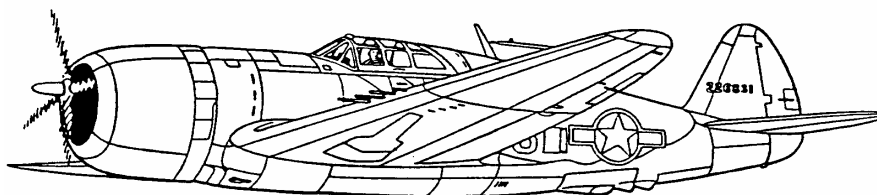


# THUNDERBOLT



## MAY CLUB MEETING

MONDAY – MAY 5th – 7:00 PM

LIVONIA SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

S.E. Corner of 5 Mile & Farmington Roads

Special Presentation by Jim Young  
Computer Aided Design and Modeling

Carry-over from April which was post-poned

### The President's Message – by Mike Hegyi

Well, it's already May and maybe the snow and cold weather are over for awhile, at least that's what I thought when April arrived. The winter storm on our meeting night didn't stop some of us from making it to the meeting and we had a decent turnout. Jim Young had to cancel his presentation on Computer Aided Design and Model Aircraft, but has rescheduled for the May meeting. It should be a big turnout, so arrive early.

The Toledo Show was good as usual. I saw a lot of you there stocking up like I was. You can never have too much RC stuff.

I stopped by the sales office of Island Lakes of Novi, and checked out their master plan. They are developing the north side of the lake first. The construction between our field and the lake is a road with housing lots between them.

The road is not yet done, so fly a safe distance from any workers you might see out there.

Continued on

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

**Prez's Message – Cont. from Page 1.** The building on the peninsula (soon to be an island, thus the name Island Lake) is going to be their club house and should open toward the end of the year. They do not plan to sell the lots on the south side of the lake ("our" side) until next year. So, by the time houses go up on the south side, it may be the end of 2004. Now, nothing is 100% for sure. Island Lake as well as the Church may change their plans at any time. Let's keep looking for that new field, because once we have one, it's still going to take time to prepare the land for flying.

Student night started last month and the first couple of nights, winter weather and a couple of die hard instructors showed up. Thanks guys for braving the cold and wind. As the weather improves, so will the attendants on student night, so if you have time, come out and lend a hand.

You can also get your work hours out of the way early this year by helping Joel Disbro with the field clean up on May 10th at both fields. Both sites will be closed to all flying until the work has been completed and Joel gives the OK to fly. The more hands, the sooner the fields open for flying. You can also check with Jim Gatewood, to see if he needs any more help with the IMAA Big Bird Fly-In on May 26.

Enjoy the weather and our hobby. Time to fly. See you out there.

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### **April Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2003**

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. Meeting minutes from last month were approved as submitted.

- Treasurer's Report: Swap meet did very well. See treasurer's report for details. Budget was approved with some minor modifications.
- VP Report: Please stay on the road when parking at Ray field. Don't try to drive up near the pits because you will sink in the mud. This Wednesday is the first student night. It was suggested that the key be taken from the lock box at Lang field until the ground hardens up. An alternative was to block off the parking area that doesn't have any gravel. Use common sense and don't trash the parking area when it is muddy. At this point the south side of the lake will be sold last according to the sales person for the developer. Watch out for construction workers. Either ask them politely to move their personal vehicles or don't fly near their equipment, cars or the workers themselves. To avoid duplication of efforts please use Mike Hegyi as our point of contact when dealing with the church or the developer.

### **New Business:**

- A spirited discussion revolved around the budget: did we want to be realistic or optimistic? The budget was amended and approved by all those present.
- The official web site is: [www.RIBCRACKERS.ORG](http://www.RIBCRACKERS.ORG) A motion was offered and seconded to formally shut down the old site.
- A suggestion was made that exceptional work hours be recognized. There are a few people every year that do the majority of the work in the club and some thought that it would be appropriate to honor them. No consensus was reached.
- A membership starter pack and/or flyers need to be created/updated to promote our club at the Yankee Airforce show to increase membership.

### **Model of the Month**

- Mike Hegyi brought in a Raptor helicopter with a Thunder Tiger 36.
- Roger Wilfong (who thinks model of the month means he has to bring a new model every month) brought a 1/12 scale corsair from PICA with a geared Astro 35 on 10 cells.
- Winner – Congratulations Roger on another fine model.

Respectfully submitted by Gerald Klose

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

**Starting the season** – I've requested input from our members on what they want in the newsletter and overwhelmingly, it's write something for the beginner (OK—so it was only one guy!). Well, this month, my focus will be on how to get I believe we should get started for the new season. Although these comments might be for the beginner (because he doesn't know any better), it's really more for the seasoned veteran who does know better, but has become complacent and tends to ignore many of our safety related (common sense) practices.

So where or how do we start on getting ready for the 2003 flying season. Assuming you still have a plane from last year, you need to do a thorough review and pre-flight check before you go flying and put your pride and joy in harm's way.

**The Plane** – items to check CAREFULLY!!.. Are the wheel collars on tight? Did you remember to file a flat on the axle to help hold the wheel collar screw in place? If not, now's the time. If you have wheel pants, are they still in good shape? or are they cracked and need repair? Is the landing gear firmly attached? Is the tail wheel still there? Screws or bolts tight? Is the covering material (skin) still tight or is it sagging and in need of an iron or heat gun? Are there edges coming up? Can they be put back down firmly? Try cleaning the covering's underside of oil and grime before you try re-attaching it. If all else fails, a little CA will almost always help. Are there any holes in the covering that need a patch? If you don't have any left-over covering material in the right color, then use the wrong color and fix the hole! Better to have a mis-matched colored patch than have the hole get VERY LARGE at an inopportune time. Are the hinges still strong and firmly glued in place? Any cracks or tears in the hinges, especially around the rudder when you have a tail-dragger. If you use "real" hinges, are they (still) firmly glued in place? Did you ever remember to pin them? Is the canopy still firmly attached? Hey guys...give these things a tug, because they will come loose when you least need it happening! Ever try to find a lost wheel or canopy in the weeds?...out there?...somewhere...? Did you test the engine mounting screws to see if they're tight? Lots of vibration in this area. Did you check the engine mount to the firewall? What about the muffler bolts? If you ever wondered why an airborne plane suddenly goes loud, it's frequently the muffler that decided to part company with the engine.

**Internal** – A lot of writers now turn to the radio

gear, but before we go to that topic and the plane is open and exposed (the wing's off-isn't it?), how about checking the airframe's structure. Try wiggling the struts or pieces of wood inside the plane and see if anything became loose or the glue split and you never noticed it before. (CA can be good for repairing cracked wood inside a fuselage.) Are the servos still firmly attached to their mounts? Are the servo plates or beams still firmly attached to the fuselage? Servo arm screw still there? If you don't use Z-bends, are the push-rod adjusters still tight? Come to think of it...are the Z-bend holes elongated and in need of replacement? Clevises ok? What about the mounting of the control horns...make sure you check the tightness. Remember when I told you to write the date you put your flight pack into service on your flight pack? Remember? Good...now pull it out and check it to see if it's more than 3 years old. If it is, it isn't worth the \$20 or so to chance losing the entire plane when the pack goes dead in the middle of a flight...and it won't be your first flight...it'll wait until you feel safe and comfortable... If your transmitter pack is less than 4 or 5 years old, then just make sure it's charged very well and check the meter on your transmitter. (I've had my transmitter packs last much longer, but again, it's not worth losing a plane over a battery pack.) Some guys say to pull the servo plugs from the receiver and then reattach them to clean the connections – it couldn't / shouldn't hurt (although I haven't had that problem.....yet!)

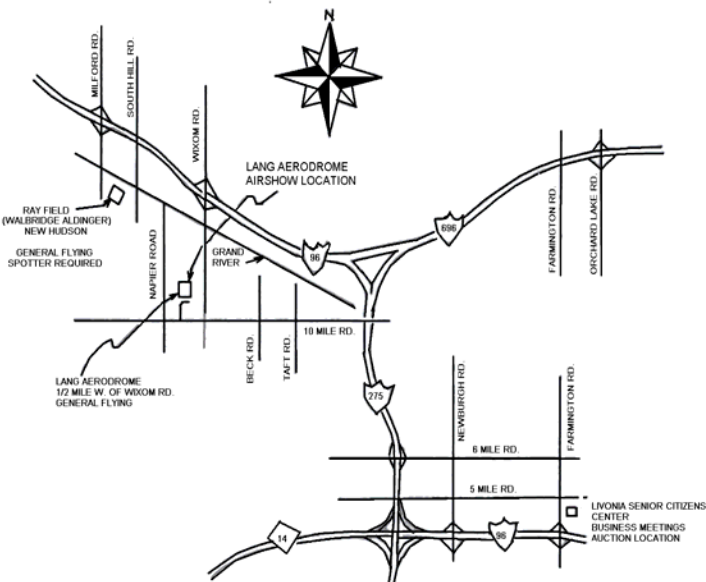
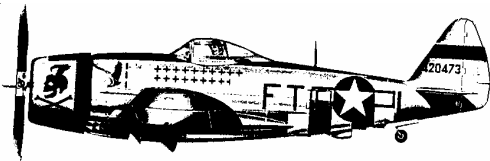
Alright now we're ready to go to the field...did you bring...a couple of new Glow-Plugs, fresh fuel (old fuel will make your engine run bad and it will drive you crazy trying to figure out why the X#%&! thing won't run correctly, especially when it did fine last year. Did you charge your flight and transmitter packs at least overnight? Did you remember to charge your glow plug igniter? and your engine starter? Don't forget to do a range check – with the engine off and then running!

Lastly and not covered here, please remember your field safety rules and procedures. Be aware of others, their planes and their gear. Fly safely and carefully. If you haven't flown all winter, take it easy until you feel comfortable again. Remember, the plane that was in perfect trim when you last flew it and then put it away, is now completely out of trim. Don't ask me how I know! OK – get out your tools, check the plane carefully and thoroughly and then go have some fun.

**Local Events –**

5-5	Ribcracker Club Meeting CAD & Model Airplanes	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Roads	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583
5-17	C. Brady Memorial Float Fly Skymasters RC Club	Seven Lake State Park Holly, MI	Greg Cardillo 248-236-0676
5-17/18	Annual Spring Contest Many classes and events	Detroit – Rouge Park Call for info	Marc Warwashana 734-449-7355
5-18	Bald Mtn. Float Fly Skymasters RC Club	Bald Mtn. State Park Lake Orion Area	Greg Cardillo 248-236-0676
5-26	Big Bird Fly-In Ribcrackers RC Club	Lang Field 10 Mile, West of Wixom Rd	Jim Gatewood 734-464-9285
5-26	Fun-Fly Multiple Clubs	Willow Run Airport Ypsilanti, MI	Vince Blasky 248-624-9442

Dennis Robbins  
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**Help the Web-site:**

Gentlemen – Dave Hurt is looking for interesting photos of Ribcrackers and their planes in action to include in our web-site. He will bring a scanner to our meetings, so all you have to do is bring some pictures.