

THUNDERBOLT

Volume 2008, Issue 6

June, 2008

RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

President's Message - Alex Stathis Alexopoulos

I hope you're all enjoying the nice weather as we are heading full throttle into an exciting new flying season. I would like to THANK all the members who volunteered for our field chores the last few weeks, such as field rolling, cleaning, relocating the flight box, installing new flight stations. I would also like to THANK Tracy for building and donating a new flight bench to the club.

Our field looks great this year, Joel does a great job mowing the grass and making sure it is ready

for us to fly on. We pretty much worked out most of our safety issues and now with lots more room in the pits area we can be more comfortable. I want to WELCOME all the new members at our club and hope to see you all at our upcoming club meeting at the field on JUNE 2ND 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Please feel free always to contact me with any concerns or questions by phone or email: alexopoulos24@yahoo.com I wish for all of you to have a



fun season with a lot of flying and very little repairing. See you at the field and please rememberlets play safe out there!!!!!!
.....Alex

Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

As mentioned by the President, the flying season should be in full swing. This time of year is pretty tough for me to get out to the field because of the many end of school year events and preparations for our up-coming trip to Germany at the end of June. We are attending my cousins wedding and the ladies need new dresses and the gents need to make sure that their suits still fit. Inhaling all that balsa dust during the winter building months can really wreak havoc on the old waistline. Something

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The **Grumman F7F Tigercat** was the first twin-engined fighter aircraft design to enter service with the United States Navy. Designed for the new *Midway-class aircraft carriers*, the

aircraft were too large to operate from earlier decks. Although delivered to United States Marine Corps (USMC) combat units before the end of World War II, the Tigercat did not see combat service in that war. Most F7Fs ended up in land-based service, as attack aircraft or night fighters; only the later **F7F-4N** was certified for carrier service. They saw service in the Korean War and were withdrawn from service in 1954. Armament was heavy: four 20 mm cannons and four 0.50 in (12.7 mm) machine guns, as well as underwing and under-fuselage hardpoints for bombs and torpedoes. The F7F Tigercat was one of the highest-performance piston-engined fighters, with a top speed of 460 mph, well in excess of the US Navy's single-engined aircraft—71 mph faster than a F6F Hellcat at sea level. The opinion of Capt. Fred M. Trapnell, one of the Navy's premier test pilots, was that "It's the best damn fighter I've ever flown."

Editor's Note Pad - cont.

(Continued from page 1)

else that is a detriment to the waistline is doing a lot of sitting and visiting and eating all the great German food that is offered at every family that we visit. What does this have to do with RC Flying you might ask? Nothing. The point is that there are some great flying days out there and we need to make good use of them. That said the glider is almost done and I hope to get it in the air in the next couple of weeks. If the maiden flight is perfect I hope that there are plenty of witnesses. And if it isn't then I hope I was there by myself. With the exception of the spotter of course. I was bummed to have missed the fun-fly and I hope that it was successful and that everyone had a great time. With any luck the planes went home in the same number of pieces as they came to the field.

Earlier I mentioned that our family was going to Germany on the 20th of June and will not be back until the 4th of July weekend. This brings to mind two things. The first is: Does everyone want the newsletter sent early or does someone want to volunteer to cover that responsibility for the July Newsletter? Second, this means that there are only 5 more newsletters coming from this news-desk. It is never too early to start looking for one's replacement. If anyone has an interest in becoming the newsletter editor for 2009 please drop me a line and I will be happy to ease them into the position. The December 2008 Newsletter will definitely be the last issue of the Thunderbolt that I will write. I appreciate all the encouragement that I receive and it has been lots of fun. In the meantime, give it some thought and if you have any interest or questions please do not hesitate to ask. That being said I need to get back to finishing up the glider and get it out to the field. Hope to see you there!!

Ribcrackers May Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2008– Dennis Robbins

Ribcrackers May Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2008

The meeting should have started at 7:30 pm sharp, but Alex wanted to rearrange the furniture, so officially, we didn't get started until 7:33 pm. However, the new arrangement did look good! The April minutes were approved as published in the May Thunderbolt. Speaking of which, everyone is pleased with the newsletter and Gerald Klose continues to get kudos (even if he can't make the meetings due to his work schedule).

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 – The field is in good shape and Hank has secured a new club trainer – great news for the students on Wednesday.

News Items:

- The field rolling took place at the end of April and everyone is pleased with the results. The cost was slightly higher than originally thought, but what isn't nowadays!
- It was mentioned that with the warmer weather and rains, the field mowing will have to begin. (Joel – please keep the grass short!)
- Student night has begun and the club has more students than teachers – so if you can help out on Wednesday evenings, it would be appreciated.
- The promotional flyers placed at the local hobby shops seem to be working, with new people showing up at our field all the time.
- Ron McHale has kindly offered to teach 3-D flying to anyone with an interest – contact Ron for your private appointment.
- The field has been cleaned and our annual request goes out to all – if you bring “stuff” with you to the field, please make sure you take it home – especially cigarette butts!
- Tracy was thanked for purchasing and building another great flight station – excellent job!
- Roger told the group a story about the care and handling of Li-Po batteries – the bottom line is that you must pay attention to whatever you're doing while handling model airplane equipment and you'll most likely survive. Show complacency and someone will get hurt!
- The club has May 10th scheduled for field maintenance – the field box is due for a new location and new flight stations will be erected.

Club Raffle: The big prize was another Lanier ARF with a hat. Don Unsworth took this home where his son will do the assembly honors. June promises to have another plane to give away.

Model of the Month: Roger continues to turn out more planes – this time it was an electrified Ugli-Stick. Red and white – it should fly great. Alex brought out a heavily modified red Sea Fury that looked like it belonged at the Reno Air Races. Alex commented that the plane was designed to fly with a 0.75 2-stroke, so the 1.35 Moki will hopefully provide adequate power. Nice work and the winner for May – Alex!

Next month's meeting will (again) take place at Ray Field - 7:30pm – June 2nd. Bring a plane – we may have time to fly.

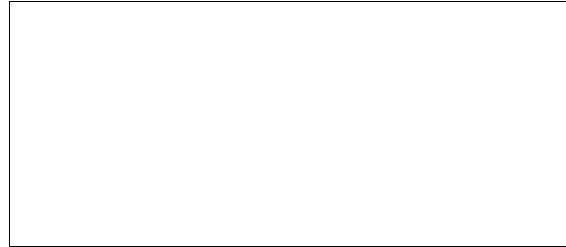
Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins



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We're on the web!

<http://www.ribcrackers.org>



Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Jun 2	Club Meeting	Ray Field	Alex Alexopoulos 248-909-6869
Jul 7	Club Meeting	Ray Field	Alex Alexopoulos 248-909-6869