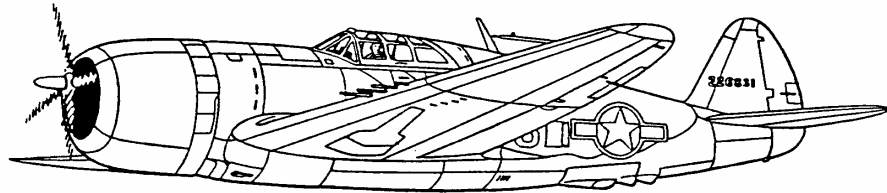


THUNDERBOLT



DECEMBER CLUB MEETING
MONDAY – DECEMBER 1st – 7:00 PM
LIVONIA SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER
5 Mile & Farmington Roads
Good Fun - Officer Elections!

President's Message by Mike Hegyi:

Wow, 2003 is coming to an end. Where did the year go? The cold weather and snow doesn't mean the end of the flying season. I know a lot of you will brave the weather and continue to fly. Our VP oversaw and helped with the great job of enclosing the pavilion, so dress warm and enjoy.

Dennis has done a great job with the newsletter, as always. And Joe Alessandini and those helping him on student night have turned out many new pilots. I can't name everyone, but thanks to all the club members for helping the Ribcrackers have a safe and fun 2003 flying year. Keep up the good work and let's all have a hand in making next year a good one as well.

Continued Page 2

2003 RIBCRACKER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ribcracker November Meeting Minutes – Nov. 3, 2003

The meeting started at 7:10 PM. First order of business was to approve the October meeting minutes as published in the Nov. Thunderbolt.

Treasurer's Report – the club is still solvent.

V.P.'s Report – the shelter is now enclosed for the winter. Contact Joel Disbro if you notice the plastic in disrepair. Work hours are still available, contact Joel for additional information if you have questions.

President's Report – The club is still looking for a new flying field and even though a few leads have surfaced, nothing has been confirmed. Mike donated a trainer to the club for student night, including two wings and an engine. Once a radio is found, the plane will be ready to go. Steve Cecale has offered to complete the plane. December will be club election time and there will possibly be an opening if you can contribute to the club and help. Everyone is encouraged to attend the December meeting.

Updates – Joe Didia has modified the MISS proposal. Apparently, MISS conducted two tests for radio interference and no problems were found. Unfortunately, the Ribcrackers did not have a representative present to witness the event. However, everyone believes that no problem will exist, so if Pete Waters (our Frequency Coordinator representative) agrees to the testing method, then the Ribcrackers will move forward to complete the agreement. No frequency sharing is thought to be necessary.

It was recommended that the club contact the church and the sub-division developers to obtain the latest status on the Lang field area. The club agreed to provide the Livonia Senior Citizen's Center with a DVD player as "payment" for use of the facility. It was recommended by the facility that the DVD player was needed.

Future speakers being planned for club meetings include (possibly): Joe DiDia – IMAC setup and Keith Shaw – History of Aircraft during the Golden Age.

Speaker of the evening was Howard Kendall on RC Helicopters. Howard explained the workings of this helicopter and showed a video of helicopter flying capabilities. Everyone had a great time. Many thanks to Howard for coming and also to Jim Young for arranging the speaker.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

Presidents Message Continued from Page 1

I want to thank the club for putting up with me as your Prez for this last year. I've enjoyed the opportunity, the experience and all the help I received along the way. I wish I would have had more time to spend flying and pursuing a new field. My job has demanded more of my time recently than I expected. Hopefully the next Prez won't have that problem. Joel and Roger have done a great job and have decided to stay on as VP and Treasure. We will need volunteers to fill the other positions. I will step aside if someone else would like to have this privilege. Come on guys, step up and give it a shot at the December meeting. We could also use more able bodies to help out with the web site to take some of the work load off Dave. Your club needs you!! It's been a pleasure to be the President of one of the best and friendliest R/C clubs around. Happy flying! - Mike

Quick note: The guys that attended the November Club meeting had a real treat when Howard Kendall, of the Midwest Radio Club, brought out his helicopter and explained this craft. Howard took us from the basic mechanics of how a helicopter works, through flight control and ended his presentation with a video. All questions (and there were plenty) were answered carefully and completely. The video showed flight control that (almost) can't be believed! Howard did a great job and everyone present was thoroughly intrigued and entertained. We ran overtime, but no-one seemed in a hurry to leave. Thanks again to Jim Young for making this event happen.

Reward - Bill Hanson is looking for a lost fuselage from a giant plane with a high wing. The color is red and white and the fuse has a 31cc Ryobi engine attached. Bill thinks it was lost on I-96 between Wixom and Novi Roads (don't ask!). A reward is offered - call Bill at: 248-960-1618

Winter Flying - over the last few years, I've written suggestions or found articles on winter flying. Now seems like a good time to revisit those suggestions as winter can't be too far away and most of us don't want to put our planes away. Remember, we still get a few sunny, calm days during the winter.

Clothing - If you don't dress properly, you'll be miserable, with a strong chance of breaking your plane as the controls shiver and shake your plane to its death. Nothing is worse than being cold, except being cold and holding a broken airplane. Snowmobile suits or multiple layers are what to wear. Warm boots and a couple of pairs of socks. A warm hat with something over your ears. And gloves...you can wear the heavy stuff while you prepare to go airborne, but before you lift-off, put on a light pair of gloves that will keep the wind off your skin, yet let you still feel the controls. If you don't think you can fly wearing gloves, then kick it back a few notches and fly gently...but still, with those gloves. You don't have to fly at 10/10ths all the time! Did I remember to mention sun glasses? Make sure your boots and hat are warm because if you have to trample out in the field looking for your plane, you'll be sorry if you didn't prepare. Remember, it's always 20° colder at the field too!

Airplanes - Covering Materials - the cold can effect the Monokote (or other plastic type covering materials) by making the plastic "freeze" or "become brittle" or loose some of it's elasticity. What this means is that if you drop something on it, the dropped item may drop through, instead of rolling off. (Don't ask how I know.) Patches aren't hard to do in a warm shop (go home). Batteries - loose capacity and power when cold. Make sure you've fully charged your starter and glow-lighter batteries and that you had the receiver and transmitter packs on charge at least overnight. Keep the plane and gear in the house until you're ready to go, then enjoy the warm car ride. By the time the batteries are losing their charges, you'll be tired too. Skis - it doesn't matter if you build them (it's easy) or buy them, but getting them is a must. Flying off snow is fun and frequently easier than grass. The nose of the skis must ride a little high so they won't dig into the snow, but not so high that they hit your prop. And a string or rubber band to keep them from rotating down too far, which if they do, makes landing (smoothly) impossible. Read the directions or ask another flyer for help if you're not sure.

Engines - If you store your planes inside the house, then starting them won't be too hard (with fully charged starting equipment). Some guys put a drop or two of lighter fluid into their carburetors, but I've never seen it recommended, nor have I ever needed it...but just in case... Warm the engine up an extra minute or two and re-check your mixture setting. Cold air will make the engine run leaner, so a click or two richer is generally all that's needed. Make sure your engine is running properly before you go airborne...it won't get better at altitude! I've been told that using a higher percentage nitro fuel is also good for restoring power, but I've never noticed a problem with engine power using my fuel left over from summer (maybe it's because of what and how I fly).

Control Linkages - If you use plastic clevises on your planes, you may wish to consider changing them to metal. The plastic clevises can get brittle in the cold and have been known to snap. However, on your throttle linkage, just make sure the clevis is in good condition and leave it plastic. Metal clevises on throttle linkages have been known to vibrate and set-up radio interference - always stay with plastic. Also, be prepared on the first flight for the trims to be off, even if they were perfect when you put the plane away. The cold can shrink the Nyrods and cause unexpected excitement. Dowels or steel push-rods normally won't change lengths, but the change to them isn't something to do out at the field.

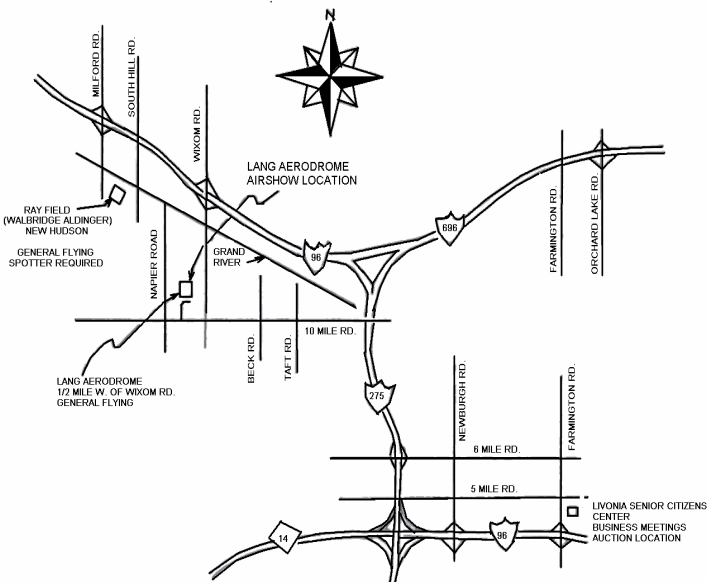
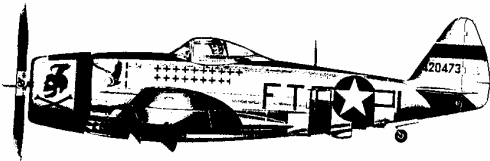
Where to fly - Both Lang and Ray are open to flying year round. Be careful at Lang with heavy snow, but otherwise all normal rules for flying still apply. Be extremely careful if you fly off of lakes. Although it can be fun, make sure the ice is thick enough (everywhere your plane could possibly go), before you go out. And make sure there's nothing near you that could become endangered. Safest place though, is always an AMA approved flying field.

Have fun in the coming season. Remember to still go flying. Winter is time to build or assemble another plane for next year. And have a Happy Holiday Season and a Great New Year - Dennis

This month and soon –

Dec. 1	Ribcracker Club Meeting Officer's Elections!	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Rds	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583
Jan 1	Fly the 1st of the Year Open Flying Fun All Planes / All Pilots	Lang Field - 11:00 - 1:30 Weather Permitting	Dennis Robbins 248-661-3562
Jan 5	Ribcracker Club Meeting Agenda for the year meeting	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Rds	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583

Dennis Robbins
37592 Dorchester Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



Don't Forget!
Safety is always the 1st priority.
Build Light & Straight
Check twice before you glue

Happiest of Holiday Seasons
Keep flying and Happy New Year!

Ribcracker Board of 2003