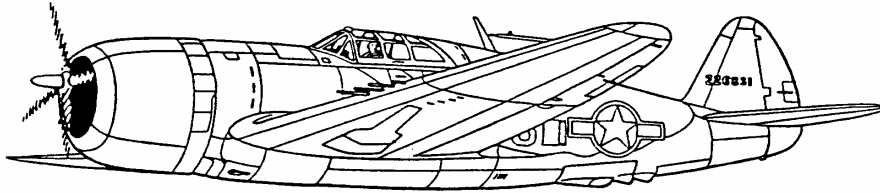


# THUNDERBOLT



FEBRUARY 2004



CLUB 2067

## RIBCRACKER MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

### FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

FEBRUARY 5th – 7:00 PM at the LIVONIA SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER  
5 Mile & Farmington Roads, South East Corner in the Municipal Center

### General Meeting and Club Updates

Guest Speaker: Tom Bacsanyi on Using Computer Aided Design for  
Modeling Applications.

Examples of Useful Applications will be Shown and Discussed

### President's Message from Mike Hegyi

The New Year has sure started off in a good way. If you missed last month's meeting, you missed out on several good deals. I tried to notify everyone via e-mail, phone, and our web page. A former flier wanted to dispose of his equipment: planes, radios, engines, building supplies, etc. and all those at the meeting took advantage of the deals. Deals? More like give aways. We may not have deals like this at the February meeting, but it will still be worth attending. We will have a guest speaker, as well as other guest speakers, lined up for the next several months. The 2004 Schedule has been completed, with the Annual Swap Meet and Auction set for Sunday, March 21, 2004. We have several people that have volunteered to help, but we are still looking for someone to head up the event.

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### 2004 RIBCRACKER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**Ribcracker January Meeting Minutes – Jan. 5, 2004**

The meeting started late at 7:24 due to “issues” with “membership focus”. The December meeting minutes were approved as published in the January Thunderbolt.

**Sec. Report:** The club remains solvent. See Roger Wilfong for details.

**Business issues:** The proposed club schedule was updated and is now considered firm. (Approved schedule is printed elsewhere in this issue) Mike Hegyi will try to find a club member to head the Swap Meet and Auction, now that the activity has been approved. Mike will confirm availability of the date and location. Fun-flyers were voted in and Steve Cecale and Mark Helm agreed to host the events (other members agreed to train Steve and Mark). The MISS agreement has now been updated and a meeting date with MISS will be arranged for (hopefully) a final meeting. Membership starter packs will soon be available on the Ribcracker website.

**2004 membership cards** are now available – contact Gary Schaefer for your card.

The **1<sup>st</sup> Annual 1<sup>st</sup> Flying Day of the Year Fly-In** at Lang Field was a success with everyone present having a great time. See elsewhere in this issue for a report.

The club has ongoing activity in our search for a new flying field, but nothing is firm yet. To all our membership: Please keep looking!

**Model of the Month:** Warren Wells with a Bright Yellow Smith Mini-Plane, powered by an OS46FX. Beautiful job Warren!

The meeting officially ended at 8:31pm.

Note: Numerous cartons of free RC “stuff” including an impromptu auction (of the not free stuff) kept the membership entertained and busy throughout the evening. Everyone had a great time with lots of laughs and excitement. Too bad if you missed this opportunity!

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

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It's a good way to get in your hours and you'll have help from those who have worked on the swap meets in the past. Anyone interested in helping out can contact me. Don't forget to pick up your club cards from Gary Schaefer.

I want to thank Dennis Robbins for the great job he did on the New Year's Day Fun Fly. The weather was great (considering the time of year) and we had a great turn out. Several dozen of us braved the elements and had an enjoyable day. We even had a few new people interested in learning to fly show up. They enjoyed the fun fly as much as those flying. Frank Audette gave a few lessons with a buddy box. Check out some of the pictures at [www.ribcrackers.org](http://www.ribcrackers.org). Warmer weather will be here before you know it.

Help support the club that supports your hobby and join us for the meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Keep your eyes and ears open for any info about a flying site. Stay warm and fly safe.

**1ST ANNUAL FIRST FLIGHT DAY OF THE YEAR FLY-IN BY DENNIS ROBBINS**

Well, it was a resounding success. The weather cooperated (for Michigan in the winter) with gray skies, 30ish degrees in temperature and light winds from the south-west. By 11am about 4 or 5 members had shown up and then every 3 to 5 minutes for the next hour+, another vehicle filled with planes and pilots pulled into the pits. By 12:30pm, there were approximately 22-25 pilots either fiddling with their planes, waiting for a flight station to open or in the air flying. The ground was frozen but there was no snow to be seen. Wheels, not skis were the order of the day.

1st to go airborne with his blue Ultimate Bipe was Matt Jerue just after 11am. From that point on, the flight stations remained busy. 1st to crash in 2004 was Al Luckham with a motor powered glider around 11:45. This was particularly unfortunate because Al had made such a masterful throwing launch of the glider, only to see the plane driven into the ground by an unexpected shift in the wind...honest!

Besides the pilots, another 5 to 8 people showed up to watch and/or videotape the event. This was a great time as everyone that wanted to fly had multiple opportunities and turns. Thanks to all that showed up and participated. Next year, you “snow-birds” may wish to stick around town a few more days.

**Ribcracker Radio Control Airplane Club - 2004 Activities Schedule**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>
January 5	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
February 2	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
March 1	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
March 21	<i>Club Auction &amp; Swap Meet</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
April 5	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
April 7	<i>Student Night Begins</i>	Lang Field
May 3	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
May 8	<i>Air Field Clean-up</i>	Lang and Ray Fields
June 7	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Lang Field
June 20	<i>Fun Fly</i>	Lang Field
July 5	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Lang Field
August 2	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Lang Field
August 8	<i>Fun Fly</i>	Lang Field
September 13	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
September 19	<i>Club Picnic &amp; Fun Fly</i>	Lang Field
October 4	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
October 20	<i>Last Student Night</i>	Lang Field
November 1	<i>Club Meeting</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center
December 6	<i>Club Meeting &amp; Board Elections</i>	Livonia Senior Citizens Center

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

**What to do with the Winter Blaa's** by Dennis Robbins

I'm sure our fair-weather snow-bird friends get a big chuckle every time they see the national weather report and think of us freezing our "you know whats" off here in Michigan. You have to admit it, the weather lately has been lousy for flying. Gray skies, windy and very, very cold. Well, here's a few ideas that you may wish to consider.....

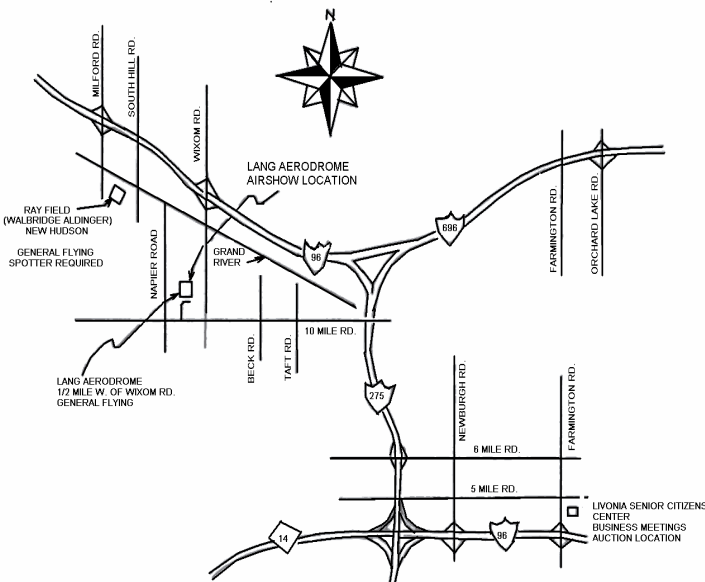
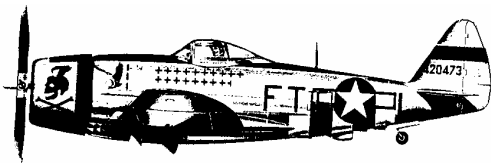
- If you don't have a new project for next season, maybe you should consider one. Build from plans, build a kit, assemble an ARF...just work on something that you'll want to fly next season. Pick a project you've been putting off that will test your building / assembly skills. The winter hours will melt away as you see your efforts turn into a new machine.
- That old plane that you used all last season could use a thorough check-up. Start with the airframe and check for cracks, broken structures or oil soaked areas. How's the covering? If it's coming loose, maybe you should replace or repair the area. Are the servos still tight in their mounts? Did you check the engine mounting - engine to mount and mount to firewall? Are the wheel clevises still tight or about to fall off?
- Have you been cycling your batteries? Both the TX and RX? Now's a great time because you can take your time since you're not going out to the field anytime soon. And don't forget the glow plug igniter or your starter battery. Maybe, put the batteries on a timer for the next few days to cycle the units for an hour or so each day.
- Spend some time reading and learn what others already know and you don't. Hit the library, bookstore or the web. I cruise the forums on RC Universe and pick up lots of hints and tips and laughs.
- Maybe now would be a good time to purchase that Flight Simulator and get some "air time". You can practice maneuvers that would scare you silly with a "real" model and if you crash....hey, so what...time to "re-boot"! I've "simulator" crashed many, many times and never once hurt my favorite models. Never once scratched the Monokote! And I've even learned a few new tricks (maybe I'll even try them next season.)

So, stop moping around the house and get busy. There's still plenty to do RC wise that will keep us entertained during the remainder of the COLD season.

**Upcoming Events for February and Beyond**

Dates	Event	Where	Contact Info
Feb 1	Flint's R/C Swap Meet Flying Aces R/C Club	Carman-Ainsworth Jr. High School 1409 W. Maple, 1/4 mi.S. of Bristol Rd., N. on I-75 B/4 I-69, Flint	Steve Polen (810) 635-9392
Feb 2	Ribcracker Club Meeting Guest Speaker	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Rds. SE corner	Mike Hegyi Phone: 248-669-7583
Feb 15	Mid-Michigan Swap Meet Chesaning Area Flying Club	Baker College, Gute Street Owosso, MI	Doug Rodgerson Ph: 810-687-0001 (after 5) Or staggerwing1955@aol.com
Feb 21	Model and Hobby Swap Meet - Kalamazoo T-Birds	Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake Street, Center Bldg	Ray Landon 269-665-4716

Dennis Robbins  
37592 Dorchester Drive  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



**Membership Renewal**

Time to renew your Ribcracker membership. To renew your membership you must show a 2004 AMA card and pay our Secretary or Treasurer the annual club fee of \$55. Additionally, you must have completed your work hours or an additional \$15 fee will be assessed. Addresses to send your renewal to are on the front page. Your club membership must be renewed by the March meeting, or you will be dropped from the club roster. Considering other club fees and that you still have two fields to fly from plus all the other club benefits, it's a bargain. Let any of the club officers know if you have any questions regarding this issue.