



OMFC Fliteline

The Newsletter of the
Oakville Model Flying
Club

January 2003

OMFC January 6 meeting highlights

The President called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Our member, Ken Rutter is reported to be doing better since his mishap at the north field in 2002. If you know Ken, please let him know we're all thinking about him and wish him a speedy recovery.

John Ross gave a report on the financial position of the Club. And the current and forecasted membership numbers. President Anderson welcomed some new members that were in attendance. The results of the Frozen Finger Fun Fly were announced. You can read more about this most exciting event on page 2 and 3. The Executive plans to present Wings to the students that completed the wings program last year at the March OMFC meeting. Plan to attend if you got your wings certificate last year. We also have a few certificates to pass out.

A reminder to all members that the next meeting of OMFC is actually the Swap Shop on February 2, 2003. Doors open at 9:00 AM but I hear that the really keen shoppers are waiting in line at about 8:30 AM. Bring a hot drink and gloves because the Almanac says it's going to be quite cold on the 2nd. If you have any questions about participating in the Swap Shop, please contact Eric Genzer. On December 17, 2002, 7 members of OMFC aided about 35 Air Cadets of 540 Squadron in Oakville build the MAAC balsa rubber powered airplane. Although a few cadets needed the de-bonder that was donated by Tom and Hobby Hobby, all of them really had a good time and thanked the OMFC for our time. We still need some more volunteers to help Henry Vanderbeek and crew out. The model build night is each Monday night in Downtown Oakville. Contact Henry if you may be available a Monday night a month.

It's almost Airshow time again and the Airshow Committee has been busy planning this very important event. If you're interested in helping out the Airshow committee, please contact a member of the Executive. The Airshow will take place on June 8, 2003 at the North field.

At the March meeting, Tony Kreglewski will be making a presentation on Scale Aerobatics (IMAC). There will be a video presentation and some actual airplanes to see.

Keith Houston took the floor to make a presentation on the full scale Fairey Firefly. Keith, who is a retired Air Canada Captain, volunteers his time to work with the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton, ON. Keith flies the Fairey Firefly for the CWHM at air shows and special events. If you missed the meeting, you missed one of the most interesting full scale airplane stories I've ever heard. Keith explained in detail the process of pre-flight, starting, taxiing, take-off, flight and landing of the full scale Firefly. It's quite an airplane.

The Firefly served as a carrier-borne reconnaissance fighter in both World War II and the Korean War. Fairey Aviation (Britain) Company's original prototype first flew in 1941 and, two years later, the aircraft became operational with the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm. In total, 1623 Fireflies left the assembly lines. One of the airplane's most interesting features is the housing of the pilot and navigator/weapons officer in separate compartments. In addition, the innovative wing flaps, when extended, increased both the wing area and, in turn, their lift. This last feature made the heavy Firefly docile during landings on aircraft carrier decks.

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Points of Interest

- ?? The South field road is now closed off at the top of the hill. If you fly there, you will have to carry your equipment down to the field.
- ?? The Social Director would like to announce that Chris Kanski may be providing the baked goods at the OMFC Meetings in the future. It seems that Chris has been attending a baking class. Great way to meet girls!
- ?? There will NOT be a regular Monday night meeting in February. The Swap Shop on Sunday Feb 2 will be held in place of the regular meeting. Doors open at 9:00 AM Sharp at Unit 13, 785 Pacific Road, Oakville, ON.

Frozen Finger Fun Fly 2003

The 2003 edition of the Frozen Finger Fun Fly, took place at Drumquin Park on the 1st of January 2003. By 12:00 Noon, (the start time) there were approx., 70 people in attendance. Out of this crowd, 8 contestants?, with their flight crews stepped forward.

For the first time that I can remember the contestants lined up across the north end of the field as the wind was blowing from right to left. At the appointed hour (12:00 Noon), Jim Eichenberg raised his faithful musket and for the second time in two years had a mis-fire. Apparently the firing pin jammed or became frozen. While Jim was attempting to clear the misfire, the intrepid modellers were starting their engines (at least the ones at the west end of the line). The contestants at the east end of the line did not hear the click and were awaiting the start signal. Well as they say, "He who hesitates is lost.". An apology has been issued to the east end teams, David Fallowfield (Defending Champion), Kim Vasiliadis (Perpetual Winner/Runner Up) and Alex Strzalkowski (New Comer), for the lack of a audio cue to "GO".

First into the air was Bruce Dixon ably assisted by his daughter Kelly, second was Maqsood Ahmad, assisted by Richard Els and third was John Wheeler assisted by John Malley. The Wheeler/Malley team actually realized that some thing was wrong and shut their engine down. They then saw that everyone else was still going hard so they restarted the engine in time to capture third place. (Could they have been first, if they weren't such gentlemen??)

The F.F.F.F. Committee has met and because of the miscue by the starter (for the second year in a row) decided that there will be a rule change for 2004. In future the contestants will have to wait until they hear the sound of the starting gun. In this way all contestants will go at the same time.

Thanks goes out to Larry Simmons and Larry Sheehan who supplied the majority of the wood for the barrel. The heat was appreciated. Thanks to Bob Zacharczuk who with great humility brought his Wings Program failures (crashed trainers) to the burning barrel.

He now has room in his basement to build more models for the upcoming year. Thanks to Juri Vosu who supplied Jim Eichenberg with matches so that this whole thing could be started. Those electric guys carry everything. There were also successful flights by two of the OMFC electric contingent, but they were before the official flight start. They did not try to enter the contest so the FFFF Committee did not have to disqualify them. Both models flew well and the pilots demonstrated that you don't have to freeze to death to fly in the winter. (No prop blast getting your engine started.) In closing, again congratulation to Bruce Dixon for having the first official flight of the 2003 season. Also to Stan Plausinis, who has the distinction of having the first crash of the 2003 season. Stan knocked the stab off of his model attempting a landing just before the contest. It didn't match the spectacular arrival of John Malley for 2002, but it was still a crash. (Thanks Stan. I was getting worried that no one would step forward and fill this category.).

For members who wonder who sits on the OMFC, Frozen Finger Fun Fly Committee. There is only one person, me, Jim Eichenberg, all decisions are final and can not be protested.

(God, isn't power great.) Thanks to all who attended, particularly those who brought their families. For further information (Pictures) go to omfc.org web site.



<<<< 1ST Place Bruce Dixon



2ND Place Maqsood Ahmad >>>>



<<<< 3RD Place John Wheeler

OMFC Dates for the 2003 Season

- January 6th **Regular Meeting of OMFC**, 7:30 PM, Unit 13, 785 Pacific Rd. Oakville
Talk on the (full size) Fairey Firefly, by Keith Houston of the OMFC.
- February 2nd **Sunday**, Annual OMFC Swap Shop, Time to be announced.
- March 3rd **Regular Meeting of OMFC**, 7:30 PM, Unit 13, 785 Pacific Rd. Oakville
Tony Kreg will give a presentation on Scale Aerobatics.
- April 7th **Regular Meeting of OMFC**, 7:30 PM, Unit 13, 785 Pacific Rd. Oakville
It is hoped to have a presentation on Turbine engines.
- May 5th **Annual Beauty Contest OMFC**, 7:30 PM, Unit 13, 785 Pacific Rd. Oakville
- May 24th **Electric Fun Fly**, North Field (Drumquin Park)
- June 8th **8th Annual OMFC Air Show**, North Field (Drumquin Park)

48th Annual Weak Signals Toledo Show

April 4,5,6, 2003
SeaGate Centre
401 Jefferson Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43604
Show hours: Fri/Sat
9am to 5pm - Sun 9am
to 4pm

If you received this newsletter in the mail and have an e-mail address, please forward it to me so we can e-mail you this newsletter and reduce costs for the club. Thanks! jmmis@sympatico.ca

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The Royal Canadian Navy employed 65 Fireflies of the Mk AS-5 variety on board its own aircraft carriers between 1946 and 1954. The letters 'AS' stand for anti-submarine, which was the intended primary role of the RCN's Fireflies.

The Museum's Mk 5 was the first aeroplane type acquired for CWH's collection, which explains why the Firefly is pictured on the CWH decals and letterhead. The Camden Air Museum (Australia) provided the Museum with the Firefly, which has been restored in the colours and markings of 825 (RCN) Squadron, which flew Mk 5's from the aircraft carrier HMCS 'Magnificent,' circa 1953.

Type:	Two Seater Naval Carrier Fighter or Reconnaissance Patrol
Manufacturer:	Fairey
Designation:	Firefly
Version :	Mk. 5 ASR
Location :	Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum
Powerplant :	Rolls-Royce Griffon 74
Number of Engines	1
Wing Span :	41ft (12.50m)
Length :	37ft (11.28m)
Height :	15ft 6in(4.7m)
Horsepower :	2245"
Range-Speed :	1,070 miles(1,772 km) w/ 2 @ 90gal drop tanks - 345 mph (555 km/h)
Armament :	two or four 20mm canon two drop tanks or ASR equipment



If you see Keith flying at the South field, ask him to tell you about the Fairey Firefly, I guarantee that you will enjoy his story. Thanks Keith!

OMFC Executive 2003

President:	Brian Anderson	North field Manager:	Vince Watkins
Vice-President:	Jim Eichenberg	South Field Manager:	Frank Pilih
Past President:	Tim Deel	Social Director:	Andrew Orange
Chief Flying Instructor:	Roger Young	Field Acquisition Manager:	Mike Ross & Wayne McKee
Assistant CFI:	Wayne McKee		
Web Master:	Burt Armstrong		

Secretary-Treasurer

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