

THUNDERBOLT

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RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

President's Message - Alex Stathis Alexopoulos

Dear fellow members,

Spring is finally here although you wouldn't be able to tell by looking out your window. It is time to bring that old model out of the basement and dust it off. Hopefully we will be flying soon at the field. April is our field maintenance month, so if weather permits we will need to roll the field and fill all holes with dirt.

Please, let's not forget about the annual dues. You can make your payment by mail or at our monthly meeting.

It was nice to see all the familiar

faces at our last meeting and some new ones. I hope to see even more at our next meeting in April. I have been seeing a lot of enthusiasm around our speed records competition. There is so much secrecy regarding who is building what. A certain member suggested to me that we should just forget about the speed competition because he claims that his plane is the fastest. Lets just see if indeed his plane is the fastest. Remember that the ground at the field has become very soft and mushy and will continue to



get even more soft so lets be careful where we park.

HAVE FUN AND DON'T FORGET TO KEEP IT SAFE!!

Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

Sorry I wasn't able to include any pictures this month. There just wasn't enough room to include all the things that I wanted to include. I hope everyone is checking over their models in eager anticipation of another thrilling flying season. I know I can't wait to get out to the field. One of the times I was at the field last year I was having difficulty with one of my planes and I was asking some of the other fliers to borrow a tool. One gentleman, and I apologize for not remembering his name, replied to my request: "I don't have any tools with me. I came here to fly, not work on my plane" Words to live by.

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I was wondering one day what had happened to Joe Didia and sent him an email. This is his response to me but it touches on points that are relevant to the rest of the club and I asked him if I could share it with the club and he agreed. Below is Joe's response:

Gerald, Yes, I'm still working for Owens Corning, I just transferred to the WHQ in Toledo. We are living outside Toledo in a small town call Holland. I know I'm going to miss the Ribcrackers a lot. I've been flying RC for somewhere around 10 years and Ribcrackers was my first club, so it will always hold a special place in my heart. During my time flying RC, I have experienced a lot of clubs, flew at the NATS twice and been a member in 4 clubs other than Ribcrackers and none of them seem to stack up. People make the difference and RMAC has been able to draw and hold onto great people that truly enjoy flying. I joined a couple clubs down here and though the guys are friendly, it's not the same; That may just be my perception because of the lasting friendships and experiences I've had over the years in RMAC. I know from time to time, all clubs struggle with issues of member participation, conflicts in flying interests or even flying styles but RMAC has always work through those issues and surfaced as even a tighter group. We have raised young kids as surrogate parents and watched them grow into adulthood; trained Foreign Service Employees working in the USA for a short time; helped some people get their life back on track and sadly even buried a couple close friends. This club has been more than a group of old men flying toys; in many ways it acted as a family and for that I am proud to say I was a member. I want to wish everyone the best and look forward to seeing everyone again at meets, Swaps or the Toledo Show. And Gerald a personal thanks to you for your friendship and help as an officer when I was Pres. Take Care and good luck. Joe DiDia

Joe was instrumental in creating the constitution as well as lending his voice of reason during the more interesting discussions. Joe had a tendency to fly really big planes. He was always courteous and helpful to others and the Ribcracker's loss will be another club's gain. Good luck Joe and hope to see you again in the future. — Editor

Official Futaba 6EX, 7C and TM-7 Service Advisory

This service advisory affects only owners of the Futaba TM-7 module and 6EX and 7C FASST systems. Each FASST transmitter contains a unique eight digit identification code, programmed at the factory to identify the respective transmitter and to allow a receiver to be paired only to that radio's signal. Recently we have learned that a very small number of the TM-7 modules, and 6EX and 7C FASST systems were incorrectly coded with a common code number during the manufacturing process. These units were subsequently sold prior to our awareness of the situation.

If two or more units, utilizing this common identification code, were to be in use simultaneously, they may cause interference with one another. Please note: Units which utilize the correct identification code will not be affected by these units.

We're extremely confident that this is not a widespread problem. We know of only one instance in the United States. However, to give you peace of mind that your system is not affected, we will soon be setting up test stations at participating hobby shops throughout the country where you will be able to go to determine -- within a matter of minutes -- whether or not your transmitter is affected, at no charge to you. Or, if you prefer, you may send it in to our service center we will analyze it for you at no charge. If any problem is found, it will be replaced. We will gladly pay the postage for returning the unit and sending it back to you.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Futaba Service Center at: 217-398-0007 or via email at: service@futaba-rc.com. Our staff is available to you Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm U.S. Central Standard Time.

Ribcrackers March Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2008– Dennis Robbins

The meeting started at 7:32 pm. Alex stated that he thought the Thunderbolt looked great, especially with the included pictures and that Gerald was sorely missed from our meetings (due to his work schedule). The minutes were approved as published and the meeting officially began.

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

V.P. Report – If you decide to fly at Ray, please remember the ground is wet and soft so you'll need to park on the gravel to the south or on the paved road.

News Items:

- **Membership dues** were due by the end of the March meeting. Anyone paying after the March meeting must pay a \$15 late fee. No griping – it's been announced for quite awhile!
- A field trip is planned to the **U.S. Air Force Museum** at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio by W. Wells and H. Wojcik. All members wishing to spend a day there were welcome to join.
- The AMA has announced a **Park Flyer** program with reduced membership fees and no regular monthly magazine. The club members discussed what we (as a club) should do if an AMA Park Flyer member wishes to join our club. The comments and any resulting decision was shelved for the time being.
- It was decided that the club would add slots and "frequency pins" to our flight box to support the **Spread Spectrum 2.4 Ghz** guys. The club will follow general AMA guidelines of 1 – 2.4Ghz pin / flight station and everyone flying must still pull a pin when they are ready to fly. W. Wells will modify our flight box and make the newly required pins.
- Wiqar Syed has agreed to assemble a **new website** for the Ribcrackers and the club will cover his expenses. As we've had considerable discussion and aggravation on this topic, everyone was pleased that Wigar has agreed to help.
- Don Unsworth has completed making **promotional flyers** for the club and numerous members have agreed to place them locally. Don did an excellent job with this promotional activity and we should be sure to thank him for all the new members that join.
- **Nankin Hobby** has opened a new outlet at the N.E. corner of 9 Mile and Farmington Roads. Stop in and see what they've got!
- Alex started to discuss a number of new ideas for Fun Flies (including a records event) and he offered to assemble a **Club Calendar** with dates of all the important upcoming club events. Keep your eyes open and your calendars ready for new entries.
- The outside summer **Swap Meet** was briefly discussed and the decision was to pass on this activity for 2008. Another discussion took place regarding **rolling the field**. A few members will look into pricing out this activity and will report back at the April meeting.

Models of the Month: If you missed this meeting, you missed a ton of fun and new models! **Roger Wilfong** bashed a Cutie with a second wing and a modified fuselage to make a 2 Cutie. The plane has yellow wings with a blue fuselage. Power is typical of Roger with a brushless geared Speed 400. **Ken Hilton** brought in his GWS Slow Stick that has a red wing with a white underside. This foam and aluminum flyer will be perfect for Ken, plus the power from the Speed 300 will be carrying (so says Ken) a camera ... so SMILE!! **Wigar Syed** brought in his "almost finished" Great Planes 40 sized red and white RV4. The OS-70 he put in it should hopefully be enough power to get this plane off the ground. **Al Luckham** verbally abused kit designer David Boddington for the difficult time he had building his Tiger Moth kit. The plane has yellow wings and a blue fuselage, power is an Astro 25 geared motor. (Even though Al complained, the plane looked great!) **Dennis Robbins** brought in an almost scratch built Stits Sky Baby (the plans were already drawn). This red and white ¼ scale bi-plane is powered with an OS-25 and the wing span stretches a full 21". It will be interesting to see how it flies. **Dino Marashai** brought in his new 3-D Blade 400 helicopter. 100%, fully ready to go out of the box with a ~30" rotor span. Dino says it flies, but that he still has a lot of practicing to do. **Warren Wells** wowed the group with his 12#, 72" wing spanned SU-26 Soukoi. This yellow bird was beautiful and is powered with a Supercharged YS120. Warren commented that if it flies as well as the first edition he had, he'll be happy. All of the planes looked great and the turnout of new models ready for spring was awesome!

And the winner of the MoM was: Al Luckham. – nice job AL!!

Club Raffle – prizes this evening were a 90%+ finished yellow and black GB something, including servos and an engine (compliments of Alex) and a 40 sized Lanier ARF. I think everyone had a great time.

See you next month – Livonia Senior Citizens Center – 7:30pm – April 7th.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins

**RIB CRACKERS
AND WATCHERS**
Model Airplane Club

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We're on the web!

<http://www.ribcrackers.org>



My brother had dabbled in RC for a while before finally giving up due to lack of time. During this time he acquired a 1997 SIG catalogue autographed by Hazel Sig himself as well as Ray's Complete Helicopter Manual 3rd edition written by Ray Hostettler and published in 1991. If anyone is interested in these two items let me know and I will have him mail them to me. Otherwise they will go into the recycle bin. Thanks, Gerald

Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Apr 4-6	Toledo Show	Seagate Center Toledo, OH	Weak Signals RC www.toledoshow.com
Apr 7	Club Meeting	Livonia Senior Citizen's	Alex Alexopoulos 248-909-6869