

THUNDERBOLT

Volume 2007, Issue 12

December 2007

RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

President's Message - Warren Wells

The end has come for this year's warm flying season. On Thanksgiving weekend, myself and a few other members put the chairs and tables into the club storage shed for the winter months. Our model airplane wind direction finder and 1 windsock were left in place for the cold weather pilots to use. Come spring, the club has some field modification ideas that may be put in place. We discussed the modifications at our last meeting and further discussions will take place between now and springtime. The club also voted last month to opt out of the joint field agreement with Midwest RC Society on the 7 mile field. With that being done, we all need to seek out a possible site for a new club field. Maybe we can come up with something by spring. On

November the 9th, the club treated all of the student night instructors and field assistants to dinner at a local restaurant. Everyone was thanked and congratulated on another successful program. Our upcoming December meeting will be my last as club president. I would like to thank everyone that assisted me during my term as president. The job would not have been easy without the help of the membership. The job has been fun and a good experience for me.

At our last meeting, Alex was nominated to be our next club president and with a little encouragement, he accepted. I am confident the membership will give him the help that is



needed, as they did myself, to run the organization during the upcoming year. Our other club officers graciously agreed to extend their terms through next year. All of these people will be formally voted into office at our December 3rd meeting. I hope to see everyone there. Until then Happy and Safe modeling.

Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

Today we have a submission from a guest editorialist who I think verbalizes the opinion of many of our club members. All suggestions and rebuttals will be graciously accepted and will show up in the next newsletter. You can send them to: gerald.klose@xerox.com. Otherwise, it appears the cold weather has finally arrived and with it come the usual challenges such as forcing yourself out of the car once you get to the flying field, wondering how you are going to fly when your fingers are already numb from assembling your plane, etc... Here is where the electric fliers have an advantage: the battery packs make wonderful hand warmers after the flight. I tried warming my hands on the muffler of a glow engine but that was a little too hot. If you dress warmly (remember it is about 10 degrees colder at the field than it is on your front porch) and the wind is steady these are great days for flying. Or you can stay inside where it is warm and dry and build next year's plane.

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Editor's Note Pad	1
Editorial by Dennis Robbins	2
Meeting Minutes	3
Upcoming Events	4

Ribcrackers Board of Directors

President—Warren Wells	248-437-2694
Vice President—Hank Wojcik	313-659-1677
Secretary— Matt Jerue	248-348-5948
Treasurer— Roger Wilfong	248-349-9079
Editor— Gerald Kose	248-854-5604

Don't forget to come to the meeting on December 3rd. We will be electing our officers for the next year and I am sure that Dennis has all kinds of cool stuff to raffle off. At this point I believe we have a nomination for President and I am still looking for someone to take over the duties of Newsletter Editor. With most of the board retaining their positions the transition should be a smooth and easy one. Putting out the newsletter each month really only takes a few hours to create, fold, stamp and label them and all costs are covered by the club. I would be more than willing to help out with the first several issues. Let me know if you have any questions

Gerald Klose

248-854-5604

Gerald.klose@xerox.com

Editorial by Dennis Robbins

Club meeting?

So...every month, on the first Monday evening, we hold another club meeting and normally, the same 17 to 23 guys show up. We discuss the business issues related to the club's operation, show off new models, hold raffles and have lots of laughs. But with approximately 80 members, you'd think our turnout would be better. Some of the guys work evenings, but most don't. So why the low turnout? Is it boring? Is it time away from family during the week, instead of a "good reason", like actually flying on the weekend? Is it just part of the "RC / flying" experience that holds no interest? In the past, we've had speakers, demonstrations on how to do something modeling related, etc. But the turnout remains low.

Truth is, the club will exist with only a few guys making decisions on the field and the club's direction. Truth is, the "silent majority" will go along with the direction that the attending and active members want to go. But the final truth is that those that are active, would like to see more members participate and join the club's other venue(s).

No-one is asking for an every month commitment, but if more of the members would attend a few times per year, the difference would be amazing. Consider it!?

December 3rd is the next meeting and there's sure to be a few new models, it's officer election day and the raffle will be an end of the year blowout. Hope to see you there.

November Meeting Minutes - Dennis Robbins

The meeting started a little late this evening, at 7:37 pm. The October meeting minutes were accepted as published in the November Thunderbolt.

Treasurer's Report – the club is/remains solvent and the report was accepted as published. See R. Wilfong for details.

New & Old News:

- Last month, the club decided not to hold a Swap Meet this season, but an idea surfaced about having a summer swap meet at the field combined with open flying for (AMA) members. Everyone seemed to like that idea, so the club agreed to revisit the idea next spring for further action.
- It was announced that the rent on the 7 Mile Field has gone up and requests for a reason has not been forthcoming from Midwest RC. Warren Wells agreed to try (again) to contact Midwest to get a reason.
- Alex's son called over 80% of the club members to invite them to this meeting, but the turnout was (slightly) less than spectacular. Club members that were present agreed that if you don't attend the meetings to voice your opinion, then you'll have little to complain about if the club updates the rules or facilities. This prompted a good discussion on how to attract members to the club and meetings. One of the more popular ideas was to get involved at the school and Boy Scout levels.

Officer Elections in December: Despite a lot of "arm twisting", Warren announced that he cannot continue as the club's president. Alex agreed to "consider" a nomination for that office, so we'll see how it goes. All the other officers have agreed to continue in their present positions.

Field Improvements: Ron made a few suggestions to improve Ray field and most of them were well received. They were: 1) Move the flight box back about 15 or 20" to open up the flight line and drop the box to a more reasonable height, 2) Replace the pit fence with a heavier gage material and move it back a few feet (that will effectively give the club a larger flying area and 3) Move the flight stations back, replace the fencing with a lower fence and have the pilots stand behind the fence. The club also discussed the requirement of using airplane restraints.

Club Raffle: Big prizes of the month were a LiPo Balancer and a DC Peak Charger, plus assorted smaller prizes. The club members recommended staying with larger airplane related prizes, so that's the direction the Raffle Co-Ordinator will head.

Model of the Month: Lots of excellent planes displayed this month:

- 1) Roger brought a Yellow and Transparent Purple 4 * 40. Powered by a geared Astro 40 with a 15" prop and a carbon fibre landing gear. Very sharp and Roger says it's a great flyer.
- 2) Dennis brought a 30" red and yellow Herr Engineering Pitts Special that he's been building for the last 6+ months. Powered by a K&B 0.18 ought to make this a vertical machine. (Time will tell).
- 3) Dino brought a (to be assembled) 70" Yak from Peak Models. Power will be an OS 1.60 and Dino's already saving for the hefty fuel bill. Great bargen out of China with only 4 days for delivery. Watch for this flyer this spring.
- 4) Juan brought a blue and orange Pushy Cat that he built during the summer in Mexico. Why he had to build in Mexico isn't clear, but the plane looked great. Power is by an E-Power outrunner turning a 15" prop. Juan – please watch you fingers.

And the winner of the month was Dennis with his Pitts. Nice job – Everyone!

The meeting ended at 9:26 pm sharp and everyone had a great time.

See you next month – Livonia Senior Citizens Center – 7:30pm – December 3rd!

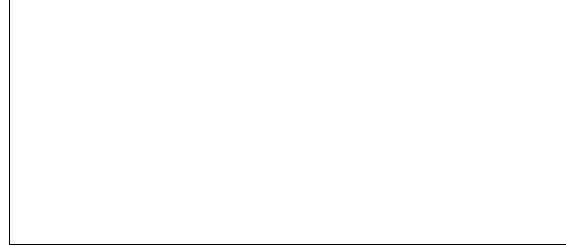
Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins



2446 Cambridge
Berkley, MI 48072

We're on the web!

<http://www.ribcrackers.org>



St.Clair County Propbusters R/C swap meet Sunday Dec. 9, 2007

8:30 am to 12:00 pm

FREE TABLE SPACE - \$3.00 ADMISSION

If you have something to sell that is R/C related,

Call Sheila O. at (810) 367-6367 to reserve a table today.

PROPBUSTERS SWAP MEET IS LOCATED AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING AT
GOODELLS COUNTY PARK ON COUNTY PARK DRIVE.

www.SCCPROPBUSTERS.COM

Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Dec 3	Club Meeting Officer elections	Livonia Senior Citizens	Warren Wells 248-437-2694
Dec 9	Propbusters R/C Swap Meet	Goodells County Park St.Clair County	Sheila O. 810-367-6367
Jan 1	First flight of the yr / Fun-Fly??	Ray Field	Tentative