

THUNDERBOLT

Volume 2008, Issue 9

September, 2008

RIBCRACKERS MODEL AIRPLANE CLUB

President's Message - Alex Stathis Alexopoulos

Dear fellow members:

It truly feels great to be back after a few weeks of vacation. Although we had a good time overseas spending quality time with our families and friends it feels good to be back flying at the field and seeing all the familiar faces again. Greece was beautiful with 90 degree weather every day and even though it was windy I always enjoyed flying every chance I had and at various locations. Our hobby is growing rapidly over there. I was amazed to see all the flying sites and how much fun everyone was having. As we are approaching the closing of our flying

season I was happy to see that everyone had fun while I was away and every one flying safely with very few mishaps reported. I would like to thank all the instructors and volunteer helpers for a truly successful and popular student night program. It seems that after the display and distribution of our free lesson paper fliers, student numbers increased significantly and we are signing some new members as well ...good job everybody.

On September 14 our speed competition trial -fun fly will be held at our field. Everyone is



welcome to compete and I hope we all enjoy it. Don't forget to invite friends and family I'm sure they will have fun Again its nice to be back with you guys. See you at the field and of course don't forget ...Lets keep it safe out there!!

Editor's Note Pad - Gerald Klose

Woo Hoo! The planets have once again re-aligned and the powers that be have decided that I no longer have to work until 8:00pm. For me this means several things (in no particular order): I can once again have dinner with my family, I can come home at a reasonable hour, and I can finally join

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Dear Ribcrackers,

My father Greg Bessette passed away on Saturday from colon cancer. He was a faithful Ribcrackers member for a number of years and, I believe, one of the initial editors of the Thunderbolt. He had so much fun flying planes and only stopped because of a work/family conflict. Yet even in his last weeks, as he lost more and more energy, he sent away for new batteries for his radio so that he could try flying one last time. Regrettably he passed away before he could make it out to the field. It would mean so much to him, and to me and my sister (who used to be spotters as children) if some of his Ribcracker buddies would attend his funeral. I don't know if any of the recipients of this email knew or remember him, but if you could pass the word along to some of the older members I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you so much for any of your help.

His funeral will be on Thursday at 11am at Lynch & Sons in Milford. 404 E. Liberty, Milford, MI 48381. There is also a visitation from 1-9pm on Wednesday. The funeral home's website is www.lynchfuneraldirectors.com.

Thank you all again, and happy flying.

Doug Bessette

Editor's Note Pad - cont.

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the club at the meetings. The meetings were important to me because it was a guaranteed time that I would get to see most of you guys and it also offered me a regular chance to go flying. This year is rapidly dwindling so most likely I will have to wait until next year to fly after the meetings. In any case it is good to be back amongst the regular people and work normal hours. Unfortunately our club has been given some sad news in the passing of Greg Bessette. I have forwarded the email that I received from his son to everyone on my mailing list and tried to call as many people as possible to try and pass the word. One of the calls was to John Gavasso who passed on this interesting tidbit that shows just how varied our motivations are for entering the hobby:

Greg originally was into model railroading and specifically was interested in the narrow gauges of

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Ribcrackers August Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were unavailable at the time of printing

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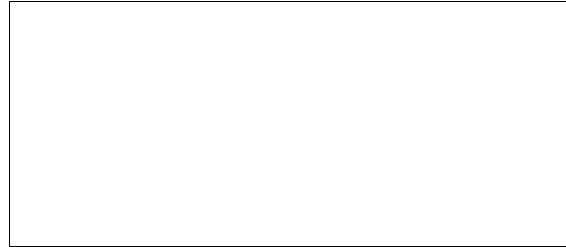
Colorado. According to John, this group of people is known for having very elaborate and intricate scratch built buildings as part of the scenery. Greg went on vacation and left the cat behind to roam the house. Upon his return Greg found the entire 4x16 foot table more or less destroyed by the cat. Just about everything that could be knocked off the table was on the ground. Since getting rid of the cat wasn't an option, and probably rebuilding the scene was either too daunting or heart wrenching Greg looked for another hobby to get into and settled on Model airplanes.



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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> |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sep 6-7 | Midwest Float fly | Island Lake Recreation area | Gregory Cardillo 248-393-1056 |
| Sep 8 | Club meeting | Ray Field | Alex Alexopoulos 248-909-6869 |
| Sep 14 | Speed trial/ Fun Fly | Ray Field | Alex Alexopoulos 248-909-6869 |