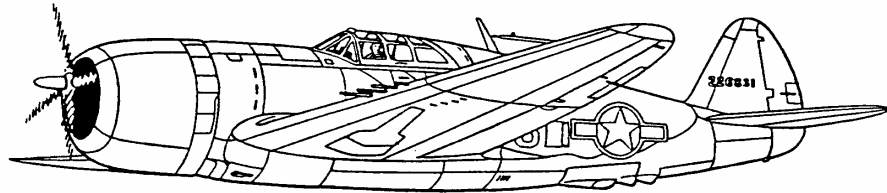


THUNDERBOLT



SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 8th – 7:00 PM

LANG FLYING FIELD

10 Mile Road – West of Wixom Road

Short Meeting – Promise!

Bring your plane – We'll have time to fly!

President's Message by Mike Hegyi

We must be having fun flying, because time sure is going by fast. After the September 8th club meeting at Lang, we have a club fun fly/picnic scheduled for September 14th. Contact Dave Hurt to help out. Sad to say, but student night will be ending next month, although we've seen many new pilots solo. Our instructors are doing a great job! I was unable to attend the last fun fly or the IMAC because I was out of town. I've been told that the fun fly went well and despite the power outage, the IMAC was also a success. Many thanks to Joe, Jim, Dave, Joel, Ralph and the many other workers, as well as all who came out to help, participate and watch the flying of both events.

I am pleased to announce that at the August meeting, several well deserving members; ED KATZ, BILL HANSON and AL LUCKHAM received Life-Time membership in our club. I would like to thank GARY SCHAFFER for donating a new JR buddy box to the club. This should make for less of a wait for students to fly on Wednesday.

I was able to attend the Jet meet at the Grosse Ile Airport as well as the Helicopter meet at the Midwest field. Sometimes it's nice to watch others and admire the hard work and time (as well as the \$\$\$) that they put into their models and shows. There are many more events though-out the next few months. Check the back of the newsletter if you're interested. Dennis does a great job keeping us informed of these events.

Continued on page 6

**2003
RibCracker
Board
of
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Ribcracker August Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2003

The meeting began at 7:05 PM. The July meeting minutes were approved as published in the August Thunderbolt. The club members present completed their ballots for Life Membership nominations and the meeting proceeded.

VP Report – the fields are in good shape and the summer heat has reduced the immediate need to cut the grass so frequently. Joel will monitor the situation and cut grass accordingly. (M. Hegyi requested a small work party trim the tall grass and weeds around the entrance for safe exit from the field.) Tres. & Sec. Report – Vacation or absent – no reports. Pres. Report – a Fun Fly is scheduled for Aug. 10th. All members are encouraged to attend and participate.

IMAC Review – Joe DiDia and Jim Gatewood went over the plans and necessities in place or still remaining. The show promises to be great with many big names attending.

The Life Membership ballots were counted and by an overwhelming majority. Ed Katz, Bill Hanson and Al Luckham are now admitted into the prestigious Ribcracker Life Membership roster. Congratulations to all these gentlemen for the dedication and efforts they have exhibited towards the Ribcrackers for many years.

Models of the Month – Mike Hegyi showed a large, bright Yellow and Purple Flying King, designed and kitted by Bruce Tharpe. This big bird is powered by an OS-91 and has flaps to slow for landings. Ron McHale showed a Hanger 9 Funtana that he converted to electric power and he's using an "Outrigger Motor". Ron continues to experiment with battery packs for the best power / flying duration combination. Nice job for both of these pilots. Mike took home the fuel prize by a narrow margin.

The meeting adjourned (officially) at 7:48 PM. Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

Product Notice – A helpful note from Chris Brewer:

The following effects the C&H Syncro Spark ignition modules found on many popular gas engines, such as: BME, DA, 3W (some), Brison, FPE, Taurus, etc. C&H has discovered a possible temperature sensitivity problem in the Syncro Spark timing board. One of the electronic parts on the board may not meet its design temperature specification. The symptoms are the ignition will start to fail when it gets hot. The engine will restart when the ignition cools off, but will stop when it heats back up. It was determined that the affected ignitions are part of a particular production run. This run affects ignitions sold between Sept 2002 and June 2003. C&H ignitions should be marked on the back side with a month and year made. Example SS OK 01/03 BC

Even though most of these ignitions are out of warranty C&H will replace the Syncro Spark board in these units. The ignitions will be repaired and returned at no charge. Contact C&H Electronics for details.

C&H Electronics are sorry for any inconvenience this causes, but these repairs must be done to ensure that all of these units will meet C&H Electronics standards. This does not apply to non Syncro Spark units for engines with mechanical spark timing C&H Electronics 3420 Chandelle Blvd Riverton WY. 82501 M-F 10am - 5PM mountain time 307 857 6897

RIBCRACKERS FUN FLYS – 2003 by Dave Shiavolin

Since it's late August already, I think it's time to report on both Fun Fly events that have transpired at Lang Field this year. Considering that these are highly technical events with the participants spending countless hours preparing and practicing, I would be remiss in not providing substantial coverage of these events in our newsletter. So here we go.

JUNE FUN FLY

The June Fun Fly occurred on a bright and sunny, Sunday afternoon at Lang Field. The participants arrived from all over the country, I mean from all over the state, I mean from all over the country, well what I really mean is that people showed up from somewhere. In any case we had participants.

The scheduled events were meticulously prepared and organized by Dave Schiavolin with the excellent and capable assistance of Dave Hurt. What more could you ask for? Actually the events were almost secondary to our arrival on the scene, but we went ahead with them anyway. After shaking everyones hands and signing autographs we proceeded.

As with all the Fun Fly events, the pilots were competing for a list of prizes, second to none, anywhere in the world. This may be a slight exaggeration but the look on the participant's faces when they saw that package of pushrods looking back at them, was a sight to behold. It brings a tear to my eye just rethinking about all that transpired. Well, let's just get on with the results.

For the June activities we had 3 events, with the accumulated scores for all events determining the winner. The events were Precision Flight, Loops and Rolls, and Speed Stunts. The results were:

Precision Flight

- 1st Place-----Steve Elwell
- 2nd Place-----Ron McHale
- 3rd Place-----Mike Hegyi

Loops & Rolls

- 1st Place-----Ron McHale
- 2nd Place-----Keith Neff
- 3rd Place-----Frank Audette

Speed Stunts

- 1st Place-----Ron McHale
- 2nd Place-----Steve Elwell
- 3rd Place-----Mike Hegyi

Overall Points Winner

- 1st Place-----Ron McHale
- 2nd Place-----Frank Audette
- 3rd Place-----Steve Elwell

Congratulations to all participants and especially those who lined my pockets, er...who won the events.

AUGUST FUN FLY

After the awesome showdown in June, I was absolutely amazed at the turnout in August. These guys were out for blood! The weather was beautiful once again with a light breeze and sunny skies. The only thing that broke up this breathtaking vista was the snarls and grunts of the pilots doing everything in their power to undermine, castigate or otherwise demean their fellow participants. It was wonderful.

Again, the prize list was almost overwhelming. The 1/3 scale Extra 300 complete with engine and radio as first prize was almost upstaged by the 3-DA100 engines and 9z radios provided. Unfortunately, the last prize of an all expense paid round trip to R/C World was a little light, but next year we will try to upgrade. As usual, all prizes were procured through Joe's Hobby Shop and Travel Agency. Joe's wishes to express their thanks for making this year a great success. Our treasury is now a bit low, so lets get out there and get some new members - remember we have another Fun Fly coming up in September.

We provided 3 interesting events to challenge the pilot’s skills and strategy. These were the Balloon Bust & Go, Slalom Race, and Slowest and Fastest. (Ever notice how these events are self-descriptive. It’s tough coming up with the events and then making the titles descriptive as well.)

Balloon Bust & Go

This is a simple event where each pilot has 3 minutes to break a balloon, take off, do a loop, land and then break another balloon. This process continues until time has expired with the total number of balloons broken determining the winner. Ron McHale won this event by breaking the maximum of 6 balloons, although there was some controversy. Some contestants felt that a propeller that covers half the flying field on each revolution was unfair and I was unable to change the rules fast enough without someone noticing. In any case, the final results for this event were tabulated and are as follows:

- 1st Place ----- Ron McHale
- 2nd Place ----- Tim Stover
- 3rd Place Tie ----- Gerald Klose

Slalom Race

After fully evaluating each registered pilots skills and considering all aspects of safety, I decided to have an event where no one actually flies. In this way, I could entice many of the pilots who were hiding in and under their vehicles to come out and watch their competitors. It did achieve the desired result, for awhile. The “pilots” had to traverse 10 meticulously prepared gates, placed in strategic locations, in the least amount of time. The original idea of a blindfold for each “pilot” was abandoned early since many of the competitors did exit their cars to watch. Another consideration of using lead pipe gates was found to be unnecessary since most of the planes were easily stopped by the extremely rugged balloons used. None-the-less, the contest proceeded with the following outcome:

- 1st Place ----- Chris Brewer
- 2nd Place ----- Keith Neff
- 3rd Place ----- Dave Hurt

Fast & Slow

This event set up a trap that each pilot had to fly in both the fastest and slowest possible times. The largest difference in the two times determined the winner. Because we went back into the air for this contest, many spectators and competitors retreated to the safety of their vehicles. Trying to explain the foolishness of their decision from the front seat of my car did not seem to instill a sense of confidence in anyone, so we moved ahead anyway. The results are as follows:

- 1st Place ----- Tim Stover
- 2nd Place ----- Ron McHale
- 3rd Place ----- Dennis Robbins

Final Results

After carefully tabulating the results from all 3 events and after giving fair consideration to all contributions, both large and small, I was able to determine an overall winner. One final note before I announce the winner. I do not think that it is appropriate for small mobs to form and make threatening gestures while I am announcing the results at the field. In all future events a permit obtained from the contest director, for a small fee, will be necessary to exhibit such behavior. On to the final results.

- 1st Place ----- Ron McHale
- 2nd Place ----- Tim Stover
- 3rd Place ----- Gerald Klose

Final Comments

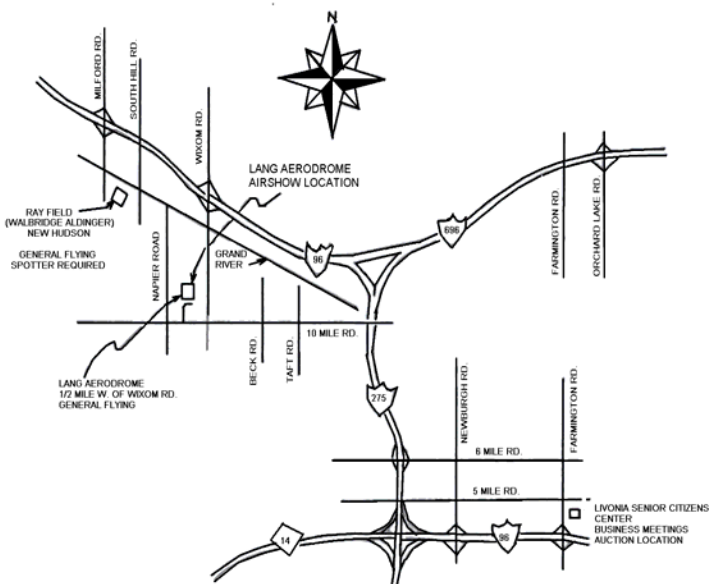
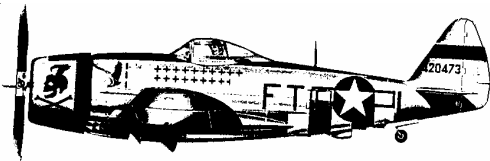
First, let me thank each competitor for their participation. These events are designed so that club members can come out and have a fun afternoon. I think we achieved that. So keep coming out for these events and hopefully our participant list will grow in the future. I would also like to thank Dave Hurt for his assistance with each of these contests. We have one more fun fly scheduled for this year, taking place at the club picnic in September. Dave Hurt will run this event, so that I may participate. I am sure you will give him your full support as you have for me.

Local Events –

Sept 6-7	Skymasters Float Fly Midwest Regional Float Fly	Island Lake State Park I-96, Across from Kensington	Ross Jones 248-738-4435
Sept 8	Ribcracker Club Meeting Monthly Updates & Flying	Lang Field 10 Mile Rd., W. of Wixom	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583
Sept 13	Fall Fly for Fun Flying Pilgrims Giant s and Jets	Geddes & Ridge Roads Club Field	Jack Kezelian 734-207-3626
Sept 14	Fun Fly and Picnic Ribcracker Gathering	Lang Field 10 Mile Rd, W. of Wixom	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583
Oct. 6	Ribcracker Club Meeting Monthly Club Meeting	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Rds, S.E. Corner	Mike Hegyi

For additional events, please check the back pages of AMA's Model Aviation

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President's Message – Continued from Page 1

We still need to find a new flying sight, so pass along any info or prospects. We're looking into a few leads, but let's not stop until we find a new field. A few safety issues came up at the last month's meeting. The few simple safety rules we have, apply to everyone at the field. Let's make them a habit so we can enjoy our hobby without endangering others or the rights of the field. And remember, no-matter if your plane is powered by fuel or batteries, let's be careful around those props.

Until next month.....Fly safely!

Quick note: For those of you who missed the Aug. Fun-Fly, you missed a great time. The events moved quickly, the skill levels required were reasonable, the prizes were unbelievable and the fun was monumental. Don't miss the next Fun Fly in Sept. Thanks Dave!!