



Ribcrackers Model Airplane Club

THUNDERBOLT

January 2009



President's Message *Alex Stathis Alexopoulos*

“To the best club in the world, The Ribcrackers”

Dear Fellow Members,

I hope this month's newsletter finds all of you in good health and with lots of love and happiness surrounding you and your families. After all, this should be the message of the holiday season that many of us tend to forget. A few days ago, some members and myself gathered at the local pub to enjoy some dinner and a few beers. As we raised our glasses for a toast, someone said “To the best club in the world, The Ribcrackers”. As I think back to this quote, I couldn't agree with them more. I am going to devote this segment of our newsletter to all you fellow members instead of our typical flying topics.

“I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year filled with lots of love, health and happiness.

Alex

To all of you that care, to all of you who volunteer and contribute, to all of you that take the time to call a fellow member when they're ill or not feeling well, to all of you that will help a friend build or repair a plane just because you're a good friend, to all of you that shared and gave away all of your extra engines or planes to fellow members without asking for anything in return. Finally, to all of you that showed up to our local hobby shop on a cold Saturday afternoon to support the business because you thought it was the right thing to do. These are a few of the things that do, indeed, make me feel that we do have the best club in the world.



January Club Meeting
Monday, January 5, 7:30 pm
Livonia Senior Citizens Center
5 Mile & Farmington Roads
South-East Corner



Ribcrackers December Meeting Minutes – Dec. 1, 2008

The meeting started at 7:38 pm with a few extra minutes allowed for travel time due to the weather. The November minutes were approved as written and published in the December Thunderbolt.

Treasurer's Report – the club remains solvent and the financial report was accepted as published and distributed. See R. Wilfong for details. Note: Roger has agreed to draft a budget for the 2009 year and distribute it at the January meeting.

V.P. Report – Hank reported that both the field and his thumb are still where they belong. Please contact Hank for details.

Sec. Report – Don't forget that it's time to renew your membership with both the AMA and the Ribcrackers. You have until the end of the March meeting before you will be assessed late penalties.

Discussion Items: Visiting this evening we had two prospective new members – Marshall Stern and Patrick Gietlen (and son). Nice guys and we're anxious to see them at the field. The club is still discussing a fabric runway but we need many answers about the material and how it will behave in our climate. This topic will be shelved until spring (or Warren comes up with more information.) The group agreed that on January 1, 2009 we would hold a "Fun Fly" at Ray Field starting at 11 am. Not too early or late, it should be a fun day to fly – remember that everything is dependant on the weather.

Last Notice - Ribcracker Logo Stuff – Is still available - If you'd like hats, T-shirts, sweatshirts or jackets (or anything else embroidered) with the Ribcracker Logo, please contact: Gary Schaefer at: Home: (248) 437 -3898 or Cell:248-343-1972 or e-mail: garyj13901@spcglobal.net

Club Raffle: Big Holiday Special - A complete P-51 ARF needing only a radio and battery, book and tools. Bad month to miss the raffle!

Model of the Month: Ken Hilton brought a Swap Meet Special – a GWS Spitfire – almost ready to fly. Nice almost scale bird and Dino Marashai with a very small helicopter – the Blade MCX – which he flew around the room with great skill and precision. Ken was the winner of the month!

Next month, the meeting will start at 7:30pm at the Livonia Senior Citizens Center

The meeting ended at ~8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Dennis Robbins



Where's the plane, Dino?

Ken's the Winner!



the bookshelf

I get a lot of enjoyment building planes, a kick out of seeing them fly and equally as much from reading about planes, rockets, pilots and astronauts. If you have a favorite book, let me know and I'll list it here. Hopefully, I'll write a review each month of a book that you and I found interesting.

Since War Birds were mentioned at last month's meeting, the following book came to mind and I think you will find it interesting as did I.

The Canvas Falcons, by Stephen Longstreet, 1970, Barnes & Noble
ISBN 1-56619-669-8.

World War I began as a glorious adventure. On the ground soldiers marched off jauntily, promising their loved ones they'd be home by Christmas. In the air flimsy "flying crates" made of canvas and wood carried dreamy young men into the clouds in search of daring man-to-man combat. But things changed quickly. Wholesale carnage was often the fate of the foot soldier, while aviators found that their lives were to be measured in days and months.

The book tells the story of the air war over Europe. Using contemporary documents written by the aces themselves and interviews with survivors, Stephen Longstreet captures both the romance and the horror of combat above the Western Front. Here are the aces on both side of the conflict: Manfred von Rickthofen, "The Red Barron", Max Immelmann, one-eyed British ace Mick Mannock, and America's own Eddie Rickenbacker. You will discover why Flight Commander A.F. Woodbridge, Captain Pilot D.C. Cunnell and Canadian Captain Roy Brown all flying for the RAF were important in the war's outcome.

The story does not begin and end with these solitary heroes. Longstreet tells of the technological aspects of combat aviation, and the inventors like the dutch engineer Anthony Fokker, whose discoveries, such as the propeller-synchronized machine gun, that had results exceeding his imagination. Also, the teamwork of combat squadrons such as the Escadrille Lafayette and Rickenbacker's Hat-in-the-Ring Squadron are related. Another interesting account is of the wild reckless social life of these flyers.

If this book sparks some interest, it can be ordered from Amazon.com @ \$4.45.

Happy Reading!

Tip of the Month

If you are planning to do some spray painting using the aerosol spray cans and plan to reuse it later, the following idea from one of the model magazines sounds pretty neat. When paint is left in the can for re-use, after doing the "usual tip the can" routine, remove the spray nozzle and attach it to the small red tube of WD 40 and spray a little oil through it. A little sanding of the red tube may be necessary. Let me know how it works.



Editor's Note:

AGGGHHHHHHHH....

My first THUNDERBOLT as editor. What a daunting undertaking! I need your ideas and suggestions on what you want in this monthly. Don't worry about doing the writing...that's my job, just give me the ideas. A brief conversation is all I need. Some have suggested only the club minutes, president's report, upcoming events and that is it. What do you think? How about some tips from you ELECTRIC guys, or the pains and gains from you kit builders?

Call or write me.

Don

FROM the JOURNAL:

(Model Aviation)

Do you ever wonder about the things we hold as 'TRUTHS' only to find out that perhaps they are false or half-truths? Such is the topic of lift on the wing in Dean Pappas's article "IF IT FLIES" in the December, 2008 publication. If you haven't read it, find it on page 113. As Paul Harvey would say, you will learn "the rest of the story". Oh, by the way, who are Bernoulli (Ber-NEW-lee) and Coanda?

Local Coming Events

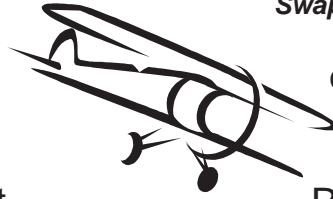
January 5, 2009
Ribcrackers Club Meeting
Budget and Calendar

Livonia Senior Citizen Center, 7:30 pm
Alex Alexopoulos 248-909-6869

January 25, 2009
RC Club Club of Detroit
Swap & Shop \$3 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
K of C Hall, 23695 Mound Road, Warren
Bob Hunt 5 86-774-5296

January 11, 2009
Detroit Aero Modelers
Swap & Shop \$5 9:00 am - 1:00 pm,
Monaghan K of C, Livonia
Charlie Thomas 313-565-2973

February 2, 2009
Ribcrackers Club Meeting
Livonia Senior Citizen Center, 7:30 pm
Alex Alexopoulos 248-909-6869



RIB CRACKERS
RC CLUB
Model Airplane Club

895 Grace
Northville, Michigan 48167

We're on the web!

<http://www.ribcrackers.org>

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