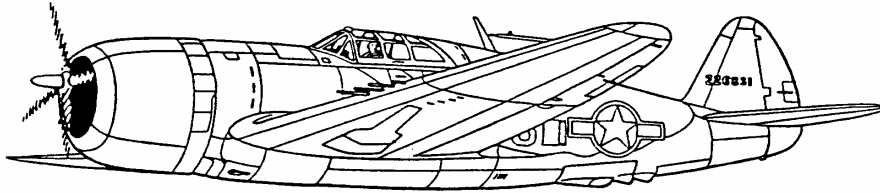


THUNDERBOLT



JUNE 2004



CLUB 2067

RIBCRACKER MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

JUNE CLUB MEETING

June 7th – 7:00 PM at LANG FIELD
10 Mile Road - West of Wixom Road

No Speakers this month - just a Quick update on Club Biz

Bring a plane and fly - before and after the meeting!

President's Message from Mike Hegyi

Last month we had several workers clean up both fields. Although it was a small turn out, the guys did a great job on both fields for ALL of us to enjoy this season. Thanks for your time and effort, it has not gone unnoticed. April should be our wet month, but looks like this May will be the wettest May on record. As a result, most of us aren't getting much flying in and all this rain has made the grass grow much faster. Be patient, Joel is doing his best to keep up. When you do get to fly, you will notice new signs at the flight stations and in the pavilion. Please take a few minutes to review them before you go airborne. At the last meeting, some new flight restrictions have been added (see insert and/or web site). This is to insure the safety of everyone. For the past 10 years, we've been spoiled with an almost unlimited flying area. Now we must adapt to a smaller area. We want to keep our beautiful flying site while we continue to look for another, so please be aware of where you are flying and keep with in the new boundaries.

2004 RIBCRACKER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ribcracker May Club Meeting – May 3, 2004

The meeting started promptly at 7:08 PM. The April meeting minutes were approved after a semi-serious discussion over the reporting of said minutes.

Tres. Report – the club remains solvent – see Roger Wilfong for details.

V. P. Report – the field clean-ups are scheduled for May 8th with May 15th as rain dates.

Editor's Report – the club was contacted by a Soaring Club (gliders) for possible interest. Dennis offered to co-ordinate a trip if there was enough interest.

Current items of interest – the club discussed the possibility of moving our flying field a several south for increased safety. We also discussed other alternatives for the Lang site and then other new flying site ideas. Warren Wells will head the field search committee. The MISS field / frequency agreement has been completed and is now final. Contact Mike Hegyi if you need or want details on the MISS agreement. **Safety** – the Lang Field flying boundaries were discussed and it was agreed to post new signs at Lang stating that all members should fly away from the construction sites. Don Unsworth discussed his educational model airplane program at a local Detroit Charter High School and requested possible help with the final class meeting. At this meeting, Don is trying to line-up slow or park flyers for demonstrations.

Upcoming Events: The Ribcrackers will hold their first Fun-Fly of 2004 on June 20th. All club members are encouraged to participate and fly.

Model of the Month – Joel Disbro with a beautiful Eindexer ARF, powered by an RVC-60. This old timer (the plane, not Joel) should be an excellent flyer. Runner-up (just barely missing the win) was Don Hilbert with a geared Speed 400 powered "Kitten".

Roger Wilfong was our speaker of the month. Roger covered Electric Small and/or Park flyers. Roger explained the various planes and the necessary power systems. Everyone loved the discussion and seeing Roger's incredible variety of planes. Thanks Roger!

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

Editor's Squawk-box by Dennis Robbins

It must be the flying season again because the horror stories are starting to arrive. Maybe it's my fault as I stopped harping on safety when I got the impression no-one wanted to hear it anymore. Heck - you're all big boys, you can take care of yourselves... and I don't need to play mom and tell you to be careful. Or?

The first story that came to my attention was that someone had tried to shorten his fingers by using a running prop. I don't have any details, but it sounded ugly. What is it that allows us (yea... all of us) to forget how dangerous those propellers are? Should we have cages around the props to make us keep our fingers / hands out of their way? Should OSHA get involved? (OSHA is the government's Occupational Safety & Hazard Association) Please understand... the most guilty group of careless guys are the ones that have been around engines and propellers for years. The new comers just don't know all the rights from wrongs yet. And how many of you can actually say that you've painted your propeller tips with a bright color to keep them more visible? If the answer is no, then **WHY NOT??** Painted prop tips isn't a cure-all, but it may / could help.

Other lessons we've learned in the past shouldn't be forgotten either. Have you checked your plane over to insure that **EVERYTHING** is tight and in "flight" condition? What about all the battery packs you use? Are you thinking about practicing safe flying and ground handling techniques **ALL** the time you're at a flying field? Let's hope so! Our season has just begun... no sense in getting yourself, or anyone else hurt. Please - use good and **SAFE** judgment when you're involved in RC planes.

President's Message - continued from Page 1

A few reminders: The June meeting (now through September) will be at Lang Field, rain or shine. The field will be closed to flying during the meeting, but you can enjoy flying before and after. On June 20th, Mark Heim and Dave Hurt will be hosting a fun fly at Lang Field. Contact them to help out and get some work hours in, as well as taking part in the fun. Check the schedule for more upcoming events. Warren Wells is chairing the committee to search for a new field. This will take effort from ALL of us. Please contact Warren (check info on web) to see how you can help the club. This will count toward your work hours. If you missed the April Meeting, you may not be aware that the agreement between Ribcrackers and M.I.S.S has been finalized and signed. See me if you would like to read the agreement.

Let's have a fun and safe summer.

New Flight Restrictions

Effective May 3, 2004, the acceptable area for flying while at Lang Field have been modified as below, with the changes shown in ***bold italics***:

- Never behind the flight line
- No further East than the tree line to the East of the field
- ***No further North than the road between the field and the lake***

No further West than 300 feet west of the west end of the runway (If you look to the west you will see the Church's temporary cross. This is approximately 300' west of the runway.)

Why have we made these changes? While we have been concerned for some time over the sale of Lang Field and the church construction timing, our largest concern is now residential building. To minimize the possibility of complaints from the developers and the home owners, we feel it is necessary to make the changes.

These restrictions will be strictly enforced. The Ribcrackers have deemed these changes to be very important, and Club Officers and the Safety Officers may suspend flying privileges of any who violate the flying restrictions.

The Updated Thunderbolt Newsletter - A while back, a question was posed to the membership about whether or not they would like to read the newsletter over the Internet. A number of members responded positively. Well, it now seems like the process is under control and we can try making the change. What this means is that the newsletter will be posted on the Ribcracker website and will be there for viewing at your leisure. You will receive a monthly notice telling you when the latest version is available. This won't be an all or nothing affair, but if you want to stop getting more paper and at the same time save the club some postage, then I'll put you on the list. To "sign-up", send me an e-mail with your current e-mail address (or where you want the memo sent) and I'll put you on the list. You can send the e-mail to either drobbins@ameritech.net or editor@ribcrackers.org. If you elect not to read the newsletter via the Internet, you will still receive a paper copy - your choice.

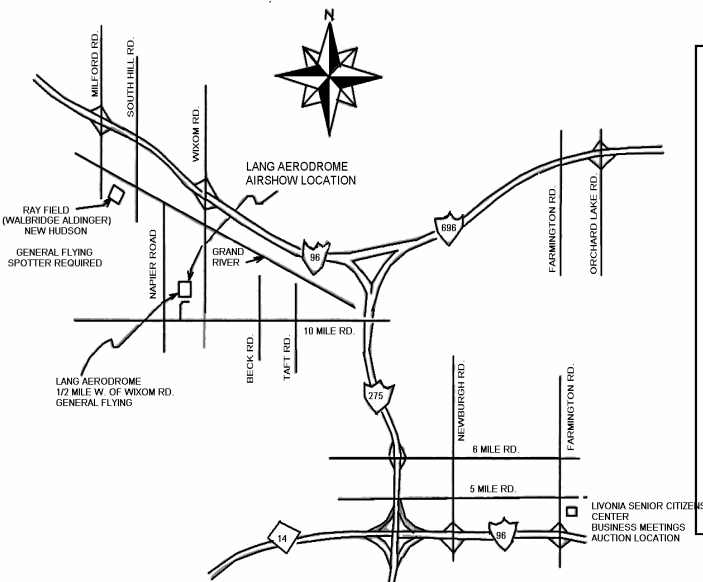
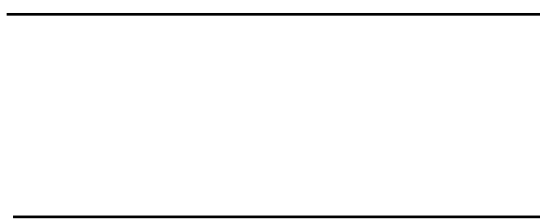
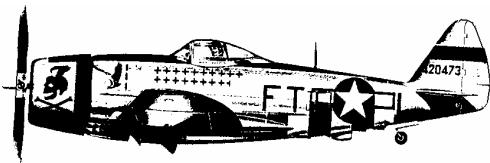
Let me know .

Thanks - Dennis

Local and Upcoming Events for June

June 4-6	Indoor RC Championships	Oakland Yard	Dave Robelen - 434-392-3451
	National Championship		Waterford - M59 - east of the Pontiac Airport
June 5-6	Warbirds over Grand Ledge	Grand Ledge	Gerry Kesler - 517-646-9365
June 7	Ribcracker Club Meeting	Lang Field	Mike Hegyi -

Dennis Robbins
 37592 Dorchester Drive
 Farmington Hills, MI 48331



1st Ribcracker Fun Fly of 2004
 Guys - this should be tons of fun with lots of laughs. **Wild-man, Mark Helm**, with his able bodied assistant, **Dave Hurt**, have agreed to host this event and give everyone a challenge. The date is June 20th, Lang Field, beginning at 9 AM. Fly whatever you like - the games should be over by around noon (so you can go do Father's Day with the family). Don't miss this one - we'll be talking about it for years!