

# THUNDERBOLT

Volume 2006, Issue 7

July 2006

## RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

### President's Message - Warren Wells

Our second annual "Junkyard Wars" fun fly was a great success despite a slow start and 20-25 mph winds. Although it started out slow, with just a few members present, it soon picked up and turned out to be a great day for all involved. The builders turned out only 1 model due to limited equipment and radio gear. The model was an aerobatic design that even included a pilot in the cockpit and flew extremely well despite the high winds. All the builders involved got a little stick time at the transmitter until the model's demise upon landing. Mike Hegyi provided

some fun by holding a raffle for a foldup canopy/tent and also a 50-50 drawing. Sam Abdu won the canopy and Hank Wojcik won the 50-50 drawing. Also provided was a BBQ picnic lunch with burgers and hot dogs for all present. My thanks go out to all the members who participated in the event and also those that helped make the event/picnic a total success. We have more events scheduled for this season so if you missed this last one be sure to attend our upcoming events. A list of events is posted on the field box at Ray and also on the club's website. Be sure to



check it out. Searching for a new flying field is still our number one priority, so if you have any leads please contact Don Unsworth or a club officer. See you at Ray.

Happy and Safe modeling.

### Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

Another beautiful month has come and gone. And as I realize the pace with which the year is screaming by I look frantically for the brake pedal and find none. There is nothing to do but to

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## Readers Write

To the Bystander....

Why do people do what they do? Good question, but there is no answer. Take any hobby, sport or past-time and the answer comes back the same. The only over-riding factor is that something in that obsession strikes the person doing some activity as fun. Why else would so many young people spend so many hours wasting their lives on video games?

Regarding the building and flying of model airplanes. Some of us are frustrated engineers that like to build, tinker and work out engineering problems with the final gratification to see if our contraptions will take to flight. Loosing them is part of the game..... does that have something to do with staying out of hot kitchens?

None-the-less, I build because it's a way to remove myself from the issues and tensions of the day. It's a method to immerse myself in a world away from the troubles I faced today or that will be facing me tomorrow. The gratification is to see if I can complete the project. Actual flight is merely the frosting. And if I lose an airplane for whatever reason – equipment failure, dumb

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## Editor's Note Pad, continued from page 1

try and take advantage of every opportunity whether it be sharing time with your loved ones or pursuing your favourite past-time. So why am I waxing philosophical? Maybe it has to do with Father's day having just come and gone. I was lucky and able to combine spending time with my family and enjoying my hobby at the same time. The Junkyard wars/picnic was a blast! I enjoyed taking an unassuming pile of raw material and turning it into a fully functional plane. With the help of Dave, Matt, Ken, Mark, Warren, Hank, and several other guys whose names I didn't get, we were able to go from scrap pile to first flight in just under 3 hours. I got the dubious honour of first flight on a day that was not conducive to flying a plane that I was used to flying, let alone a hacked together unknown. I wasn't part of the first contest last year but I think because we only had one plane to build there was a relaxed atmosphere and people drifted in and out of the build. When something was needed the call would go out and people started to rummage through their flight boxes and eventually the necessary item was found and donated to the cause. When the plane was proclaimed complete it was time to see if the engine started. It eventually did and kept running. I had the poor sense to be holding the transmitter when the engine started and by default was proclaimed the one to attempt the first flight. The wind died down just enough to attempt a launch and with a quick toss from Dave the plane was airborne. With the plane for a few frantic seconds heading towards the cars I was able to get control and started to circle the field. Very little trim was needed for hands off flying. The plane flew remarkably well and everyone who wanted to had a chance at the controls. Matt took the anchor leg and attempted to land the plane. The engine quickly went dead and land like an anchor it did. Even though the plane was restored to its original separate components it was deemed a success! I had a blast!! I would like to thank all those that either helped and/or supplied components and encouragement. I would also like to thank my family for letting me indulge in my hobby. It was a great Father's day.

## May Meeting Minutes - Dennis Robbins

### **Ribcrackers June Club Meeting Minutes – June 5, 2006**

The meeting started promptly at 7:32 PM. The May meeting minutes were approved as published in the June Thunderbolt.

**Treasurer's Report** – The club is still solvent – contact Roger Wilfong for details.

**V.P. Report** – the field is **in good shape**. Please do not leave trash in the Field Box. If you bring it with you, please take it home!

**New Business:** Don Unsworth explained to our membership the history of searching for a new field. As it is always possible to lose Ray Field, we need to continue to search for new venues. Many potential locations have been turned down or have proven to be unacceptable flying sites. Ideas that are most likely to succeed and discussed were:

- 1) Local community land not currently being used or acceptable for other purposes.
- 2) Industrial areas.
- 3) Church land not currently developed.
- 4) A land owner that would accept a long term (10 or more years) lease.
- 5) Co-ordination with a conservationist group that currently has or is in the process of obtaining land. The discussion ended with Don U. accepting a few assignments to make calls as follow-up items.

**Other items** – Please make an effort to return all Ribcracker videos that you may have borrowed. Remember that they are on a one month loan. The club will hold a combination Junk-Yard War and Fun-Fly on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to attend.

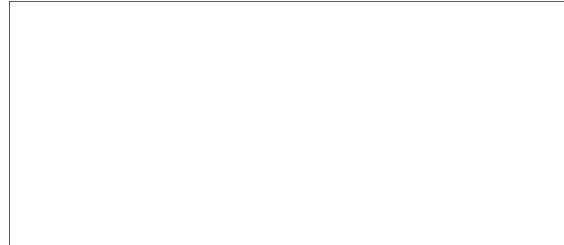
**Model of the Month** – Lots of flyers, but no new models for Show and Tell.

The meeting ended at 8:53 PM, with a few people remaining to fly.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins



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thumbs or just a “brain fart”, I can start again and try it a little differently to see if the “next time” works better. But while my planes are still in one piece, I can say that I built that masterpiece, that working/flying piece of art and that most people can only dream of completing a task as complicated and as elegant as mine. Whether or not I lose the time and money because of a crash, I know I’ve accomplished something special and no-one can ever take the pride away from me.

If you still want me..... I'll be in my workshop!

Dennis

*If you wish to respond to any item in the newsletter or have something that you wish to have added to the next newsletter, such as an ad, please email me and, space allowing, I will include it. Email me at: gerald.klose@xerox.com*

## Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
July 10	Ribcracker Club Meeting	Ray Field	Warren Wells (248) 437-2694
July 13-16	Michigan Jets	Grosse Ile Airport	www.mighiganjets.com
August 7	Club Meeting	Ray Field	Warren Wells (248) 437-2694
August 13	Open House	Ray Field	