

THUNDERBOLT

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RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

President's Message - Warren Wells

Our annual Swap Meet/Auction will be held on Sunday, February the 25th at the Livonia Senior Center. It will run from 9am to 1pm. That gives all of us a few months to gather up the items we no longer need or use (and are willing to part with) and reserve a table to hopefully sell or trade them. We will discuss the event a little more at our next club meeting, which will be December the 4th and will be a busy one. We have officer elections to take care of as well, which by the way we have only one nomination for the position of vice president so far. Joel Disbro is stepping down as our vice president this year. I would like to thank him for a job well done during his tenure. We will also

be discussing a field merger with the Midwest RC club. Myself and about a dozen other club members visited their flying site on Seven Mile road on Saturday, November the 11th. They would like to share the field with us due to their high cost of maintaining 2 flying fields. Everyone in attendance that day agreed we should pursue this matter. They have had the field for about 2 years and it is in flyable condition right now. Many ideas and questions were brought up by the membership that I would like to expand on at our next meeting, so please plan on attending to voice your ideas and concerns. This would be a joint flying field used by members from both clubs at any given time. The



merger would result in an increase to our club membership dues as well. So please come and join the rest of us at the meeting, I hear that Mike has an airplane that may be raffled off at the meeting as well. As always, Happy and Safe Modeling.

Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

Another fun-filled flying season winds down and we look back wistfully at the good flying days squandered at the same time we look forward to that next building project on the bench. Will this be the year that someone makes a first time foray into the world of building a kit after previously only assembling ARF's? Maybe. But while our eyes gleam of the next cool pro-

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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

With Lipo batteries becoming very common I thought I would include this reprint from the AMA page as a reminder. — Editor

Lithium batteries are becoming very popular for powering the control and power systems in our models. This is true because of their very high energy density (amp-hrs/wt. ratio) compared to NiCads or other batteries. With high energy comes increased risk in their use. The principal, risk is FIRE which can result from improper charging, crash damage, or shorting the batteries. All vendors of these batteries warn their customers of this danger and recommend extreme caution in their use. In spite of this many fires have occurred as a result of the use of Lithium Polymer batteries, resulting in loss of models, automobiles, and other property. Homes and garages and workshops have also burned. A lithium battery fire is very hot (several thousand degrees) and is an excellent initiator for ancillary (resulting) fires. Fire occurs due to contact between Lithium and oxygen in the air. It does not need any other source of ignition, or fuel to start, and burns almost explosively.

These batteries must be used in a manner that precludes ancillary fire. The following is recommended:

1. Store, and charge, in a fireproof container; never in your model.
2. Charge in a protected area devoid of combustibles. Always stand watch over the charging process. Never leave the charging process unattended.
3. In the event of damage from crashes, etc, carefully remove to a safe place for at least a half hour to observe. Physically damaged cells could erupt into flame, and, after sufficient time to ensure safety, should be discarded in accordance with the instructions which came with the batteries. Never attempt to charge a cell with physical damage, regardless of how slight.
4. Always use chargers designed for the specific purpose, preferably having a fixed setting for your particular pack. Many fires occur in using selectable/adjustable chargers improperly set. Never attempt to charge Lithium cells with a charger which is not, specifically, designed for charging Lithium cells. Never use chargers designed for Nickel Cadmium batteries.

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Editor's Note Pad, continued from page 1

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ject don't forget to take the time to give those current planes a good once over. Better to do it now rather than wait until spring when the urge to fly might cause us to take some shortcuts. Also it is better to make the repairs now when you still remember what needs fixing. As this year draws to a close I would like to take this moment to thank the board for their outstanding contribution this year. Without these volunteers helping to guide the club we would be lost. Lets give the guys a round of applause for a job well done. Don't forget to come to the December meeting to help vote in the new board. Sounds like Mike is going to sweeten the incentive by providing some enticing items in the raffle. Hope to see you there!

November Meeting Minutes - Dennis Robbins

Ribcrackers November Meeting Minutes – November 6, 2006

The meeting started at 7:30 pm. at the Livonia Senior Citizens Center. The October meeting minutes were accepted as published in the November Thunderbolt, with a few (very few) printing errors noted.

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

V.P. Report: The field is in good condition and will not be receiving additional maintenance this season.

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: The Ribcrackers will hold their annual Swap Meet on Feb. 25th or will use an alternate date of March 4th, if 2/25 is found to have already been taken. Help is being requested to support that date.

- A discussion was held concerning a winter club project, but was shelved due to lack of interest as all members are very busy building their own new aircraft.
- The club continues to search for a new field, and has been approached by the Midwest RC club about sharing their "2nd field" on 7 Mile Road. A group of Ribcrackers agreed to go review the site and then form an opinion regarding the next steps. Warren Wells will head up this committee.
- Don't forget to renew your AMA membership and get your Ribcracker dues into Matt before the end of the March meeting. Proof of an AMA membership is required. Late renewals will be subject to penalties.
- 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.

Model of the Month – Bill Hanson brought a blue with white trimmed, Sig Fazer, powered by an OS40LA that he has built and will try to fly soon. Roger Wilfong had assembled a small P-51 Mustang, by Glascraft. Roger's plane is powered by a GWS 18mm motor and weighs 4 oz. empty and 6 oz. with a battery. Both planes were done very nicely, but Bill's Fazer won the most votes this evening. Congratulations Bill!

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

Looking up from my reading on the subway, I noticed the five people sitting across from me. A man was studying a Koran. Beside him, two Orthodox women mouthed their morning prayers from matching Jewish prayer books. In the corner a woman perused a book of Christian affirmations. And next to her sat a man deeply engrossed in "The 12-volt Bible for Boats".



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



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5. Use charging systems that monitor and control the charge state of each cell in the pack. Unbalanced cells can lead to disaster if it permits overcharge of a single cell in the pack. If the batteries show any sign of swelling, discontinue charging, and remove them to a safe place outside as they could erupt into flames.

6. Most important: NEVER PLUG IN A BATTERY AND LEAVE IT TO CHARGE UNATTENDED OVERNIGHT. Serious fires have resulted from this practice.

7. Do not attempt to make your own battery packs from individual cells.

These batteries CANNOT be handled and charged casually such as has been the practice for years with other types of batteries. The consequence of this practice can be very serious resulting in major property damage and/ or personal harm.

Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Dec 4	Club Meeting / Officer elections	Livonia Senior Center	Warren Wells 248-437-2694
Jan 1	New Years Day Funfly	Ray Field	To be announced
Jan 8	Club Meeting	Livonia Senior Center	Warren Wells 248-437-2694
Feb 24	Ribcracker swap- Meet. (<i>Tentative</i>)	Livonia Senior Center	