

# THUNDERBOLT

Volume 2008, Issue 1

January, 2008

## RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

### President's Message - Warren Wells

The holiday season is upon us and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our first club event for 2008 will be an informal Fun Fly at Ray field on January 1<sup>st</sup> (weather permitting) at 11am. For all the brave souls that plan on participating let me remind you that you will need a 2008 AMA membership card and at least a 2007 Ribcracker membership card to fly. The elections took place at our December meeting without a hitch and Alex will be our club president for 2008. At our last two meetings we have been discussing club projects and events for the upcoming year. A couple of them

include major improvements to Ray field and an outdoor swap meet at Ray field as well. Please plan on attending our upcoming winter meetings and help us with the planning stages for the 2008 season. Our winter meetings are fun and they are a good excuse for getting away from the house for a night and talk airplanes with other club members. Remember, our club will be much stronger with more membership participation. We will also be discussing and voting on new membership dues for 2008 at our next two meetings as well. I do believe there will be a reduction



in dues for the next year. Join us and let us know your opinion. I hope to see everyone at the Fun Fly on January the 1<sup>st</sup>, until then Happy and Safe Modeling.

### Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

Ok, so another year is beginning. We have a new President: Alex Alexopoulos. Congratulations Alex and good luck!! I am sure that you will do a great job and that everyone will be eager to volunteer and help wherever they can.

With the new year comes new expectations and new challenges. New models to build (or assemble for ARF people), maybe a new engine to break in or radio to program. Once the weather warms up there will be new pi-

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#### Ribcrackers Board of Directors

President—Alex Alexopoulos 248-474-4653

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Secretary— Matt Jerue 248-348-5948

Treasurer— Roger Wilfong 248-349-9079

Reluctant Editor— Gerald Kose 248-854-5604

## NOTICE

With postage having gone up recently I am trying to get together as many email addresses as possible to distribute the newsletter electronically. It is a new-fangled method that most people have heard of but not everyone subscribes too. So I understand if you prefer to receive the newsletter the classic, "Old Skool" way. If you could just send me an email to [gerald.klose@xerox.com](mailto:gerald.klose@xerox.com) with the subject line of RIBCRACKERS, I will add you to the distribution list. This will also allow us to send updates, meeting reminders and other news items in a more timely as well as frugal fashion. Every little bit helps. I look forward to getting many emails.



Great Planes Combat Corsair ARF .15-.25, 43.25"



Great Planes Lancair E5 60 ARF .61-.75, 80"

## Editor's Note Pad *cont.*

(Continued from page 1)

lots to train and new maneuvers to try. Hopefully more than once. Remember to do new maneuvers at least one mistake high and not over the runway or pits. For me it means that I will hopefully finish the glider. I am sure by now some people are wondering if I will ever finish that plane. Yeah, me too. I am a little disappointed that we no longer have access to the 7 mile field as I was looking forward to long flights catching one thermal after another. I would hate to have to dive down every time a full scale plane comes along when I am in the middle of a thermal. I also hate the spotter requirement. I don't disagree with the rule, just the fact that either I have to fly during times when I am pretty sure that someone else is at the field or else I need to coordinate with someone else to meet there. It is nice to hang out with fellow flyers at the field, but sometimes the opportunity to fly presents itself with very little advanced warning and is during odd times of the day. So, what is the answer? Try to schedule flying time during normal hours, or bribe my wife or kids to come with me. Another option is to find another field with fewer restrictions and that brings me to the last "new" of the new year: find a new field. We will all need to keep our eyes and ears open and be open minded when another opportunity like sharing a field with another club presents itself.

And so as a new year stretches before us with all the promise that it holds let's remember to focus on what is important: Family, friends a decent flying field and charged batteries. May all your landings be on the field and with the wheels (if you have them) down.

## December Meeting Minutes - Dennis Robbins

The meeting started almost on time this evening, at 7:32 pm. The November meeting minutes were accepted as published in the December Thunderbolt.

**Treasurer's Report** – the club is/remains solvent and the report was accepted as published. Roger Wilfong updated the club on the details and even offered a recommended budget for 2008 (he's a pro-active kind of guy!). If you need or want further details, please contact Roger.

**New & Old News:** Gerald Klose, who is compiling, printing and distributing the newsletter would like to be replaced for 2008; however, if no-one will step up to the task, he will continue – under duress. Last month the club decided not to continue sharing the 7 Mile Rd. field with Midwest. It seems that few Ribcrackers were using that field and the costs were not justified. What this really means is that the Ribcrackers need to get busy once again in looking for another flying site. A few potential areas were mentioned and Warren, Alex and Don Unsworth agreed to follow up and report back. The club voted to provide a gift to the people within Walbridge Aldingerhold, an annual tradition, and Warren agreed to take care of that task. Dennis requested and received "the nod" to hold a 1<sup>st</sup> flying day of the year gathering at Ray Field (weather permitting). This gathering will commence on Jan. 1, 2008 at ~11:00am. That should ensure that everyone has a chance to sleep in, come fly and then get home in time for football. Ralph even agreed to allow a 1 day field usage hiatus on 2008 membership.

**Elections:** It was a very tough, long and drawn out fight, but Alex finally won the position of Ribcracker President for 2008. All other officers will retain their positions for 2008 or forever, whichever occurs first.

**2008 Dues:** This was a difficult discussion because money for the 2<sup>nd</sup> field is no longer required. A few members thought the dues rates should remain as-is and others felt it should be reduced. In the end, the membership decided to compromise and a proposal was made to lower the 2008 dues to \$70. All other fees (work hours, late payment, new member initiation) would remain as is. Please note that this must be voted on after a 30 day notice. Consider yourself notified! The actual voting will take place at the February meeting. Please remember that to avoid late fees, you must renew your club membership before the end of the March meeting and a 2008 AMA card must be shown. If you wish to renew your membership by mail, then mail your dues to Matt Jerue, with a copy of your 2008 AMA card.

**Club Raffle:** This was a great month for a raffle because the Raffle Meister "blew the wad!" Big prize of the month was a Great Planes Spitfire ARF that would take either an electric motor or a 0.25 glow fuel engine. Other prizes were various tools required to keep your planes in the air. (It's rumored that January may be a big raffle prize month also.)

**Model of the Month:** Actually, no completed models were brought in – however!!!, Dennis brought for giggles and grins a framed up 25% scale Sky Baby. Lots of hard work as this model is actually 25% scale with only a 21.5" wing span. Power will be an OS-25 with the exhaust going through the frame. It should be completed in time for the next local giant scale fly-in.

As 2007 is now over (or almost) and it was a very good flying year. We only lost a few planes, gained a few new members and had a lot of fun. We'll miss the leadership of Warren Wells, but we also know he'll be there to help Alex transition into his new job. And if you don't know Alex, he's Plane Crazy, so expect some great new things for 2008. Remember the 1<sup>st</sup> flying day of 2008 Gathering and have a safe, happy and (most of all) Healthy New Year!

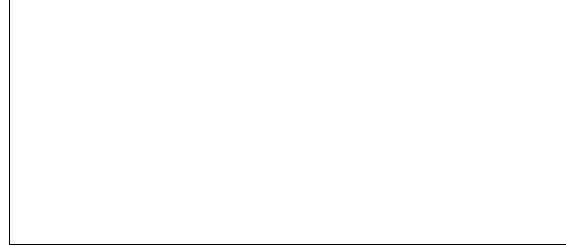
See you next month – Livonia Senior Citizens Center – 7:30pm – January 7<sup>th</sup>. Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

**RIB CRACKERS  
NO WATERERS**  
*Model Airplane Club*

2446 Cambridge  
Berkley, MI 48072

**We're on the web!**

<http://www.ribcrackers.org>



Still looking for a taker for the world models .25 Yak combat model. Looking for \$25.00 but will entertain reasonable offer. Plane only. Contact Gerald Klose at 248-854-5604



## Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Jan 1 11:00 am	Fun-Fly	Ray Field	Tentative
Jan 7	Club Meeting	Livonia Senior Citizen's Center	Alex Alexopoulos 248-474-4653