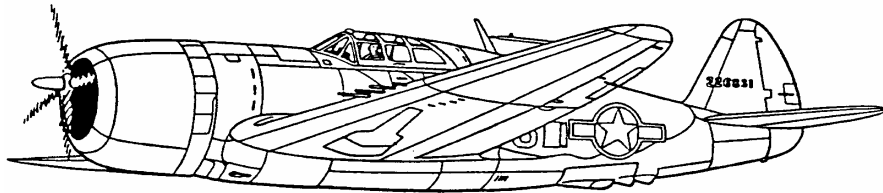


THUNDERBOLT



FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

MONDAY – FEBRUARY 3rd – 8:00 PM

JOE'S HOBBY CENTER

35151 Grand River – East of Drake, South Side of G.R.

Brief meeting then you can visit with friends,
talk planes and shop to your heart's content

President's Message by Mike Hegyi

Another year is behind us and we can look forward to more great flying in 2003. As we advance into this new year, we have a few changes with the Ribcrackers club officers. Only a few brave souls ventured out in a snowstorm for the December meeting. As a result, the election of new club officers was rescheduled for January, hence the late greetings from your new President – MICHAEL HEGYI, Vice-President – JOEL DISBRO, and Secretary – JOHN GAVASSO. Treasurer – Rodger Wilfong and Editor – Dennis Robbins will continue the fine job that they have been doing. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank all of last years out going officers, Aaron Avery, Don Unsworth and Gerald Klose for the hard work, time and effort that they volunteered to help keep our club running smoothly. With everyone's

**2003
RibCracker
Board
of
Directors**

*President - **MIKE** Hegyi / 43422 West Oak Drive, #306 Novi, MI 48377*

Phone: 248-669-7583 (E-mail: onesmg7@hotmail.com)

*Vice-President - **Joel** Disbro / 10795 McNally, South Lyon, MI 48178*

Phone: 734-449-8339

*Secretary - **John** Gavasso / 29049 Kendallwood, Farmington Hills, MI 48334*

Phone: 248-553-4783

*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>

January Meeting Minutes – Jan. 6, 2003

The meeting started in the new, updated and beautiful conference room of the Livonia Senior Citizens Center promptly at 7:14 PM. Outgoing President Aaron Avery called the meeting to order.

The December meeting minutes were approved as published in the January Thunderbolt.

Sec. Report – Still taking membership renewal applications.

Tres. Report – 2002 statement was distributed to all members present with a brief explanation of all distributed funds. For details on this report, please contact Roger.

V.P. Report – Nothing

Pres. Report – MISS activity is still ongoing and the most current response to the Ribcracker letter will be forwarded to the club's legal staff for review (Joe DiDia). The officers described their relative jobs to all members present and nominations were accepted for offices. Nominated for 2003 positions were:

President – Mike Hegyi, Vice-President – Joel Disbro, and Secretary – John Gavasso

After great discussion, the nominated parties were all voted into office. Great elation pursued!

Editor's Report – A report was made on a Scale Modeling show being presented at the Italian-American Cultural Center on March 29th. All members were invited to attend. Details will be posted elsewhere in this issue.

A brief discussion was made concerning the longevity of Ray and Lang fields. Nothing new was reported and at this time, the club can still fly at both. The DC-3 is in need of great repair and a discussion took place over whether the plane should be parted out and sold at the next club auction or sold as a unit. The new board will discuss this issue and report next month. Jim Young agreed to continue in assisting to obtain and provide interesting topics for club meetings. At the March meeting, Dave Schiavolin will discuss the finer points of tuning 2-stroke engines.

Model of the Month: Shown were a World Models Super Sport YaK 25 by Gerald Klose. The model was green with red stars and was powered by an OS25LA. Very nicely built! Also shown was a RTF, XEC Diversion by Roger Wilfong. This little plane is powered by twin electric motors and uses differential power to control direction. Roger flew the plane briefly at the meeting to show the glide slope. Winner of the MoM was Gerald.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

Prez's Message – continued from Page 1

help, the new club officers will try to do as well. Let's not leave it up to only a few, remember this is your club and your presence at each meeting can and will make a difference, not to mention you'll get to know your fellow flyers.

We have many events planned for 2003, some of the dates are pending and any changes will be announced at the club meetings. Jim Young has been working to schedule guest speakers this year, as he did last year. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please feel free to pass them along. The club web site is looking good, thanks to Dave Hurt. I think this could be a great asset to the club and the hobby. A wealth of information on the web site could answer many questions when looking for a new flying field and could be a great asset to the club and the hobby.

As with last year, this year's most important issue is finding a new flying field. As the construction of new homes around the lake north of Lang progresses and with the Church's plans to build, it is crucial that a new flying field be acquired this year. Remember, this is your club and if you have any suggestions, ideas or leads, please pass them along.

In closing, I would like to tell you about myself. I have been interested in RC planes since I was very young, but didn't get into the hobby until about 10 years ago. I enjoy building, flying, crashing and rebuilding RC planes. I have been a Ribcracker member for most of that time, even though I lived out West for the last 4 years. Now that my job brings me back to this area, I look forward to serving as the new President of the Ribcrackers and working and flying with everyone. So let's make a difference this year and have a SAFE and FUN year, flying and enjoying our hobby.

SEE YOU AT THE FIELD AND CLUB MEETINGS.

Winter Indoor Flying – Many of you may wish to fly indoors during the winter and this can be done at Oakland Yard in Waterford. Flying is done with small electrics in their indoor dome. Call 248-673-0100 for specific dates and times when they open their facility to indoor flying or check their web site at:

2003 Membership

2003 membership dues are due. To renew your membership, you must provide the Secretary with a copy of your AMA card and confirm your number of work hours during 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). The Thunderbolt newsletter will be provided to all current and past members through the March issue, 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.

Note from Gerald Klose: For the last 3-4 years I have been the secretary for the Ribcrackers. With very few exceptions, it was a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. While I didn't get to meet everyone face to face I did get to see everyone's renewal or application each year and was able to recognize most people names. I appreciated the support of all the members that I dealt with. But now it is time for me to hand the responsibilities to someone else. John Gavasso has generously offered to take up the duties of club secretary. Please be patient with John as he comes up to speed. I am sure that John will be able to handle it with no problems. I will still be working with John to try and keep up the database in case we can use it in the future. Since I now had all this free time I asked Mark Freeland if he was willing to give up the role as the club video librarian and he agreed. I will be going through the sign out log and will try to account for all the videos. If you have a video, please bring it in. I was also planning on adding to the library and would like your input. Is there anything that you would like to see added to the video library? Should we start getting DVD's instead of VHS tapes? What kind of interests would you like to explore? Jets? Electrics? Combat? Please give me a call at (243) 582-1803 or e-mail me at: Gerald.d.Klose@jci.com. I would appreciate any input you can give me.

Editor's Squawk-box by Dennis Robbins

It only took a glance to confirm that this group of rookies were nervous. Maybe only half a glance. As they moved towards the front line, you knew their training was minimal. How in the devil did they end up here? What manner of ill fate thrust them into this frightening and oh-so large wasteland. This appeared to be their first time on the front line and if they could have gone home, they would have already been there.

A military branch? Overseas assignment in some God-forsaken wasteland? Naaah, these were the new recruits for the Board Offices of the Ribcrackers. And they didn't look thrilled. What do we do? How do we do it? Who can remember? Well, here's my take on what happened.

The new and old officers (no – not chronologically!) met over coffee and some food at the Big Boy to hand off the titles and chores. The old officers seemed elated, the new boys...well, as I mentioned at the beginning of this tale... Pretty soon, the conversations turned from flying model planes to the upcoming tasks for 2003. Set up a schedule. Keeping track of members. What do I write? I don't own a PC or typewriter. Copies? I send what to who? Who arranges that meeting? Who handled what last year? What's the timing/date for that event? Budget what? Why? How do I know someone paid their dues? Contact AMA ...for what? What about our field(s)? Club picnic? When? Where? Fun Flies? And on and on and on.....

But you know, pretty soon almost all the questions were answered (and even a few notes were taken). The outgoing officers stated that they wouldn't be leaving town or dropping out of the club or leaving behind participation. Yes, their roles would be changing, maybe even diminishing, but they would always be around to help, coach and advise. Phone numbers were exchanged and promises to help with the transition were made. By the time we were all filled with food and coffee, the transition seemed complete. The new officers were smiling and seemed anxious to begin, while the outgoing officers seemed confident that the passing of the batons had been successful.

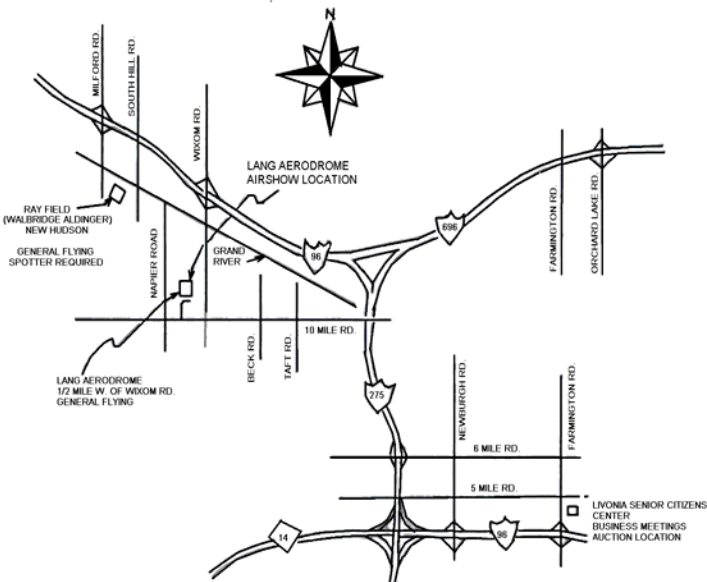
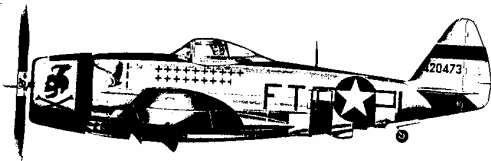
I've gone through a few boards now, and I think this one will do ok, maybe even great. They've been given a mission and have accepted the challenge. None of these guys are really rookies, they've been around for awhile and know what this club needs in the form of leadership and guidance. I feel pretty good that the Ribcrackers are still in good hands and will do well.

The 2003 Ribcracker schedule is still being finalized at the time of printing. The most up-to-date schedule will be available at the February Club Meeting. The March issue will provide a full schedule for all members.

Local Events –

1-26	RCCD 7th Annual Swap Meet RC 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 Club Meeting & Shopping	Joe's Hobby Center 35151 Grand River, East of Drake	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583
2-9	9th Annual Swap Kalamazoo Thunderbirds RC	Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds Center Bldg., 2900 Lake St.	Ray Landon 616-665-4716
2-16	Swap Meet Mid-Michigan RC Club	Baker College, Gute Street Owosso, MI	Michael Freeman 989-871-2673
2-19	Swap Shop Skymasters RC Club	Larson Middle School - Troy, MI Long Lake Rd, E. of John R.	Joe Finkelstine 248-877-0086

Dennis Robbins
37592 Dorchester Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



Upcoming Ribcracker Event

March Club Meeting
Livonia Senior Citizens Center

The Care and Feeding
of 2-stroke Engines

Featured Speaker

Dave Schiavolin

Don't forget guys...if you want to keep spending money on this hobby, you'd better not forget Valentine's Day – Feb. 14th