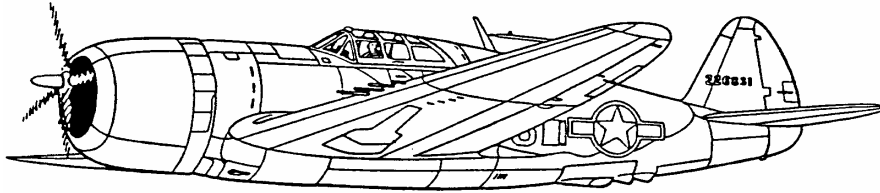


THUNDERBOLT



MARCH 2004



CLUB 2067

RIBCRACKER MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

MARCH CLUB MEETING

MARCH 1st – 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: JOE DIDIA & JIM GATEWOOD

Setting up your plane for Precision Flying!

Dozens of examples to help us all fly better!

President's Message from Mike Hegyi

Spring is in the air, at least that's what the calendar shows. Just a few more weeks and we'll be putting up with soft ground and a little mud. On the bright side, it's warming up, the days are getting longer and the rest of us are coming out of hibernation. The flying field is getting busier. It's the start of a new flying season, so review those safety rules so we can all enjoy the weather and the hobby. Now's a good time to go over our equipment and check the electrical and mechanical connections. It wouldn't hurt to cycle those batteries one more time.

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2004 RIBCRACKER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ribcracker February Meeting Minutes – Feb. 2, 2004

Meeting started promptly at 7:15pm. The January meeting minutes were approved as published in the February Thunderbolt.

Tres. Report: The club remains solvent. Contact Roger Wilfong for details if interested. The annual budget was discussed and approved per a discussion and amendment to add funds to cover costs associated with operating a website.

Current Business: The club is having the Annual Swap Meet and Auction on March 21st. The club still needs a chairperson to head this activity. Contact Mike Hegyi if you can spare a little time and have mild organizational skills. The club also needs to "re"-organize a Field Appropriation Committee. There were no MISS agreement updates to report. Membership renewal is currently on-going and the process is fully up-to-date.

Model of the Month: Winner was Mark Freeland with a 1/8 'sorta' scale pink foam electric profile flyer of a 1936 Percival E.ZH Mew Gull. Power is a GWS twin motor unit with gearbox. Very interesting looking flyer. Runner-up and showing a very nice looking aerobatic plane was Dave Hurt with a Westin UK Hype 3D ARF powered by a Saito .74. Dave says that it flies great and based on the skis the plane was wearing, Dave's been out in the cold and flying off of the snow. Nice job guys.

Upcoming Club Meeting Events: Thanks to Jim Young, will be: March meeting - J. DiDia and J. Gatewood speaking on Digital Servos and setting up an plane for IMAC or improved flying properties. Jim is also trying to set-up a club trip to the Henry Ford Museum to visit a special "Flight Exhibit". Many club members showed interest in attending so Jim agreed to pursue this activity. (Stay tuned for a report.)

Meeting Presentation: Tom Bacsanyi gave us a great presentation on how a CAD (Computer Aided Design) program can be used to design model airplanes and components. Along with the presentation, Tom showed club members the special assemblies he had fabricated for specific modeling requirements. Tom (though he won't admit it) is in the master builder class, so his workmanship deserves a second look. Thanks for the presentation!

Respectfully submitted... Dennis Robbins

Ribcracker Website

Hey guys - if you haven't "brought up" the Ribcracker website for awhile, I suggest you do and see what's happened. Under the guidance and watchful eye of Mike Hegyi, our club's website has now moved a tremendous leap forward in the world of RC Airplane Club's websites.

Working under the Mike's direction were Dan and Bill Ray, Kevin Johnson and Steve Elwell. This group burned the midnight oil to give our website a whole new look. New look to the homepage with easy to use links. We have links to AMA plus other clubs and manufacturers, an up-to-date / easy-to-read Calendar, an organized Photo Gallery, Up-to the minute Weather reports, a Polling site for RC related statistics and a Statistics page to see who's reading what. Almost forgot, you can get the Thunderbolt on-line now too.

Please take a look, as a lot of effort went into upgrading the club's site. I think you'll agree the efforts were well spent. This was a great job by a few dedicated guys for our club.

President's Message...continued from Page 1

At last month's meeting, **Tom Bacsanyi** gave an excellent demo on using CAD to design a plane. Thank you Tom, we all enjoyed it. We can thank our Secretary, **Gary Schaefer**, for making it possible to get in and out of Lang field this winter. Check out the pictures on the web, a plowed out drive and parking area. We're getting spoiled, THANK YOU GARY!

Speaking of the web site; *have you checked it out?* Yes, we have a new web site, it even displays the weather! The address is still the same, www.ribcrackers.org, and it is linked to www.ribcrackers.com. Since .com is one of the most common web addresses, the club owns both to make it easier to find the Ribcrackers on the internet. Many thanks to club members, **Dan Ray**, and **Steve Ewell**, as well as **Kevin Johnson** (U-R-ON net) and all the others that had a part in making the new web site. It took a lot of hard work, late nights and many sacrifices in the last two weeks to make it possible, and because of hard work and voluntary time, the new site was completed quickly and under budget.

Many volunteers make any job more enjoyable and easier. Everybody's circumstances are different, but if you can lend a hand here and there, when ever you have a little extra time, it frees up every one to enjoy the event and one and others company. This gives you the satisfaction of being *part* of the club, not just a flyer *in* the club. The club could use a hand with locating a new field. We still have both Lang and Ray Fields, but let's not wait; we need to look now regardless of how many years we have left at these places. Please contact any officer if you would like to help head up a search, but don't stampede us, form a line. Thanks guys.

March meeting, Monday the first, Joe DiDia is scheduled to be our guess speaker. He will show us how to set up the bigger planes (40%, etc.). Also, all those who have volunteered to help at the swap meet; we will have a sign up sheet at the meeting. Please make sure your name & phone number is correct on it so we can make final preparations.

Hope you have many safe and fun flights...

MIKE

Ribcracker Swap Meet and Auction - as you know, this activity is scheduled for March 21. The **club**, that means a majority of guys, voted to hold this event, but as of this writing, only Mike Hegyi is working on it. This isn't even close to being fair! Even Mike can't be a one man show. This is also the easiest activity to gain club work hours. We'll need people to help sell tickets, collect money, help set up tables, put up a few signs outside so people can find the place and possibly sell coffee and donuts. Come-on guys, call Mike at: 248-669-7583 and tell him you'll help. Thanks!

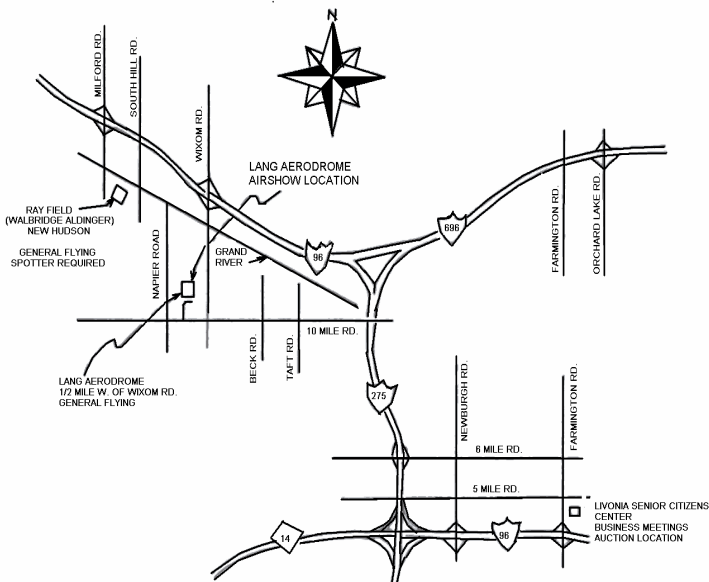
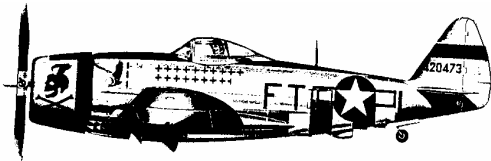
The True Airplane Builder - In this age of ARFdom, who builds? A few rare soles still do! Who is willing to spend the time and effort to construct a flying machine? Well, I recently had the opportunity to see a **REAL** project. Mark Freeland is building a small 2-seater aircraft. Mark bought a kit frame and some hardware about 10 years ago. After making a few structural and convenience improvements, Mark's efforts are almost complete. The kit mfr. says completion time is "about" 750 hrs, Mark thinks he's at about the 2,500 hr. mark. Workmanship is beautiful. Can't wait to see the completed plane! Mark - please keep us posted.



Upcoming Events for March and Beyond

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>
March 1	Ribcracker Club Meeting Guest Speakers!	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Roads	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583
March 21	Ribcracker Annual Swap & Auction	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Roads	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583
April 2,3, 4	Weaksignals host again the Toledo Show!	SeaGate Center - Downtown Toledo, OH	www.toledoshow.com
April 5	Ribcracker Club Meeting	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington Roads	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583

Dennis Robbins
37592 Dorchester Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

**Membership Renewal**

You've had lots of opportunities to renew your membership and if you don't take care of it by the end of the March meeting, here's what you loose!

- This incredibly entertaining newsletter!
- Use of 2 of the finest flying fields in S.E. Michigan
- Entertaining and informative club demonstrations
- \$15 extra to cover your late fees
- Membership to a club filled with great guys that love the same hobby as you!

To renew, contact Gary Schaefer (he comes to all the club meetings) and show a current AMA card, plus funds to cover your individual fees. **SIMPLE!!**