

THUNDERBOLT

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RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

President's Message - Alex Stathis Alexopoulos

Dear fellow members,

As the weather finally is improving, I am happy to see more and more members flying. This is the season we have all been waiting for so let's have fun and enjoy some safe flying.

Speaking of safety, I would like to notify all of our members that are currently using Futaba 2.4 radios on channels 6,7 or 12 and 14 to have their radios tested immediately at no charge before their next flight. Serious interference issues have been noticed because of malfunction-

ing of code selection with these radios.

This weekend we have scheduled our field maintenance (rolling) please see our schedule of events to see if you can volunteer for any of these club duties.

I would like to welcome our new members to the club and wish for them to have fun and enjoy our activities.

Student night has been a success so far with a few new students. As student night gets busier every week, I would like to see all of our instructors participating and



helping the students when they can.

Hope to see you out on the field! Lets have fun this season and remember to keep it safe.

Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

It was nice to finally get out to the field for the first time this year. The day was gorgeous, the wind was pretty much from the right direction (is it ever exactly from the right direction?) and the temperature was balmy. I took a risk driving to the field without calling anyone to make sure there was someone there and not bringing a spotter with me. However, I figured the odds were in my favour and I was not disappointed: The field was well attended with the usual crowd well represented. It was the

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Editor's Note Pad	1
Lipo Excitement	2
Meeting Minutes	3
Upcoming Events	4
For Sale	4

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Li-po excitement by Roger Wilfong

As a lot of you have heard, on April 19, I inadvertently demonstrated the flammability of improperly handled lithium batteries. I normally put Lipo batteries in a fireproof Lipo sack when I'm charging them, but what happened Saturday was that there were several batteries in the tray of my flight box. I was in a hurry, and, without picking up the pack, I grabbed what I thought were the leads to a 1700 mAh NiCd pack and plugged it into my Astro 112D NiCd charger, hit the charge button and cranked the current up to 4.5 amps. Then I turned around to help someone sort out a problem with their radio and engine. A few minutes later, a big fire ball erupted over my flight box. The pack fell off of the flight box and landed on the ground amid a couple of my planes and next to one of Art's - then the second and third cells went off with a similar fire ball. It melted the covering off of the last three bays on Art's plane's wing and spewed hot, metallic ash all over the place. Instead of grabbing the leads to the NiCd pack, I had grab the leads of a charged 2500 mAh Lipo pack. Fortunately, the damage was minor - I've already repaired and recovered Art's plane, and only have 2 of my own to take care of. No one was hurt, but the outcome could have been worse. The incident caused me to review my processes and procedures at the field. Thinking back, I realized that most of the time when I've crashed or broken something, it's been all my fault. Specifically, I just wasn't paying attention to what I was doing. That's been manifest in having the wrong model memory selected, having the servos crossed, plugging a battery into the motor side of an ESC (the magic smoke escapes in case you're wondering), and now, blowing up a battery. I normally try as much as possible to code things so that they can't be mis-connected or it's obvious that it's plugged wrong (I've switched the Sermos connectors on all of my Lipo packs from Red/Black to Red/Green - the charger was already color coded that way), but nothing beats paying attention to what you're doing. If you want to talk to me at the field, I'll be glad to talk, but expect that I'm going to stop what I'm doing to talk to you - my kids may be able to multi-task, but I can't safely. Fly-em fight. - Roger

Editor's Note Pad - cont.

(Continued from page 1)

perfect number of people there: enough people to start small discussion groups but not so many that you had to wait for a frequency pin. 2.4 GHz probably helped in the last respect. It was a little windier than I would have liked for flying the Old Timer and after letting it get tossed about in the sky for a while and then eventually watching it get flipped completely over on its back after a particularly strong gust of wind I decided enough was enough. I was lucky that I had enough altitude to safely recover and was able to land in one piece. Other planes didn't have nearly as much problem and other than an unfortunate incident with Ralph's plane everyone had a great time! Hopefully there will be many more weekends where the flying is perfect. The Spirit that I have been working on seemingly forever is almost done and I look forward to many enjoyable flights with it. Just so that I won't run out of things to build, for my birthday I received a kit for an F7F Tigercat. I have the best wife ever! It is an old RCKits product and is definitely a builder's kit. The instructions are 1 1/2 pages of type written notes. Don't expect to see that plane completed anytime soon. If anyone has any additional information regarding this kit I would very much appreciate it if you could pass it along. Until next time, see you at the field!

Ribcrackers April Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2008– Dennis Robbins**Ribcrackers April Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2008**

The meeting started at 7:34 pm. (Alex thought it was 7:30 pm, but I work off a regulated/official timepiece, so the official time stands!) The March minutes were approved as published in the April Thunderbolt.

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 must park on the gravel to the south or on the paved road.

News Items:

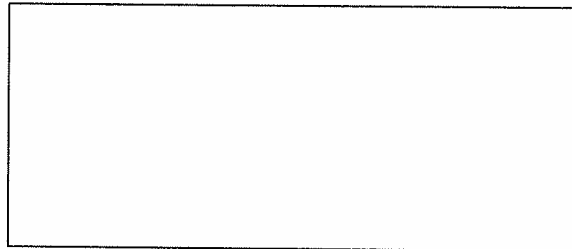
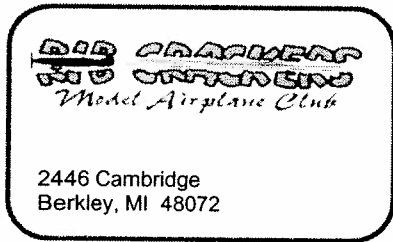
- Membership dues were due by the end of the March meeting so anyone paying now, must pay a \$15 late fee.
- Warren Wells added pins to the flight box for the Spread Spectrum 2.4 Ghz guys. Members flying with the 2.4 Ghz radios must still pull pins when flying.
- The club agreed to pay for renting a self-propelled vibratory roller to be used the last weekend in April. This should make our field very smooth and flat. A proposed schedule was circulated and everyone agreed this was a great idea.
- Coming up on May 18th will be a club Fun Fly and a Junk Yard War. Alex is also planning on a speed contest, so put on a speed prop and get ready.
- Ribcrackers have been requested to join a Boy Scout event on May 17th at Willow Metro Park.
- Wiqar Syed has been working on our website and it's coming along great. A new member, Roman, (sorry I don't have your last name) has also agreed to help. The new website should be available at www.ribcracker.com or org by May 1st.
- Don Unsworth's promotional flyers have been distributed to local hobby stores.

Club Raffle: The big prize was a Lanier TR-260 – great prize, great plane. The raffle in May should be at least this good, maybe better!

Model of the Month: Only one this month – Roger Wilfong is at it again with a purple and yellow SR Batteries X-250. Powered by a ferrite type 400 can motor – this should be a fun flying plane.

Next month's meeting will take place at Ray Field - 7:30pm – May 5th. Bring a plane – we may have time to fly.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins



Items for sale:

New In Box: P-47D Thunderbolt 150 Razerback

New In Box: Zenoah Quartz G-38 Engine

New In Box: Lucky Stik trainer

New In Box: LEO 46 EP engine

Airtronics 6 channel radio control system and "JR" Unlimited Series Mark VIII remote control

If interested, please contact: thehandfamily@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
May 5	Club Meeting	Ray Field	Alex Alexopoulos 248-909-6869
May 17th	Boy Scouts	Willow Metro Park	
May 18th	Fun Fly / Junkyard wars	Ray Field	Alex Alexopoulos 248-909-6869