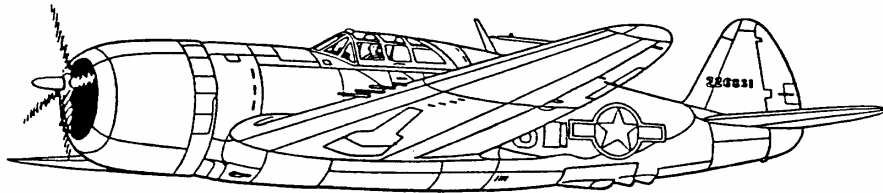


# THUNDERBOLT



## JANUARY CLUB MEETING

MONDAY – JANUARY 6nd – 7:00 PM

Livonia Senior Citizens Center

5 Mile & Farmington Roads – South-East Corner

OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR 2003

Due to a poor weather related turnout at the Dec.  
meeting the officer elections were postponed



*Aaron Avery says "Attention all Ribcrackers!"*

Your club needs you to serve as an officer. We are in need of a new President and Secretary. Elections will be held at the January club meeting. Come and support the club that supports your hobby!

**2002  
RibCracker  
Board  
of  
Directors**  
(1 month carryover  
into 2003)

President - **AARON** Avery / 14724 Ingram, Livonia, MI 48154

Phone: 734-425-8403 (E-mail: aaronavery@ameritech.net)

Vice-President - **DON** Unsworth / 895 Grace, Northville, MI 48167

Phone: 248-348-0961 (E-mail: dunswrth@aol.com)

Secretary - **GERALD** Klose / 2446 Cambridge, Berkley, MI 48072

Phone: 248-582-1803 (E-mail: gerald.d.klose@jci.com)

Treasurer - **ROGER** Wilfong / 24380 Hampton Hill, Novi, MI 48375

Phone: 248-349-9079 (E-mail: aroger@umich.edu)

Editor - **DENNIS** Robbins / 37592 Dorchester, Farmington Hills, MI 48331

Phone: 248-661-3562 (E-mail: drobbins@ameritech.net)

**RIBCRACKER WEB PAGE: <http://www.ribcrackers.org>**

**December Meeting Minutes – Dec. 2, 2002**

(After snowing all day and the roads being terrible, only a few brave, dedicated (foolish) souls showed up to join the December meeting. The meeting started late to accommodate those in transit.) Aaron Avery called the meeting to order at 7:17 P.M. The November meeting minutes were approved as published in the Thunderbolt.

Due to the low member turnout, the 2003 Board of Directors election was put on hold and the current board agreed to remain in their positions for one additional month. For 2003, the Board elections will take place at the January meeting.

**Tres. Report:** The club remains solvent and detailed reports were handed out to all present. Members present voted to continue the tradition of providing a donation to the church for the use of Lang field and also to the Livonia Senior Citizens Center. It was believed that the contribution to Walbridge had already been made.) It was requested that when the Board makes the donation to the church, that the receiving church member be requested to ask their membership about helping the Ribcrackers to find a potential land site for a future air field.

**V.P. & Sec. Report:** 2003 membership dues are beginning to come in. Work hours have been totaled and when you renew your membership, the sec. will be able to provide you your totals, so you know what you owe. The V.P. wanted to thank all those members who put a tremendous amount of time into the club as their generous donation to all. This topic started a discussion among those present about the possible need to change the way dues are levied and approached, based on work hours and contributions to the club. Other clubs have different dues structures and the 2003 board will be requested to review those practices and report back to the club on their findings and recommendations.

**Prez's Report:** The board will continue to seek replacements for the 2003 year. Calls will be made to request assistance.

A \$25 gift certificate was approved again for the 1st flight of 2003. (Details on eligibility are on page 4)

**Model of the Month** – Roger Wilfong with his SR Battery's Bantum and Bantum Bipe. Very small and cute indoor flyers. 4oz flying weight. (Note: Roger graciously allowed his gallon of fuel to be added to the fuel raffle so 2 gallons were distributed to the group.) The prize raffle was postponed until Jan. 2003.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

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**Editor's Note:** With the completion of each Thunderbolt issue, something normally comes to mind that was omitted from the issue. This thought only occurs just after everything is printed and copied. For the December issue, more people should have been honored and thanked for their contributions to the club and the hobby. After you read this list, if I still missed you, I sincerely apologize as I am working off memory and have no formal list (I'm sure I did miss some). If you helped out at some of these activities or others, your contribution(s) did not go unnoticed. Those people who helped to make this a great place to fly are: Field Maintenance – J. Disbro, Video Sec. – Mark Freeland, Student Instructors – J. Alessandini, T. Bacsanyi, R. Hegadorn, K. Neff, D. Stockman, M. Ragsdale, B. Russell, B. Hanson, Swap Meet – V. Blasky and many others who worked coffee/donuts, the entrance table, and our raffle MC, Club Meeting Raffles – D. Hilpert. I'm sure there are others who always contribute – but sad to say, I don't have the listing of everyone who took part. Thanks to all our membership who contributed.

### **2003 Membership Dues**

Membership dues for 2003 are due now. When you renew your Ribcracker membership, you must provide the Secretary with a copy of your AMA card and confirm your number of work hours for 2002. Annual membership dues are \$55 plus 10 work hours (work hours are pro-rated at \$1.50/hour.) A full schedule of dues is listed in the Ribcracker's Constitution, or the Secretary can provide those details. To use the Ribcracker flying fields, you must have a current AMA card (for insurance purposes). The Thunderbolt newsletter will be provided to all current and past members through March, after which all non-paid members will be dropped from the roster. **Note: It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to insure your dues are paid – the club WILL NOT issue invoices or send notices to any members.** This is your only notice. Considering what you get for your money and those fees levied by other clubs, this is a bargain! Please renew your membership now.

### **Something to do during the winter months** by Dennis Robbins

We all know the winter months can be a slow time for us flyers, so here's a couple of options to keep you into RC planes:

- \* Go over the planes you have in your current fleet and make sure everything is tight and in good shape for the spring. Fix all those little things you've been putting off. Make sure when you go airborne next season, you won't encounter any surprises.
- \* If you've only flown ARF's, pick up a simple kit and try your hand at building. You don't need a lot of tools and the experience may help you understand the repair you need next year. You also don't need to go RC as great satisfaction can be gained from small static models. Try using different techniques and materials to gain further experience.
- \* Put together more ARFs or use the time to build and finish kits. As your flying skills improve and you start to be more "daring", the chance of losing a plane increases exponentially (ask any of our seasoned guys and they'll explain why).
- \* If you do fly during the cold season, dress for the occasion and make sure your batteries are fully charged. The cold weather can sap the strength from a battery very quickly, so you need to start fully charged.
- \* Visit one or more of the excellent museums that cater to us airplane fanatics. The list below can be used for a start (phone #'s and web sites are listed):

**United States Air Force Museum** – Wright Patterson Air Force Base – Dayton, OH

Phone - 937-255-3286 or [www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/](http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/) Approx. 3.5 hours south

Closed 12/25 and 1/1 Winter Hours: 9am – 5pm Presidential & R&D Hangers: 10:15am – 5pm

**Yankee Air Force** – Willow Run Airport – Ypsilanti, MI

Phone – 734-483-4030 or [www.yankeeairmuseum.org](http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org) Approx 45 minutes southwest

Closed Monday and Holidays, Jan. & Feb. - Closed Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Hours: Tue thru Sat – 10am – 4pm, Sun – 12pm – 4pm

**Kalamazoo Air Zoo** – Kalamazoo, MI

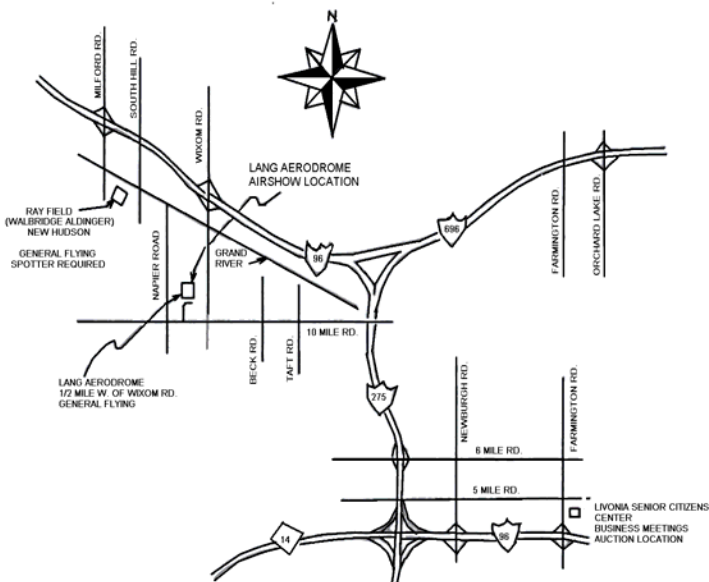
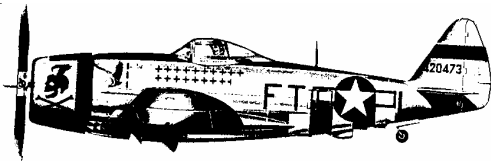
Phone – 269-382-6555 or [www.airzoo.org](http://www.airzoo.org) Approx. 2.5 hours west

Hours: Mon thru Sat – 9am – 5pm, Sun – 12pm – 5pm

**Local Coming Events -**

1-6	Ribcracker Club Meeting Club Meeting & Elections	Livonia Senior Citizens Cntr 5 Mile & Farmington Rds, SE Corner	Aaron Avery 734-425-8403
1-12	Swap & Shop Detroit Aero Modelers	Monaghan K of C Hall 19801 Farmington Rd, Livonia	Mike Cuba 734-522-7638
1-26	RCCD 7th Annual Swap Meet Radio Control Club of Detroit	14855 E. Eight Mile Road Eastpointe, MI (Just w. of Gratiot)	Emilio Cafarelli 586-751-8758
2-2	Swap Meet Flying Aces RC of Flint	1409 W. Maple, Carman-Ainsworth Jr. HS I-75 N. to Bristol Rd, East to Maple & R	Steve Polen 810-635-9392
2-3	Ribcracker Club Meeting General Club Meeting	Livonia Senior Citizens Cntr 5 Mile & Farmington Rds, SE Corner	President TBD Phone No. TBD

Dennis Robbins  
37592 Dorchester Drive  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

**1st flight of 2003**

The Ribcracker membership has again voted to honor the 1st flight of the year with a \$25 prize. This is open to Ribcracker members only! You must have an airplane in the air for a minimum of 2 minutes, at a Ribcracker field and this must be witnessed and attested to by another person (no animal paw prints!). Submit your entries to Dennis Robbins in January and the winner will be announced at the Feb. meeting. Remember, if you decide to fly at Ray Field, a spotter is required (they can sign you statement too). Provide the day and time (AM or PM) for your chance at winning!

Good Luck!