Trees | 44 - Pilot Error |

Local Coming Events -

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 10-5 | Great Lakes RC Hobby Expo | Oakland Yard | David Dobrin |
| | 2nd Annual | 5328 Highland Rd. Waterford | 248-673-0100 |
| 10-6 | MRCAs Swap Meet | Sumpter Comm. Cntr. | Lew Rolston |
| | Sumpter Hill Toppers | 23501 Sumpter Rd, Belleville, MI | 734-654-6392 |
| 10-27 | Swap Till Ya Drop | Waterford Oaks Comm Cntr | Don Hines |
| | Pontiac Miniature Aircraft Club | Sylvan Lake, MI | 248-627-8060 |
| 10-27 | 28th Annual Swap Meet | K of C, 5830 Clyde Park SW | David Levick |
| | Kent Radio Aero Modelers | Grand Rapids | 616-676-3392 |
| 11-4 | Ribcracker Club Meeting | Livonia Senior Citzns Cntr | Aaron Avery |
| | Monthly Club Meeting | 5 Mile & Farmington Rds. SE Corner | 734-425-8403 |

Dennis Robbins
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 Farmington Hills, MI 48331



E-mail Addresses – Gentlemen - I need your help in keeping track of your changing e-mail addresses. Please send me a “test message” so I can check the incoming e-mail address against my old listing. If there are special announcements which need to be broadcast between Thunderbolt issues, it’s the most efficient way to contact you. Your cooperation will be appreciated.