

THUNDERBOLT

Volume 2008, Issue 12

December, 2008

RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

President's Message - Alex Stathis Alexopoulos

Dear fellow members,
The Christmas and Holiday season is approaching us fast and I bet some of us are hoping for a new plane under the tree. Speaking of planes and trees it reminds me that we need to make a team effort in order to cut down a few trees on our field which are making it hard for us to land and takeoff. I will talk about this at our upcoming meeting on the 1st of December. I was happy to see a few more members at our last meeting. It was indeed a fun time and for those of you who couldn't make it, I hope you can make it to the next

meeting so you can enjoy a nice conversation between your fellow members. The team of officers in our club will thankfully remain the same and unfortunately for you, the undersigned will remain president for the next year. Thank you for your E-mails with your suggestions and opinions. This communication means a lot to me, please remain active in our club because as you all know, by working together there is no limit to what we can achieve.



Previously distant dreams as a "hard fabric runway" seem now to be doable and within our budget if we can manage to agree and realize a plan. I am looking forward to an even more successful year and I know I can

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Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

As the building season goes into full swing Alex brought up a good point: Whenever possible support your local hobby shop. If you are shopping on cost alone the internet is hard to beat but where else will you get the personal service or the insight and experience of someone that you can talk to face to face but at a hobby shop. My wife and I (yes you read correctly) were at a hobby shop trying to find some glue that would work for her particular project. She was trying to glue a transparent film to

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Ribcrackers Board of Directors

President—Alex Stathis Alexopoulos	248-909-6869 alexopoulos24@yahoo.com
Vice President—Hank Wojcik	313-659-1677
Secretary—Matt Jerue	248-348-5948 mdjerue@twmi.rr.com
Treasurer—Roger Wilfong	248-349-9079 aroger@med.umich.edu
Editor—Gerald Klose	248-854-5604 gklose1@yahoo.com



November Model of the month winner
Gus Dabringhaus with his Chipmunk

On behalf of the Rib-crackers I would like to extend a special thanks and recognition to Art Klee for donating \$20.00 to the club for fuel.

Editor's Note Pad - cont.

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poster board. After explaining what we were looking for the salesperson suggested that we use double stick tape instead of glue. This seemed a little dubious at first but we were running out of time and options. Sure enough we tried it and vowed to never use glue again for these projects. Double stick tape not only worked it cut in half the time needed to complete the project. Special thanks to Dave.

I would also like to congratulate the new executive board which is actually the old board for being voted in for another term. I, however, will be hanging up my keyboard. I have enjoyed producing the newsletter for the last three years but I am starting to run out of ideas and it is time to let someone else have a go at it. I believe Don Unsworth will be the new scribe and will take up where I left off. I would like to thank once again those that have provided feedback both good and bad and have encouraged me to continue through the years. As someone once said this is a "Bully pulpit" from which to spread opinion, knowledge, and perhaps a little entertainment now and again. I would be more than willing to help in any way that I can to make the transition as smooth as possible so that there is no interruption in the newsletter. Thanks again,

Gerald

Ribcracker November Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from last month were approved

Treasurer's report: The club remains solvent. The Treasurer's report was approved. See Roger Wilfong if you have any questions.

VP: The field looks ok (except for the ground dwelling rodents that are wreaking havoc with their burrows) and should be set for the winter. Don't forget to practice safe flying and keep your hand out of the propeller. (Ask him how he knows. Yes, the wounds are healing nicely.)

Secretary: In an extreme show of dedication to the club and the sport, Matt flew in the rain. There were two new members since last month and the membership has been growing slowly but steadily.

New issues:

- Safety at the field. There are a lot of new members at the field and it is becoming an issue. There have been incidences of flying into the wires and poles along Grand River and not flying in the established pattern.
- The burrows from the ground rodents are becoming an issue. Any ideas to help eradicate them?
- One idea was to put down a runway fabric. This would thwart the burrowers as well as make for a better landing area and reduce the amount that needed to be mowed. It would require that ground be leveled but it would not infringe on the Landlord's requirement that we make no permanent changes to the property.
- Gus proposed a fun-fly challenge to include members of other clubs: Spend the winter building a WWII era plane. The planes will then be subjected to static judging as well as scale flight. The \$20.00 entry fee will go to prizes and the judging will be done by pilots. The word should be put out now so that people can complete their projects. Entry should be a new build.
- Gus, Dino, Matt want to become flight instructors with Warren being head instructor
- New website is up and running. Come by and check it out. www.ribcrackers.org
- Warren will do the Raffle next year.
- A motion was made to have the meeting attendance count toward work hours to try and increase meeting attendance
- The present board was voted in for another term
- Alex started a new feature called "Gossip Time" during the meeting. Essentially a free discussion time where any topic is game.

Model of the month:

Gus Dabringhaus brought in a Great Planes Chipmunk. Looking pretty sharp at 81" wingspan, OS 120 4 stroke, and 4 hours worth of sponsor stickers.

Juan Lopez brought in a Great Planes Reactor with a power 10 motor running on 3S 2200mah Lipo. Currently missing wheels but a good flyer

Ron McHale brought in a RTF eTronic flyer it had a 70mah battery. Ron tried to sway the judging with a flight demonstration but Gus won. Congratulations Gus!

Respectfully submitted by Gerald Klose



2446 Cambridge
Berkley, MI 48072

We're on the web!

<http://www.ribcrackers.org>



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count on your help and cooperation. As you all can tell snow is already on the ground and we all know what that means: It's ski season! So slap those ski's on your planes guys, and don't forget your gloves at home. Hopefully we can get together at the field and do some flying. By the way did you guys want to have a prize for the first recorded flight of 2009? We will talk about it at the meeting. I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving, when at the field please fly safely, and remember, times are tough so please try to support with your business our local hobby shop. Ordering from the internet may be more convenient, but we all know it's the right thing to do to spend our money in our community. Let's all make an effort to keep our local hobby shop in business.

Thank you,
Alex

Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Dec 1st	Club meeting	Livonia Senior Center	Alex Alexopoulos 248-909-6869