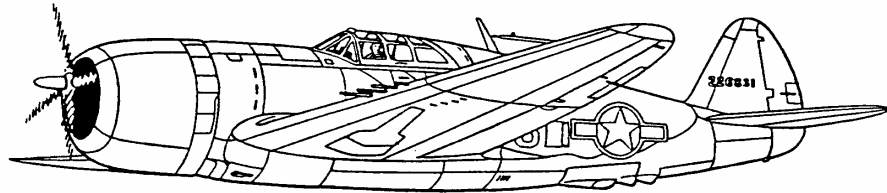


THUNDERBOLT



APRIL CLUB MEETING

MONDAY – APRIL 7th – 7:00 PM

LIVONIA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

S.E. Corner of 5 Mile & Farmington Roads

Guest Speaker – Jim Young
Computer Aided Design and Model Aircraft
This Will be GREAT!!

The President's Message by Mike Hegyi

Well, I didn't think it would ever get here, but the warmer temps, more daylight hours, the muddy drive, parking area and flying field are sure signs that spring is here. It's time to get our equipment ready for the flying season of 2003. Along with the start of the flying season comes field maintenance. Airfield clean up for our fields is scheduled for May 10. Please see Joel Disbro, the VP, for details and work hours. As a reminder, during **ALL** field maintenance, including weekly grass cutting, there is **NO FLYING**. Please, do not fly over any of the construction workers or their equipment. Also, with construction to the north of Lang, the field may be closed from time to time for safety reasons. If the key is not in the lock box, that means that the field is temporarily closed.

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**2003
RibCracker
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of
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March Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2003

The meeting started at 7:05 PM at the Livonia Senior Citizens Center. The February meeting minutes were approved as published (after a short discussion with Ralph over the meaning of “student”).

V.P. Report – Now is the time to sign-up for field maintenance. Field clean-up day has been designated as May 10 – both fields.

Sec. Report – Sign-up / renew your membership tonight if you wish to avoid penalties to your membership dues.

Treasurer’s Report – The club remains solvent – please see Roger if you want a detail report.

Misc. Items Discussed – ♦Jim Gatewood will be hosting a Big Bird Fly-In on Monday, May 26th. Jim needs help in running this event, so please call him if you wish to or can help. Jim’s phone is: 734-464-9285 and his e-mail is: captjim@ameritech.net. This qualifies as work hours, so have some fun and get your work hours completed. ♦Also occurring on May 25 and 26 will be a Fun-Fly at Willow Run. This will be a fly what you bring – anything goes. The club approved a \$100 donation to this event to help promote the hobby. Contact Dave Schiavolin, Dick Gallagher or Vince Blaszyk if you want more information on the Willow Run event. ♦The club is still looking for new leads on potential flying fields, so contact Mike Hegyi if you see or hear of anything. ♦Regarding last months comments about the number of times a person can fly at a Ribcracker field without being a member: Students can fly 3 different days before being required to join the club. Guests must have a hosting member present to fly at our fields. No-one will be allowed to fly if they are not an AMA member (insurance requirements). ♦Construction workers have been seen parking on the east end of Lang and also working in the area. If you are present when they are around the flying sites, you must use extreme caution or stop flying until they move out of immediate harm. The board will ask if they can park away from our field, but under no conditions should there be flying over their cars/trucks or over the individuals. It was suggested that members begin doing more of their flying at Ray Field, but if you do, please remember that a spotter (for full scales) must be present. ♦Dave Hurt is looking for suggestions and submissions for the Ribcracker website. He will be at the next meeting to scan any pictures or accept articles for the website. ♦The club Swap Meet & Auction is scheduled for March 16th. Contact Dave or Vince if you can help out or want to purchase a table.

Club Fun Flies – Current schedule is for June 22, August 10 and September 14. The September Fun Fly will also be our annual club picnic.

Model of the Month – Winner with a beautiful Super Sportster powered by a Saito 50 was Warren Wells and the runner-up was Roger Wilfong with a pink with black spotted electric Lady Bug.

Our speaker of the evening was Dave Schiavolin who discussed 2 and 4 stroke engines and how to set them up and make them run correctly. Dave discussed many of the important aspects to consider and also handed out help guides. Thanks for the great job Dave!

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

President’s Message – Cont.

Spring is also the start of student training with the first night being April 9th. To give the instructors more teaching time, anyone that wants to help out should show up on Wednesday evenings and ask what you can do. Joe Alessandini, will be handling student night.

I would like to thank Dave Schiavolin for the presentation on 2 stroke engines that he shared with all at the March meeting. By taking good care of our power plants, they will give us many years of trouble free service. We will have more guest speakers throughout the year. Jim Young will be the guest speaker this month discussing Computer Aided Design as it relates to model aircraft. Don’t miss it.

Our Swap Meet & Auction was very successful. All in attendance had a good time. I saw many smiling faces making deals and many trips to their cars with armfuls of R/C items. The DC-3 “remains” were auctioned off and the new owner got a good deal. It was sad to see it go, but better to see it go to a good home and used again, than to gather dust in a basement or garage. Many thanks to Dave Schiavolin, Vince Blaszyk, Richard Brewer and everyone who arrived early and stayed late to help out.

Let’s not forget the Toledo Show (www.toledoshow.com) on April 4 - 6 at the Seagate Centre, 401 Jefferson Ave., Toledo Ohio. It’s a chance to see new R/C products, scale aircraft, friends, and have a good time. Drive safely and if I don’t see you there, I’ll see all of you at the April club meeting.

Name the Cockpit Contest...And I thought this was going to be pretty easy. A few guys thought this was from a jet fighter...wrong! The plane is a WWII P-47 Thunderbolt. Good thing I didn't make it too hard. I'll try to think of another contest for next month...a little easier. Your disappointed Editor....



Editor's Squawk-box by Dennis Robbins

A few sorta related topics and comments (from a variety of members, as I'm only reporting this month):

1. I thought this was most interesting as one of our "senior / retired" members commented to me that he thought it wrong that so many of his contemporaries (as in other retirees) have stopped working for the club's benefit. Yes, he knows that they all put in their time volunteering and helping with officer's jobs in the past, but today we still need them and they have the experience (and occasionally/frequently) the time to help make a difference. Sure we have a few guys that are always there if required, but the majority of retired members now plead that they've put in their hours and now's the time to relax and enjoy and fly. That though might "fly" with a vocation, but this avocation still needs their input.....(I can hear the screams now!!)
2. In the March Thunderbolt, I requested that each member give me one, that's 1, idea of what they wanted in the way of articles in upcoming issues. I receive 2 comments. The first was that I continue to provide ideas or thoughts for the newcomer. The second was not actually a request, but a memo to be included in the newsletter...which I have done. If I'm not mistaken, that's approximately a 1% or less response rate. Did I write the request for nothing? Hey!, did anyone else read the newsletter? Anyone out there? Ah, guys???
3. At the March club meeting, we had a better than average turnout and possibly it was because Dave Shiavolin was the featured speaker. Almost everyone knows Dave and they also know that he's a pretty good flyer with more than a little experience. Dave talked about how to set up 2 and 4 stroke engines, adjust the carbs, pick the proper props, "read" glow plugs and more. Some of the discussion was pure basics, but he also answered many questions for some of us who have also been at this for "awhile". In addition to his talk, Dave also brought handouts for our future reference. I thought he did a great job and it also answered the request for more information for the beginners – see item #2. I don't understand why we didn't have even more members present.
4. Until next month....

A Note from Bob Husen:

I attended an IMAA event at the Venice, Fla. R/C Flyers field Saturday, Feb. 14. This was my first visit to their new field which opened probably 4 years ago. What a facility! It's absolutely huge. Acres of level, drained, grass at a county park and land fill on paved roads. They've built a long blacktop runway, permanent structures including a shelter over paved work bench area, protective screened visitor area with picnic tables, a snack service window, and separate outbuilding for mowers and generator.

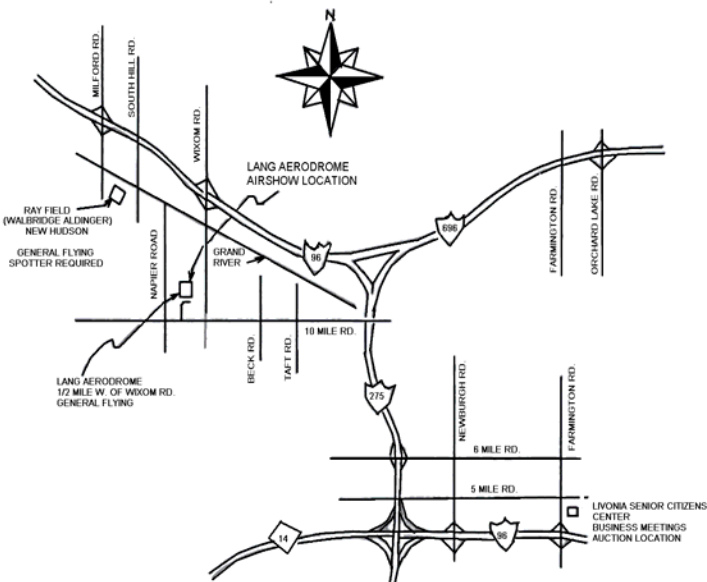
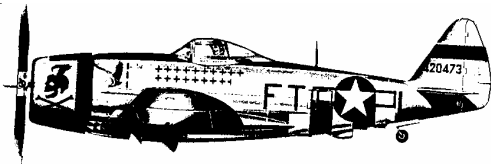
Thirty five pilots were there with beautiful scale models and unbelievable aerobatic demonstrations. But what I found most interesting was a 1/3 scale (10 Ft. wing span) 5 cyl. 4 cycle Stearman biplane built by Doug Calaway, St. Cloud, Fla. He had mounted a tiny TV camera in the rear cockpit. The camera - about a 1 inch cube - projected above the cockpit at the position of the pilot's head. Two servos rotated and tilted the camera to simulate the pilot moving his head and eyes right, left, up and down to scan the sky. The servos were operated through a receiver / transmitter / battery system separate from the planes control radio. The camera itself was powered by a separate 12 V battery pack. TV images are transmitted in color and audio to a ground station TV receiver and attached camcorder. To top it off, an on board GPS device provided latitude and longitude displayed on the cockpit view image. Doug made only one flight cut short by engine problems and did not demonstrate the camera in operation, but we watched a recorded flight on his camcorder LCD - amazingly! Of course it requires a second ground crew member to work the camera transmitter while Doug flies the plane. But maybe someday, he says, he might do some flying from the cockpit TV view.

Thanks for the note Bob...and I'm sorry I couldn't copy your pictures of the planes at their field. Guys, they were beautiful! Ed.

Local Events -

March 29	Annual Model Contest Model Show-All sizes & types	Italian-American Cultural Center 28111 Imperial Drive, Warren	Jim Ashford 248-399-2386
April 4-6	Toledo Model Airplane Expo Biggest, Best Model Airplane Show in the Midwest - Toledo, OH	Seagate Centre 401 Jefferson Ave.	
April 7	Ribcracker Club Meeting General Meeting	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Rds.	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583
April 9	Student Night Begins Beginners and Instructors	Lang Field 10 Mile Road, West of Wixom Rd.	Joe Alessandini 810-486-2970
May 5	Ribcracker Club Meeting General Meeting	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Rds.	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583

Dennis Robbins
37592 Dorchester Drive
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ATTENTION: At the April club meeting, Dave Hurt will be scanning photos and “stuff” that you think would be great to see on our website. Please bring some material.

STUDENT NIGHT

Baring any unforeseen weather problems, April 9th will begin our Student Training Night at Lang Field. If you can help or are an instructor, please be there by 6 PM to help the new guys!