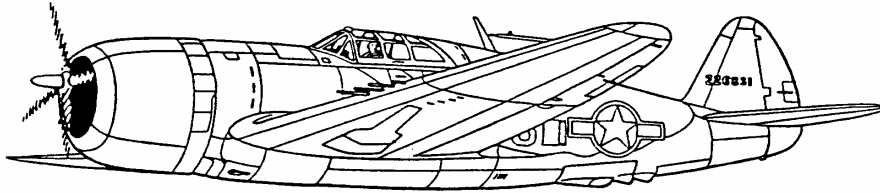


# THUNDERBOLT



**SEPTEMBER 2004**



**CLUB 2067**

## **RIBCRACKER MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB**

### **SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING**

**Lang Field - September 13rd - 7:00 PM**  
**10 Mile Road - West of Wixom Road**

**PLEASE NOTE THE DATE DUE TO LABOR DAY!!**  
**An Important Meeting About our Flying Fields**  
**Bring a Plane, We Should Have Time to Fly**

#### **President's Message from Mike Hegyi**

Another summer month is behind us and fall is just around the corner. The way the weather has been lately, it feels like fall now. There are only about 6 more student nights left, and it's now when you realize that summer is almost over. As most of you know, we had great weather for our fun fly last month. We had a good turn out and a good time, in spite of a few damaged planes. Many thanks to Mark and Dave for hosting another great event. Check out the pictures on our web site. Let's hope we have as good weather for our next fun fly (Sept. 19), which will be followed around noon by the club picnic. If you haven't seen it on our web site (please check it often), Mark Heim (248-926-1341) will be handling all the arrangements for this event. He's had several volunteers come forward to help, but he still needs a few more. Please give him a call if you can help or have any supplies and equipment he may need.

Continued on Page 2

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**Ribcracker's August Meeting Minutes– August 2, 2004**

The meeting started promptly at 7:00 pm. First order of business was to approve the July meeting minutes as published in the August Thunderbolt.

Treasurer's Report – the club is solvent – see Roger for further details if required.

V.P. Report – please help keep the field clean – if you bring it with you, take it home.

Presidents Report – the club will have it's 3<sup>rd</sup> Fun Fly on Sunday, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>. Please attend. Construction continues around the field – make sure you don't fly too far out and never fly over construction crews. The club is scheduled to have a Fun Fly and Picnic on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Mike Hegyi if you can help or run this event.

News: If you check out [www.ezonemaq.com](http://www.ezonemaq.com), you can read articles written by Jim Young on the Mid-America Electric Fly which took place in July. Interesting site.

Model of the Month – Roger Wilfong with a 3oz. Mini-Ugli-Stick powered by a GWS motor and LiPo battery. (Actually the M.O.M. winner was Timmy Young with a Tyco Biplane, but Tim was too busy studying "life" to be bothered by the accolades.)

The meeting concluded at 7:20 and everyone stayed for the raffle and to fly.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

**President's Message - continued from Page 1**

This months meeting (Sept. 13) will be the last at Lang field, The October meeting will be back at the Livonia Senior Center. Warren Wells has been busy following up on leads for a new field, with some good results. You don't want to miss this month's meeting because we will be discussing his findings.

As a reminder; if you notice anyone having difficulties flying within the new flight restrictions, please help them out. We need to be aware of and remain in the flying boundaries that have been set for everyone's enjoyment. Please don't fly over any construction, mainly at the East end where they are rearranging the dirt.

Last May, Don Unsworth and several others put on a demonstration for a Detroit Community High School. The school greatly appreciated it and the kids loved it, so the principle has asked Don to do some more work with the kids. We will have some demonstrations and flight instructions for them on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> about 3:30 pm. If possible, the instructors and all others who can help out, please contact Don (248-348-0961) for more details.

See you at the Sept meeting.

MIKE

**Another Fun-Fly + a Picnic to Finish it off!**

Hey guys.... If you haven't attended a club Fun Fly, then you've been missing a lot of fun, laughs and excitement. Dave Hurt and Mark Heim have done an excellent job of challenging everyone and their flying (or lack thereof) skills. Lot's of yelling and "cat-calls" and that's been mostly from the editor, although he hasn't been alone. We've lost a few planes, but only because everyone was "pumped" to try the challenge, and even those that lost a plane didn't seem to mind - it was all worth it. Besides, a little glue and patience and everything will be back in order.

On September 19th, beginning at 10 AM will be the final Fun-Fly of 2004. Mark has agreed to run the picnic and Dennis (your editor) will find a few new challenges to challenge/frustrate all that (dare to) participate. Heck, even you "old guys" might want to show us what they can do! (hint, hint!) Come about 15 minutes or so early to sign up and get your aircraft ready. Families, spouses, girl friends, guy friends (Stevie) and everyone else are encouraged to attend and cheer - regardless of who that might be (somehow we'll get everyone a ride home). By 11:30 or noon, food should ready and then we'll have an open flight line.

Come to the September meeting on the 13th so we can get an idea of the masses that will attend.

**Editor's Squawk-box** by Dennis Robbins

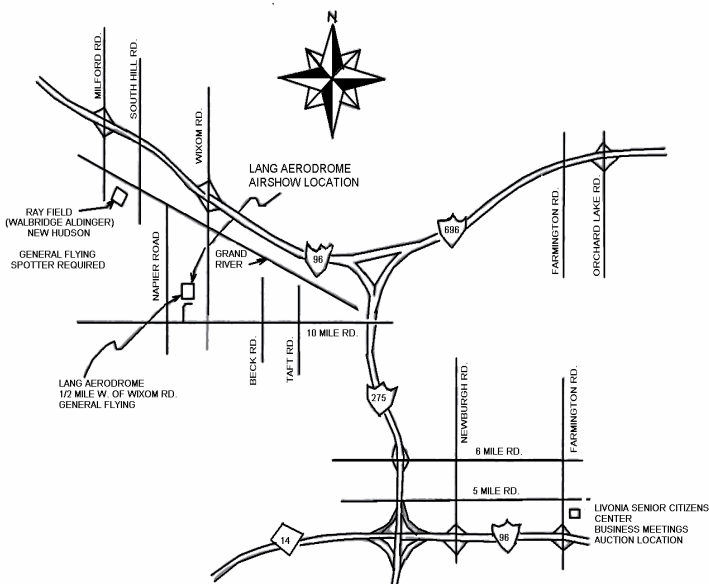
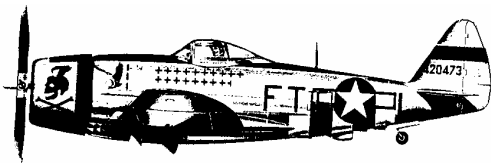
Since I'm always asking members for written contributions to the newsletter and it's very rare when I get something, this space becomes mine as a forum (or squawk-box, if you like!). None-the-less, I'd like to cover a couple of items this month.

- 1) Frequently I think that I have nothing new to cover regarding safety and/or the hobby and that I've already passed on everything I've learned - practical hands-on knowledge or through reading. But then I meet some new members, who've just been signed off and we get to talking about the hobby and RC airplanes. There's no specific topic in particular. Frequently I hear the same ol' line from them - "Gee - I didn't know that". Well...ok, I can understand that... they're new to the hobby... but we, as a group of well, intentioned, knowledgeable RC airplane kinda' guys, we need to continue working with the newcomers. Teach them what's safe and what's risky. Why we do certain things with our planes vs. "Just because...". We all have a lot to offer, which is why many of us joined a club. This is a tough request, but if you see someone at the field you don't know, go and introduce yourself and ask the person about their flying experiences. You might just strike up a good conversation and you might just find yourself helping (or being helped) by other knowledgeable flyers.
- 2) This one isn't going to be a popular comment, but take this as one man's opinion (like all squawk-boxes). I believe the time has come to say good-bye to Lang Field. As we all know, we've been flying there on borrowed time for the last 2 or 3 years. This afternoon (Sunday, Aug. 22nd), I was there and a house was going up just a little to the north and left of our flying area. The framing on the house had just been started, but (in my opinion) we're too close. I know that 2 months ago, we pulled the flying area in closer, and I believe that most guys are doing a great job in flying "close". BUT - we have earth graders/movers to the east (right) and housing to the west (left) and new/more construction going on right in-front of us. Are we waiting for a catastrophe before we call it quits? I believe that as a "reasonable, conscientious, safety oriented group of guys", we need to act accordingly and know when to call it quits. Even if our pilots are the best around, what if? What if a battery pack takes a dump? (Even new batteries have been known to fail). What if a servo calls it quits? Or a radio glitches? Or a servo horn or hinge cracks/breaks? If we only hit a piece of construction equipment or a building structure, someone may get angry and complain. What if we hit a person - construction worker? potential home owner? or one of those kids on the motorcycles and 4-wheelers? Who'll believe we acted in a safe and conscientious manner then? AMA insurance isn't going to remove a guilt trip!  
It isn't all gloom and doom. Remember, the Ribcrackers do have a 2nd field. It's called Ray Field and it's about a 1/4 mile east of Milford Road on Grand River. Lots of us learned to fly there. Yes, you do need a spotter so you don't come in contact with a full scale airplane landing at S. Lyon's airport, but you can bring your own spotter or show a little patience while you wait for another club member to show up. Or, call one of your flying buddies and make it a "date". The field appears smaller than it really is (because of the wires running along Grand River), but now that we've all learned to fly in closer, it shouldn't be an issue.  
I hope that I'm not the only one with this opinion, but if I am, then I'll take my licks and be thankful that at least, you took the time to read this column. At our September club meeting, which is scheduled to be held at Lang, you'll see first-hand what I'm speaking about. We, as a club, can decide the appropriate action then.

Upcoming Events for September and Beyond - Mostly Local

Sept. 11-12	Skymasters Float Fly Skymasters RC Club	Island Lake State Park I-96 - Exit at Kensington Road	Ross Jones 248-738-4435
Sept. 11-12	Midwest RC Airshow Midwest RC Society	Midwest Airfield 5 Mile, West of Beck Road	Scott Rellinger 734-462-9518
Sept. 13	Ribcracker Club Meeting General Club Meeting	Lang Field 10 Mile, West of Wixom Road	Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583
Sept. 18-19	Fall Fun Fly - IMAA Req. Flying Pilgrims	Ypsilanti, MI Club Field	Jack Kezelian 734-207-3636
Sept. 18-19	Melee over Lenox Radio Control Club of Det.	Club Field Lexon Twp.	Don Veres 586-778-7362
Sept. 19	Ribcracker Fun Fly/Picnic Ribcracker Members Only	Lang Field (stay tuned) 10 Mile, West of Wixom Road	Mark Heim 248-926-1341

Dennis Robbins  
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This space for rent or free advertising of RC Stuff to club members. Contact the editor.

Please come to the September meeting. We will discuss our current field situation.