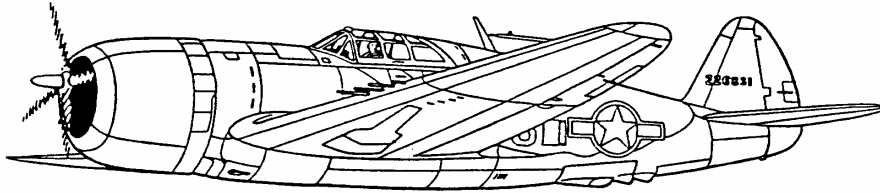


THUNDERBOLT



MAY 2004



CLUB 2067

RIBCRACKER MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

MAY CLUB MEETING

MAY 3rd – 7:00 PM at the LIVONIA SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER
5 Mile & Farmington Roads

Speaker of the Month - Roger Wilfong
Topic - Park and Smaller Flyers

President's Message from Mike Hegyi

The nicer weather has arrived and more of us are at the field enjoying it. As we get back into the fun of flying, please be careful and put **Safety First**. Speaking of safety, keep in mind the construction at the North and West ends of the field. **DO NOT** fly over the construction sites or the road. It might be a good idea to take a drive down the road to the West of the field to get an idea of where the construction sites are in relationship to the field so they can be avoided. Warren Wells will be handling any leads you may have on a new flying site. Check out the flyer on the homepage under Field Search. We are also looking into the possibility of rearranging our present site. I hope to have more info at the next meeting. Check the web site for updates.

Continued on Page 3

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Ribcracker March Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2004

Meeting started at 7:08 pm. The March meeting minutes were approved as published in the April Thunderbolt.

Treasurer's Report – the club remains solvent – see Roger Wilfong for details.

V.P. Report – Joel will research costs and logistics with getting our fields rolled. Both fields are currently open, but the grounds are generally soft. Please be careful when parking your car/truck to remain on the stones at Lang and on the road at Ray.

President's Report – the MISS agreement has been amended and forwarded to MISS for final sign-off. Hopefully this will be completed before the next meeting.

New Business: Ralph Hegadorn has demanded payment for “services” performed during student night. It was “loosely” noted that as-soon-as the services are properly identified, Ralph will be compensated.

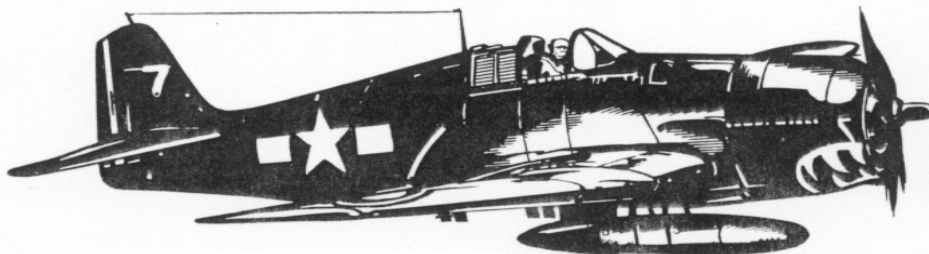
Student night will begin on April 7th. Anyone who wishes to help will be welcome.

There will be a field day clean-up on May 8th, starting at 9:00 am. All present will qualify for work hours.

For those interested, there will be a Fun Fly on May 31st at the Flying Pilgrim's Field. Contact Vince Blasky at 248-514-8532 for more information.

Models of the Month: Roger Wilfong finally brought in a glow-engined plane. The plane is a “Dick's Dream” and was built in 1969. Power is by a 0.020 Cox and control is rudder only. Mark Freeland brought in an electrically powered (GWS) foam plane which looks very similar to a Nuffield Napier Heston Racer. Winner of the Model of the Month was Andrew Ditchfield with a beautiful Balsa USA Enforcer powered by an OS 91 Surpass. Andrew had to redraw the plans to make everything work out correctly, but he claimed it was a great learning project and the finished work is beautiful.

Respectfully submitted - Dennis Robbins



F6F-5 Hellcat

Ribcracker Club Meetings

It's too bad that we have to discuss business, but club meetings are exactly for that - the running of the club. However, once the business is over, the fun can begin. For the last several months, the Ribcrackers have provided speakers during each meeting to explain / show / or teach our membership different aspects of Radio Control airplanes. The response to these demonstrations and presentations has been great. The May presentation will continue this tradition. Roger Wilfong will cover many of the following aspects of flying and building the smaller models. - What's a Park flyer? * 16-18 oz maximum weight * Speed/400 or smaller power systems. * 15-20 mph max speed - Power systems * Motors * Gear boxes * Speed controllers * Batteries - Radios

As Roger appears to be the club master in this area of RC, the presentation should be an eye opener for all. See you on May 3rd!

President's Message - cont. from Page 1

I attended the first couple of student nights and there were several volunteers helping the instructors. As the weather gets better and warmer, there will be more students keeping the instructors busy. Those helping check out the new planes, readying them for their first flight are appreciated by all. Some guys know how to have fun getting their work hour in. Thank you guys and keep up the good work.

May 8th is the day that all club members who enjoy using both flying sites will be at Lang to help the VP, Joel, with the annual spring clean up. Bring your lawn equipment as well as your planes so you can enjoy a day of flying **AFTER** the TWO sites are done. Give Joel a call to make arrangements.

I hope most of you were able to attend the Toledo Show at the beginning of April. The show was great, as always. Congratulations to the Weak Signal R/C Club for a great job, for the 50th time. There were several aircraft on display from some of our club members, as well as from R/Cers around the country. Check out the pictures (thanks Chris B.) on our web site.

In mid April, several local clubs got together at the Livonia Mall to display their planes and promote the hobby. It was an enjoyable weekend, even though we missed out on the first great weekend for flying. At the Mall Show, I had the opportunity to meet Al Temple, the first President of the Ribcrackers, and he shared a lot of club history with me. He has agreed to dig up the pictures, documents, and info about the first years of the Ribcrackers and pay us a visit soon. It will be interesting to hear from the man who started our club many, many years ago. We are looking in to making the mall show earlier for next year, so for those who could not attend, there are pictures on the web site.

See you at the field.....fly safe.

MIKE

Airplane Humor (courtesy of Qantas)

After every flight, pilots fill out a form called a gripe sheet, which conveys to the mechanics problems encountered with the aircraft during the flight that need repair or correction. The mechanics read and correct the problem, and then respond in writing on the lower half of the form what remedial action was taken, and the pilot reviews the gripe sheets before the next flight. Never let it be said that ground crews and engineers lack a sense of humor. (By the way, Qantas is the only major airline that has never had an accident.)

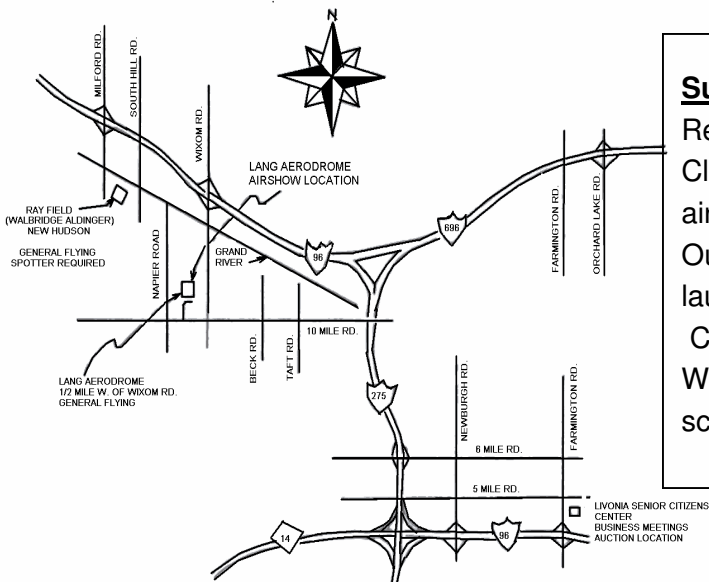
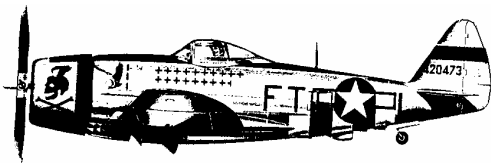
(P = The problem logged by the pilot.) (S = The solution and action taken by the mechanics.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement. | S: Almost replaced left inside main tire. |
| P: Test flight OK, except auto-land very rough. | S: Auto-land not installed on this aircraft. |
| P: Something loose in cockpit. | S: Something tightened in cockpit. |
| P: Dead bugs on windshield. | S: Live bugs on back-order. |
| P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 feet per minute descent. | S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground. |
| P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear. | S: Evidence removed. |
| P: DME volume unbelievably loud. | S: DME volume set to more believable level. |
| P: Friction lock causes throttle levers to stick. | S: That's what they're there for. |
| P: Suspected crack in windshield. | S: Suspect you're right. |
| P: Number 3 engine missing. | S: Engine found on right wing after brief search. |
| P: Aircraft handles funny. | S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious. |
| P: Target radar hums. | S: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics. |
| P: Mouse in cockpit. | S: Cat Installed |
| P: Noise coming from under instrument panel. Sounds like a midget pounding on something with a hammer. | S: Took hammer away from midget. |

Upcoming Events for May and Beyond

May 3	Ribcracker Club Meeting	Livonia Senior Citizens Center	Mike Hegyi
May 8	Air Field Clean-up	Lang and Ray Fields - bring tools	Joel Disbro
May 15/16	Mid-Michigan IMAC Jackson RC Club	Jackson, MI	Jim Gatewood 734-464-9285
May 22/23	Bald Mountain Float Fly Skymasters RC Club	Lake Orion, MI	Greg Cardillo 248-431-5562
May 22/23	Spring Contest Strathmore Model Club	Rouge Park, MI	Marc Warwashana 734-449-7355

Dennis Robbins
37592 Dorchester Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



Summer Club Outing -
 Received from Mark Grant - VP of the Sandhill Soaring Club. Has your club ever considered taking a trip to an airport and experiencing motor-less flight in a sailplane? Our soaring club aero-tow gliders and also does winch launches on Sunday mornings. (What a hoot!)
 Check out their website at <http://sandhillsoaring.org>
 We will discuss this at the May meeting and schedule accordingly.