

THUNDERBOLT

Volume 2006, Issue 8

August 2006

RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

President's Message - Warren Wells

Well it's mid-season and all is well with the club and Ray field. Our event schedule is proceeding smoothly with a few more club events still to take place. In this month's newsletter I would like to talk about safety. I've witnessed and have recent member reports about a few differences of opinion concerning club and field rules at Ray field. If anyone is unsure or doesn't remember our flying and field rules at Ray now is an excellent time to refresh your memory by going into the rule book or the posted rules on the field box at Ray. The rules are in place to protect

all of us, the club, Ray field and the public. A copy of the club handbook can be found inside the field box at Ray for those of you that do not have one. Also, I would like to thank the members that stand up and enforce the rules at Ray during our flying sessions. If it wasn't for those of us that do this when we are present, there's no telling what would be happening at the field. If you are approached by a member that is trying to correct you about a particular club rule, be courteous and abide by his remark. Remember the rules are there to protect everyone. Again,



my thanks go out to all of the members that try to enforce the rules. Keep up the good work. See you at the meeting. Happy and safe modeling.

Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

It seems to me that there are usually 3 main topics that are regularly discussed at the flying field. They include: field acquisition, which one or two people are actively involved in and the rest of the members are either peripherally involved or ambivalent to and field safety which again is only enforced by a few outspoken members that are primarily concerned with the

Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	1
Editor's Note Pad	1
Meeting Minutes	3
Upcoming Events	4
Classifieds	4

Ribcrackers Board of Directors

President—Warren Wells wellwa@divmi.com

Vice President—Joel Disbro (734) 449-8339

Secretary— Matt Jerue secretary@ribcrackers.org

Treasurer— Roger Wilfong treasurer@ribcrackersr.org

Editor— Gerald Kose Gerald.Klose@xerox.com

Webmaster— Mike Hegyi 248-669-7583

Editor's Note Pad, continued from page 1

(Continued from page 1)

safety of the members as well as the longevity of our field. The third topic isn't often openly discussed but there are regular murmurings that usually occur shortly after the monthly meetings and more specifically after a model of the month display.

As far as I know there are no hard and fast rules governing the models that can be offered up for Model of the Month (MOM), but it is my personal feeling that MOM was originally conceived as a venue to display a modeler's building skill at a time when kits were more predominant. Through the years ARC's, ARF's and RTF models have become more popular due to better quality and variety and people having less time/desire to build. So, this brings us to the question: do we hold on to our purist and somewhat anachronistic stance and require MOM entries to be built from a kit? What about a kit that was built by one person and then modified by someone else? Is this model now eligible to be entered in the MOM contest again? For that matter what about a crashed model that was rebuilt and recovered? Not to mention models that came ready to fly out of the box where no building skill is required at all. All you have to be able to do is plug in the battery and attach the wing.

As I was thinking of possible rules and regulations to govern the eligibility of a model for MOM, I started thinking about the spirit of the contest. Do we really want to be that exclusionary? Maybe in a club that has a more homogeneous membership we could get away with more requirements but with the diverse membership that is the Ribcrackers I think it would be too restrictive. I think the spirit of MOM should be more of a show and tell with one model being picked to receive a prize. If any should object to the model's worthiness of a prize, try to think of the prize not as a reward for craftsmanship but more of an incentive to bring in our models to show off to the rest of the members. If you pick the month right your odds of winning are pretty high. During the early spring months there are sometimes several models on display and the voting membership can then voice their opinion as to whose efforts should be rewarded. During the summer and fall which are typically months where more flying than building is done there are generally fewer entries.

So where does that leave us? I think we should keep the contest as open as possible to encourage as many entrants as possible. The only caveat should be that each model should be entered only once. There have been several modelers that have brought in models that were incomplete to show their progress or to get advice on a building problem. I think that is a great way to show off workmanship and perhaps get someone intrigued enough to try a kit of their own that has previously only assembled ARFs. So let's see if we can get more planes at the field. If you have something that you recently completed bring it in to show it off. If you are in the middle of a project bring it in as well and let people see what goes into a model before the covering goes on.

July Meeting Minutes - Dennis Robbins

Ribcrackers May Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2006

The meeting started promptly at 7:32 pm. at Ray Field.

The June meeting minutes were accepted as published in the July Thunderbolt.

Treasurer's Report – the club is/remains solvent. See R. Wilfong for details (unless he and Warren actually do move to Hawaii with the club's money).

V.P. Report: The field is in good condition – no issues. Please note that there will be NO FLYING while the grass is being cut. Grass cutting will normally take place on Wednesdays about 10 am.

Newsletter: Any comments or issues should be forwarded to Gerald Klose for review. If you have any items you wish to sell, the Thunderbolt will post them for your benefit.

New Issues: Student night is in full swing and two new students have been signed off.

- The club continues to search for a new field, but nothing has surfaced at this time.
- The club membership would like to thank Carlton Hobbies (White Lake Township) with the donation of the new windsock at Ray Field.
- The next official club event will be a **Fun-Fly** on **August 13th**, beginning at 9:30 am. Dave Hurt has agreed to run the events, so it might be tough, but most pilots will win prizes (if they survive).
- If you are holding any club property (flying items or videos or ??????), please make sure to bring them to the next club meeting and turn them in. Note: Videos are loaned out on a one month basis, so please don't "hog" them.

Safety Issue – It's been reported again that members of the club have been found flying over Grand River (and north). As discussed previously, it is everyone's business to help other fliers be aware of where they are flying. It is especially difficult to determine how out or away you're flying if you're watching your plane, and not the land marks below. Remember that spotters at Ray Field are a MUST! Please help our fellow members fly safely by remaining south of Grand River. It was also suggested that during Student Training night, any students not flying be requested to spot for other pilots. Also, please make sure that when you are flying, you are at a flight station.

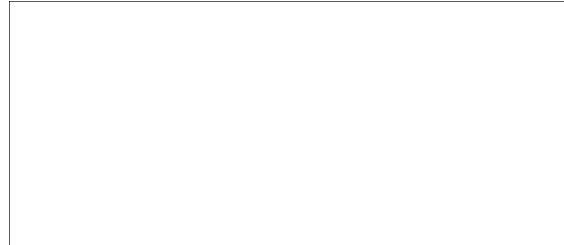
Model of the Month – Sam Abdu brought a "reconstituted" Pitts Special that he purchased from Ron McHale. Sam is in the process of upgrading this plane, but it's difficult to say who bashed what and who should take the blame – Sam or Ron. However, since no-one else brought anything to show, Sam won. Red with white markings, it should fly great!

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins



2446 Cambridge
Berkley, MI 48072
Email: Gerald.klose@xerox.com



Classifieds

1. 1/6 scale - PT17 / Stearman with a Magnum .65. Needs radio gear. 4 flights total. Scale and built from a Sterling kit. 64" top wing - qualifies for Giant Scale as a bi-plane. \$200 or best. Dennis - 734-645-4877

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>
August 7	Club Meeting	Ray Field	Warren Wells (248) 437-2694
August 13	Open House/Fun Fly	Ray Field	
August 20th	RC Model airshow	Nike Park near Newport, MI Newport Rd 3/4 miles west of Telegraph. Humane society benefit	
Sept. 9—10	Midwest Float Fly	Island Lake State Park	Greg Cardillo 248-431-5562