

THUNDERBOLT

Volume 2006, Issue 4

April 2006

RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

President's Message - Warren Wells

First off, I would like to thank the members that came out to last months meeting. We had a written vote scheduled at that meeting to increase the membership dues. The vote passed by an 18 to 4 margin. The member turnout was approximately 25% of the total membership. Pretty good turnout I must say. With that being behind us we can now focus on our club events for the coming season.

I've posted a list of events at Ray Field and also on the website. Please take a look at the list and try to

volunteer your help at some of the events. As I've said in the past, the more member participation we have the more fun it will be for all of us. With the sporadic nice weather we've been having lately, I'm seeing more members at the field flying. Remember safety,safety,safety.

Thoroughly check your aircraft for defects before flying them, and remember to do a range check before the first flight of the year for each model. Also, observe and obey the flight rules posted at the field. I will be on vacation the first



week of April and will miss next months meeting. Our vice president will fill in for me then. Happy and safe modeling!

Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

. The March meeting has come and gone and with it comes the yearly cutoff for unpaid members. This is when the membership numbers are the lowest for the year and

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Ribcrackers Board of Directors

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Date	Event	Location	
April 3	Club Meeting	Livonia Senior Center	
April 5	Student night Begins	Ray Field	
April 8	Field Rolling	Ray Field	No flying till work complete
May 1	Club Meeting	Ray Field	
May 6	Field Clean up	Ray Field	No flying till work complete.
May 7	Junk Yard Wars Fun Fly	Ray Field	
June 5	Club Meeting	Ray Field	
June 18	Fun Fly/Picnic	Ray Field	Need volunteers.
July 10	Club Meeting	Ray Field	
August 7	Club Meeting	Ray Field	
August 13	Open House	Ray Field	
Sept. 11	Club Meeting	Ray Field	
Sept. 24	Fun Fly/Picnic	Ray Field	Need volunteers.
Oct. 2	Club Meeting/ Officer Nominations	Livonia Senior Center	
Oct. 25	Student Night Ends	Ray Field	
November 6	Club Meeting/Officer Nominations	Livonia Senior Center	
November 16	Club Dinner for Flight Instructors	To b e determined	
December 4	Club Meeting / Officer elections	Livonia Senior Center	

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should send a wake-up call to the rest of the club. Part of having a successful club is keeping the membership up. While it is difficult to attract members when we are still looking for a field we should be looking at it the other way around. We may have better luck getting a new field when we have more people looking. The more members we have, the more connections we have and the more opportunities we can pursue. Another source of future members is our kids, either our own or from boy scouts, or schools, or other local organizations. I know not everyone's children buy into our hobby but we should at least try. What about our spouses? Maybe we should have a fun-fly with just spouses or significant others flying? We all need to do our part to make this the best club it can be. And yes, I could be doing more as well.

The weather is slowly starting to "improve" and the opportunities for flying are increasing for us less adventurous. Don't forget to have a spotter with you when you fly. Also a range check might be a good idea as we bring out our planes from the long winter storage. Also all those winter projects will be slowly making their way to the field with the hopes of transforming from a hanger queen to a full fledged (pardon the pun) flying model airplane. I often have another member help look over a new plane to make sure I didn't forget something. Anybody else ever plug the servos for the ailerons into the wrong

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January Meeting Minutes - Dennis Robbins

Ribcrackers March Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2006

The meeting started promptly at 7:32 pm. The February meeting minutes were accepted as published in the March Thunderbolt. The March Thunderbolt was mailed to all members and posted on the web this month. The primary reason for the mailing was to insure that all members were notified of the upcoming vote at the March meeting for a dues increase.

Treasurer's Report – the club remains solvent. See R. Wilfong for details.

Current issues:

- 1) PLEASE do not park on the grass at Ray Field unless you are sure it is dry and firm. Vehicles leave deep ruts when the ground is soft, so if in doubt, please park behind the flight line on the gravel or on the road.
- 2) Your 2006 Ribcracker membership was due by the end of the March Club Meeting. Anyone not paying by the end of the meeting is subject to the new dues structure and late fees. Additionally, anyone not being able to prove membership will not be allowed to fly at a Ribcracker flying field.
- 3) Don Unsworth is heading our field search activities, so please contact him if you identify a potential new site.
- 4) Warren Wells offered the club a proposed schedule for the 2006 flying year and it was well received by the membership present.
- 5) During the March Club meeting, the membership voted on a dues increase of \$5 for annual membership (the new membership fee is \$60) and making the work hours worth \$2@.
- 6) The club discussed the upcoming flying season and student nights. It was found that the club will most likely be able to provide an additional trainer for students out of numerous parts supplied by current members.

Model of the Month – winner was **Roger Wilfong** with his scratch built, all balsa electric, **Lazy Bee**. The plane is Blue and White, is powered by an Astro 35 geared motor and weighs approximately 2#. Too Cool!

Mike Hurt brought his kit built **Tiger 60** powered by a Saito 91 with a pump. The plane is Red and White and Mike says it flies great. Not to be outdone,

Mark Heim brought in a **T-6 Texan** that he found at a swap meet. The T-6 is powered by a Thunder Tiger 61 and Mark has spent considerable time and effort in cleaning up this plane and making it look new. Nice job guys!

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

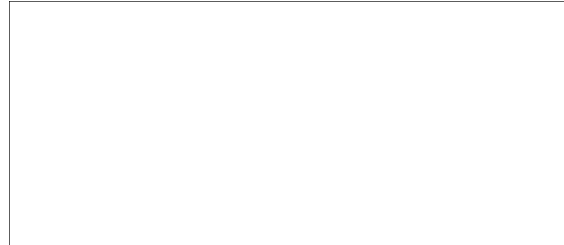
Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins



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We're on the web!

<http://www.ribcrackers.org>



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socket in the receiver?

And finally, if you have a chance, don't forget to attend the Mecca of RC modeling: The Weak Signals Toledo Expo on April 7th, 8th, and 9th. Even if nothing is within your budget or your shopping list is empty (yeah, right) it is still great to talk to some of the knowledgeable people manning the booths and to admire the tons of fantastic looking models to give you ideas for the next project.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
April 3	Ribcracker Club Meeting 7:30 pm	Livonia Senior Citizens Center 5 Mile & Farmington, S.E. Corner	Warren Wells (248) 437-2694
April 5	Student night begins!	Ray Field	
April 8	Field Rolling	Ray Field	Joel Disbro
April 7—9	Weak Signals Toledo Expo	Seagate Center, Toledo rick@soaringsoftware.com	
May 1	Ribcracker Club Meeting 7:30 pm	Ray Field	Warren Wells (248) 437-2694