

# THUNDERBOLT

Volume 2005, Issue 4

April 2005

## RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

### President's Message - Jim Young

First, I'd like to thank Keith Shaw of the Ann Arbor Falcons for his talk on the "Golden Age of Air Racing" at the March meeting. I think all who attended got a better understanding of this period of aviation. For those of you who missed it, check out some of this summer's air shows to see Keith fly some of the models he brought in for display.

As you should have heard by now, we will lose the use of Lang Aerodrome on

May 1, 2005. The church has their final approvals from Novi, and will break ground this spring. This has been a wonderful flying site and I'm sure we'll all miss it. We are currently working with Wallbridge-Aldinger to see what equipment we can move from Lang to Ray. We should have better idea of what they will accept at the April meeting. We are looking for members who have space to store some of the things



we may not be able to move to Ray. If nobody steps forward, we will be forced to abandon it. At the April meeting we will come up with a plan to evacuate

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### Editors Note Pad - Dave Hurt

Well, it looks like I spoke too soon last month about spring being here. Here we are, at the end of March, still with snow on the ground. I guess it's just nature's way of giving me a few more weeks to finish all my planes for this year.

Toledo is catching up pretty quick this year, with it just 2 weeks to go from this writing.

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## President's Message, continued

Lang and move what we can to Ray or into storage. Please plan on attending a work party to accomplish this sometime in April.

For those of you who are not familiar with Ray Field, it is in close proximity to New Hudson Airport. A (non flying) spotter is required when flying to look out for full scale aircraft. When a full scale aircraft enters the airspace over Ray Field, you must get below 100' and circle to the East end of the field.

Student night will be starting after Daylight Savings Time kicks in. All student pilots are encouraged to bring your plane to the April meeting for a complete ground check out. Even if your plane has flown before, it's always safe to give it another check out especially if you haven't flown it in a while.

The Swap Meet was a reasonable success despite the light turnout and netted some cash for the club. Please take time to thank Mike Hegyi for organizing this event and the many helpers who made it happen.

You should receive this before the annual Toledo Show, and so I encourage all of you to attend this massive event on April 1, 2, 3. You will see everything R/C and some magnificent models.

## Editors Note Pad, continued

I'm not one to get too hyped up over new models, but I think it's always impressive to see how planes keep getting lighter and bigger. Take the short drive and check out what the modeling community has to offer for this year!

## More Than You Wanted to Know About Glow Fuel

- There is no such product as just "nitro" in fuel. It is really nitro methane, a chemical made from propane and a member of the family of chemicals known as nitroparaffins.
- Nitro methane is less combustive than regular gasoline, but requires a lot less air to burn. Your typical 87 octane for your car takes 15 pounds of air to burn 1 pound of gas, while it only takes 1.7 pounds of air to burn 1 pound of nitro methane. So more nitro methane can be burned at once, producing more power.
- Nitro methane must be heated to 96 degrees before it will become flammable. You can actually extinguish a lit match in liquid nitro methane, provided it's below 96 degrees. Please note this is not a recommended way to put out a match!
- Castor Oil comes from a plant, aptly named the Castor Oil Plant.
- Methanol is hygroscopic, meaning it is nearly 100% soluble in water, causing it to act like a sponge soaking in water. This is what causes fuel to spoil by being exposed to air.
- You've always heard that fuel should be stored in a cool, dark area. But did you know that what you sit it on can make a difference? Methanol will even suck water through a plastic fuel jug if placed on a concrete surface for too long!

## March Meeting Minutes - Dennis Robbins

The meeting started at 7:31PM and the February meeting minutes were approved as published in the March Thunderbolt.

**Treasurer's Report:** The club remains solvent – contact Roger Wilfong for details.

**V.P.'s Report:** The club is scheduled for a work party on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Part of the work will be to move the bleachers at Lang over to Ray Field. As always this time of year, please do not park on the grass – stay on the road at Ray or the gravel at Lang.

**Secretary's Report:** The club is now incorporated and all the past paperwork is “cleaned-up”.

**Editor's Report:** The paper copies of the Thunderbolt are now finished unless you contact Dave and request they continue. Dave is now working to also take over the position of Webmaster.

**Current Issues:** Field Search - There may be “issues with moving” Ray Field, but Warren Wells was not present to provide details. The church is scheduled to begin construction at Lang field in May, so use of that field will be very short this season. Junk-yard Wars will take place during the May meeting (to be held at the LSCC). Dennis Robbins and Dave Hurt will captain the teams. Swap-meet is scheduled for Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> with Mike Hegyi chairing that activity. A ducted-fan airplane kit, including the engine and accessories is being given to the club. Jim Young is requesting volunteers to assist building this plane as a club project. Matt Jerue has replenished the contents of the First Aid kits. The club discussed what to do with the assets now at Lang Field – storage, usage or demolition.

The **April Meeting** will be a “Check your aircraft night”. After the business portions, everyone (especially students) are encouraged to bring their aircrafts to the club meeting for a “pre-season” check-up. The March raffle was won by Frank Audette.

**March Speaker – Keith Shaw on the Golden Age of Air Racing.** Keith provided tons of information on that era of air racing and also brought RC examples of some of those planes. Keith brought: Gee Bee R1, The Goon, Bugatti R100, DeHavland Comet and a Fokker SKII. Jim Young assisted in the visual excitement by bringing his: Wendell Williams and Mr. Mulligan.

**Models of the Month:** Al Stein – an 010 powered Falcon weighing 5.9 oz. 4 servos and a 25” wing span. Matt Aliva – a beautiful red Hog Bipe powered by a Super Tigre 90. Roger Wilfong – a Pushy-cat built from Quiet-Flight magazine plans. Looks like a jet, weighs 32 oz and should go like “stink”!

Winner of the M.O.M. – Matt Aliva

The meeting adjourned sometime around 10 PM. (Everyone stayed to listen to Keith).

## RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

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<http://www.ribcrackers.org>

### Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
April 4	Ribcracker Club Meeting New Time! 7:30 pm Student Night Ground School	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington, S.E. Corner	Jim Young (810) 231-1684
April 6	Student Night Begins Starts at 6:00	Ray Field	
May 2	Ribcrackers Club Meeting New Time! 7:30 pm	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington, S.E. Corner	Jim Young (810) 231-1684
May 7	Air Field Clean Up Time TDB	Ray Field	Joel Disbro (734) 449-8339
June 6	Ribcrackers Club Meeting New Time! 7:30 pm	Ray Field	Jim Young (810) 231-1684