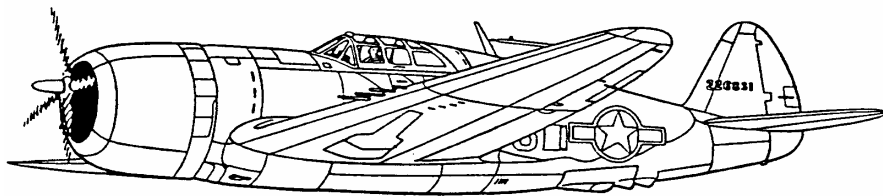


# THUNDERBOLT



## MARCH CLUB MEETING

MONDAY – MARCH 3rd – 7:00 PM

LIVONIA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

S.E. Corner of 5 Mile and Farmington Roads.

**Guest Speaker – Dave Schiavolin**

How to Tune and Care for your 2 and 4 Stroke Engines

### President's Message by Mike Hegyi

We had a good turn out at the February meeting, & I would like to thank Dave, Don & Mark at Joe's Hobby Center for letting the club use their store for our meeting. Everyone was able to stock up on the supplies needed to finish their winter projects and prepare for the start of the 2003 flying season. Yes, it's still cold out there, but warmer weather & better flying conditions are just a few weeks away. Now's the time to cycle your batteries and check all wire and mechanical connections. Also, it's a good idea to unplug & plug in all connections as this cleans them and assures a good contact.

Now that we've checked out all our equipment, we might come across a few things that we no longer need; a good plane, engine, etc. or maybe something that we do want. Well the Ribcracker's Auction & Swap Meet is on March 16th at the Livonia Senior Center. Contact Vince Blaszyk (248-624-9442) or Dave Schiavolin (734-397-1951) for information about selling or helping out at the auction. As for the rest of us, come prepared to take advantage of the good buys. Continued on Page 2

**2003  
RibCracker  
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of  
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**RIBCRACKER WEB PAGE: <http://www.ribcrackers.org>**

President's Message – Continued from Page 1

Besides the Auction, we have other events scheduled. These events will take place at Lang. If we no longer have the use of Lang, the events will be moved to Ray Field. Although we do not have an air show scheduled this year, we will have several fun flies, a IMAA Big Bird Fly In, as well as a club picnic. We will need volunteers for all of these and the field clean up in May. This will be a good opportunity to get your work hours in for the year. I would also like to thank Joe Alessandini for volunteering to take care of the student nights. Let's all make it to the March meeting as Dave Schiavolin will give us some pointers on 2 & 4 stroke engines, which may help us to have a trouble free first flight, since our planes have sat all winter.

With the 2003 flying season just around the corner, we need a place to fly. Even though we still have Lang & Ray fields, we, as a club need to be looking for a new flying field as it won't be long before construction & development forces us out. As the warmer weather approaches, there will be more of us at the field. Let's not forget "safety first", as it's been a long winter and many of us have been absent from the field and in a hurry to get that first flight in. Let's all have a safe and fun year of flying.

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### **February Meeting Minutes – Jan. 6, 2003**

The meeting started promptly at 8:07 PM at Joe's Hobby Center in Farmington. The January club meeting minutes were approved as published in the February newsletter.

**Tres. Report:** The club remains solvent. Details are available from Roger Wilfong if you have questions.

**Pres. Report:** Dave Schaivolin has agreed to manage 3 Fun Flies during the coming flying season – one each in June, July and Aug. \$300 has been approved for prizes for the events. Jim Gatewood will host (and is looking for help) in running and promoting a IMAA Big Bird Fly-In event at Lang Field on May 26th. This will be a No Fees event. The DC-3 will most likely be parted out and sold due to the lack of interest in repairing the broken bird. The **Ribcrackers Annual Swap Meet and Auction** is now set for **March 16th** at the Livonia Senior Citizen's Center. Vince Blasky and Dave Schaivolin will manage the event. If you wish to work this event, please contact Vince or Dave.

**VP Report:** The club is now starting to take names for volunteer activities this coming season – contact Joel Disbro to get your name / activity assigned now!

**Editor's Report:** An exhibition concerning Afro-American Aviation History will be taking place at Cobo Center during the week of Feb. 10. The exhibition will be open to the public on Feb. 12, from 7PM till 9PM.

The **1<sup>st</sup> Flight of the Year** was not exactly a resounding success as only Joe DiDia, Dennis Robbins and Rick Vera-Burgos got up early to fly. Dennis submitted a signed affidavit (he made his wife get up) attesting to his craziness, while Joe wrote a letter and Rick told the editor at the Feb. meeting. Dennis was at Ray a few minutes after 7AM and waited until 7:31 to go airborne, flying in the dim light of dawn. Joe was at Lang and lifted off at 9:20AM.

**New Business:** Ralph Hegadorn stated that students had been abusing the privilege of more than 3 flights at the Ribcracker field without becoming a club member. Ralph felt this should not be allowed. The board agreed to discuss this issue at the next board meeting and report back to the membership. Another issue was brought up by Jim Newcombe concerning going electronic with the newsletter. This issue will also be discussed and addressed at the next club meeting.

**Model of the Month:** Roger Wilfong brought an electric Estrolita – runs on an 010 motor with 8-350ma cells. Looks good and looks fast! Dennis Robbins brought a Sig 1909 Antionette indoor slow flyer. 7-350ma cells and a flying weight around 10 oz. The winner was Dennis (just barely!)

Jim Young brought for show & tell the foam covered wings and carbon fibre landing gear of his latest project, a 1/4 scale Widel Williams – 1930s Thomson Trophy racer. As always, very nice work and it will be interesting to see the finished project.

The meeting was completed at 8:50PM and many of the club members stayed to shop and chat.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

**2003 Membership – Last Reminder**

2003 membership dues must be submitted by the end of the March club meeting, otherwise you will be subject to overdue fines. 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 (for insurance) and Ribcracker membership cards. This will be your last Thunderbolt newsletter unless you have renewed your membership. After the March club meeting, your name and address will be dropped from the club's mailing address list. Note: It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to insure your dues are paid as the club WILL NOT issue invoices or send notices to any members. This is your final notice.

**Please renew your membership now.**

MARCH 16TH – LIVONIA'S SENIOR CENTER  
THE **RIBCRACKER SWAP AND AUCTION**  
BRING MONEY FOR BUYING AND  
RC "STUFF" TO SELL!

**The Editor's Squawk-box** by Dennis Robbins

At first I was going to "blame" our membership, but then I realized that I was heading in the wrong direction. The problem is: What to write about the would be of interest to our membership? What could I give to "the guys" that was interesting and useful? I used to read lots of magazines (new and old) or peruse web sites and gather information that I felt was pertinent to share with our membership. Hints and tips for building and covering. How to set-up this or that. But now I find I'm out of the loop. I just read a dozen or so pages about ARFs and how they're helping / hurting / are the current savior or are killing the RC model aviation hobby/sport. My problem is that I'm a dinosaur and still build kits or from scratch. I don't know much about ARFs or what skills you need to assemble them, or set them up, or fix them (they still crash and break like all the other planes...don't they?)

So as I'm sitting here during another one of those cold days, while my own current kit's glue is drying, I'm left with "What do you guys want to read about or what can I research for you?" Is there still a general interest in building and building tips? Should I just look for articles on how to set up your planes or do most of you get that information by yourselves from the web or other flying buddies?

The same question has come up at our club meetings. What would you like to see / hear / talk about? Should the board limit the business issues / discussions to 15 or 20 minutes max. and then we can talk planes and flying for the next 1+ hours? Jim Young offered to assemble a presentation on CAD design for model airplanes – which will take him a fair amount of time and effort to assemble, but only a few people expressed interest. Personally, I don't think I would try CAD drawings myself, but I would love to see how it's done and see the new technology...and I know Jim will do an awesome job explaining it. I think it's a great idea! At this coming March meeting, Dave Shaviolin will give a presentation on two and four stroke model engines. Are there any of us that don't need help with this?

So what I'm really asking is for **YOU** to help provide a few answers. What would make the club / newsletter better? I'd like to hear at least one (yea...only 1) idea from each member. If **YOU** could do that, then even figuring in a few duplicates, we'd have enough ideas for the next 10 years. Write the ideas down so you don't forget. I'll collect the notes at the March meeting and will get busy.

**Another Contest??**

From your editor...

OK Gents - over the last few seasons, the Thunderbolt editor occasionally offered a bottle of CA to anyone who could identify the pictured plane..... too easy for some.

So, here's another challenge - identify the plane that this cockpit is from and you'll get that CA. Let me know by the end of March and the 1st right answer wins. For all you shoulder shruggers, I'll tell you next month which plane this is from.

**RIBCRACKER SWAP MEET AND AUCTION****WHEN: MARCH 16TH****WHERE: LIVONIA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER****WHAT TIME: SET-UP AT 8:00 AM****SWAP STARTS AT 9:00 AM****AUCTION BEGINS AT 10:30 AM****CONTACT VINCE BLASKY - 248-624-9442****OR****DAVE SCHAVIOLIN - 734-397-1951****FOR DETAILS****TABLE - \$10 IN ADVANCE, \$12 AT THE DOOR****\$3 ADMISSION**

IF YOU WISH TO WORK THE EVENT AND GAIN WORK HOURS, CONTACT VINCE OR DAVE

*Ribcrackers Model Airplane Club – 2003 Activities Schedule*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
January 6	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
February 3	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Joe's Hobby Center
March 3	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
March 16	<i>Club Auction &amp; Swap Meet</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
April 7	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
April 9	<i>Student Night Begins</i>	Lang Field
May 5	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
May 10	<i>Air Field Clean-up</i>	Lang and Ray Fields
May 26	<i>Big Bird Fly In (IMAA)</i>	Lang Field
June 2	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Lang Field
June 22	<i>Fun Fly</i>	Lang Field
July 7	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Lang Field
August 4	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Lang Field
August 10	<i>Fun Fly</i>	Lang Field
September 8	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
September 14	<i>Club Picnic &amp; Fun Fly</i>	Lang Field
October 6	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
October 22	<i>Last Student Night</i>	Lang Field
November 3	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
December 1	<i>Club Meeting &amp; Board Elections</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center

***All Club Meetings begin at 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted.***

**From the Editor – For the Thunderbolt readers** – Every year, someone asks why the newsletter hasn't gone electronic. It would be one way to reduce costs (postage, stickers and paper) and the amount of work required to run copies, fold, seal, sticker and stamp. The newsletter is allocated approximately \$100/month, but for the last few years has been operating at about 1/2 that amount or less.

In the past, I've tried to send the newsletter over cyberspace, (trial test) but due to the size of the file, it wouldn't fit into my "outbox", plus unless you had the same publishing software that I'm using, you still couldn't open the file. (If my PC crashes, we're all in trouble!) Just recently, I tried saving the newsletter as a Word document and sent a trial copy to Jim Newcombe. Lo and behold, it worked! Jim had to re-format and the picture(s) were lost, but the newsletter did come through. Jim has offered to handle the re-formatting and electronic distribution. This might also allow the newsletter to be put onto the Ribcracker web-site.

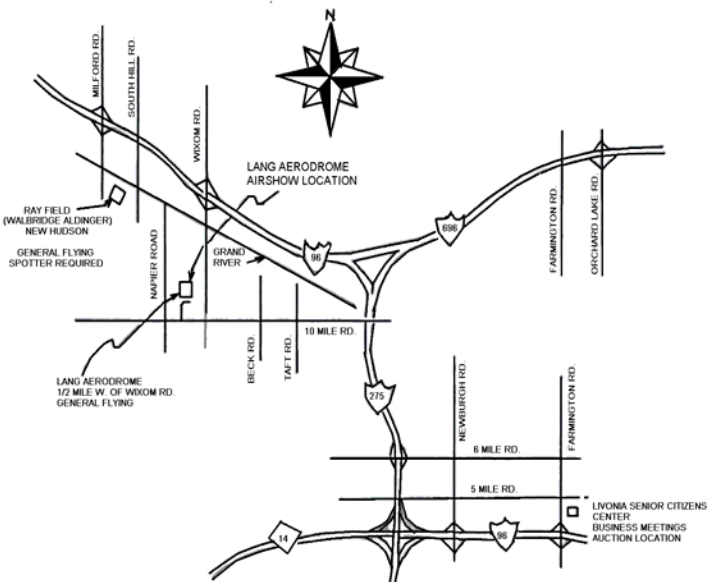
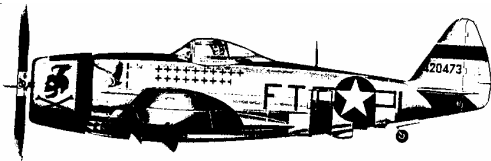
A few other points to consider...

- ◆ Due to the size of our membership, it's too big a job to keep track of who gets an electronic copy and who gets paper. Two mailing lists is too (2) much ... (I do have a day job!)
  - ◆ The newsletter could come via cyberspace, but if you chose to use the internet, you would be dropped off the snail mail list for the remainder of the year.
  - ◆ It would be your responsibility to keep your address up-to-date (it is anyways!)
- So - here's the question...Before we invest in the effort, I/we need to know EXACTLY how many members want to receive the newsletter via e-mail and how many wish to continue getting a paper mailing. Please let me know so I can tally an accurate count and make an informed decision.

**Local Events -**

March 3	Ribcracker Club Meeting General Mtg & Engine Demo	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Rds	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583
March 9	Flying Pilgrims Swap Meet	UAW Local 735 Hall 48055 Michigan - Canton	Mike Clapsadle 734-425-2562
March 15&16	2003 Mall RC Show RC Club of Detroit	Macomb Mall - Roseville Corner of Gratiot & Masonic	Mike Pavlock 586-716-1854
March 16	Ribcracker Swap & Auction Annual Swap & Auction	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Rds	Vince Blasky 248-624-9442
March 29	Annual Model Contest Model Show-All sizes & types	Italian-American Cultural Center 28111 Imperial Drive, Warren	Jim Ashford 248-399-2386
April 7	Ribcracker Club Meeting General Meeting	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Rds	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583

Dennis Robbins  
37592 Dorchester Drive  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



**THE RULES OF LIFE -**

THERE ARE TWO RULES OF LIFE.

1. NEVER TELL PEOPLE EVERY-  
THING YOU KNOW.