



Newsletter of the
Oakville Milton Flying Club

www.omfc.org

DECEMBER 2011


All I want for Christmas is a wing (or two)




Merry
Christmas

Our next club meeting is
Monday January 9th
at 7:30 pm

Unit 13, 785 Pacific Rd. Oakville

Field Report

The South Field is now closed for the winter. Please don't attempt to get to the field till spring.

The North Field is open; however, please don't drive on the grass part of the parking lot. The ground is much too fragile over the winter months.

Minutes of December Meeting

The December meeting was called to order by President John Pretty on December 5th, with about forty members present. We had one guest, Amin Rahman, who found us on the web and is interested in learning more about our hobby.

The first order of business was the confirmation of Denis Loo as Membership Director (Social Director). Denis is coming back into the hobby after some time away, and he is very interested in becoming involved in the Club and helping out. He is mainly interested in Electric Flight and would be able to help Jack with the Electric Fun Fly in June. Motion to accept Denis moved by John Pretty and seconded by Bert Armstrong; motion passed. Welcome, Denis! Louis Csefko will continue to provide refreshments during the Club meetings.

The 2012 Club events were discussed next; so far we have the following:

Monthly meetings will be on the usual first Monday of the month except for January's, which will be held January 9th

The Annual **Frozen Finger Fly**, as usual sponsored by Jim Eichenberg, will be held January 1st, 12:00 noon, come rain, shine, snow or whatever!

The **Swap Meet** will be February 12th, sponsored by Erik Genser

The Beauty Contest is the May meeting—last year's new format was very successful, so we will keep it for this year. Categories will be 1) Self-built models, 2) ARF models and 3) Previously flown models.

The year's first flying event will be the **Electric Fun Fly**, June 2nd, sponsored by Jack Linghorne.

Because of conflicts with the full-scale Hamilton event, our **Annual Air Show** will be the weekend after Fathers' Day—June 24th. There was discussion about how we can increase the donations to the Food Bank, as these were a bit disappointing last year.

The Club **Fun Fly & BBQ** was very successful last year - this year's event, sponsored again by Terry Sears, will be July 14th.

Our annual **Pattern Contest** will be held July 28/29 at the North Field, sponsored by Jim Eichenberg.

Jim will also be sponsoring the **Aero-Tow** event August 11/12 at the South Field.

Our very successful **Heli Fun Fly** will again be sponsored by Jody McConnell and be held on August 25th at the South Field.

Finally, our **Scale Fun Fly** will be held mid September at the South Field. As soon as a date is finalized, it will be published in the Fliteline.

Remember, all these dates are always shown updated on the last page of the newsletter. Also, even though all these events have a sponsor, the sponsor can't do everything by himself!! **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT WITH ALL OUR EVENTS!!** Please help out with whatever event interests you the most.

After the discussion on club events, John announced a short break for coffee and a chance to get the raffle tickets. The draw was held after the break.

Following this was a brief discussion regarding our web page—the idea of perhaps having a community college class design a page as part of a class project was put

forward. This idea has a lot of merit and will be followed up in the near future.

Our Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Eichenberg, gave us a fiscal year-end summary of the Club finances—this is posted later in this newsletter.

Brian Anderson, our CFI, reported on the 2011 Wings Programme; there were 13-15 students registered but we had many challenges during the year. Aside from a lot of bad weather during the weeks, student attendance was spotty—there were many days when we had more instructors than students at the field! Brian thanked the instructors for their commitment of time and effort—without them we would not have a training program!! The 2011 flying instructors were:

Mike McDermott (Assistant CFI)
Jim Eichenberg
Terry Sears
Roger Young
Tim Deel
Bob Hudson

Brian was also able to award wings to student Denis Loo—Congratulations Denis!



Denis Loo—2011 Wings recipient

After the awards, Terry showed us a video of the 2011 Air Show, photographed and edited by Gerard Baron. The meeting was adjourned by John at about 9pm.

Cat's Cradle

Back when I last did the Fliteline, whenever I got a case of 'writer's block', Don Field used to say: 'Publish or Perish!' What he meant, of course, was 'The Club must keep communicating!' What was true then is even more so today, when there are so many more conflicting demands on our time and resources.

We all know about the dropping membership levels in our club(s) and national organization; in fact this trend is very common to a lot of leisure organizations (we do this for leisure, don't we?). In aeromodelling, the reasons for the drop are many and varied, not the least of which is the gradual distancing of the population from past 'eras of glory' in aviation. However, that is not the focus of this article; we can explore that aspect at some other time.

The question is: "What do we need to communicate (to whom), and how do we go about doing it?"

In many ways what we are trying to communicate is an



Bob Hudson receiving his Instructor's Wings from CFI Brian Anderson

intangible: an interest, a desire, in some cases a passion about a very broad field – aviation, and not just aviation in general, but model aviation. We always need to keep in mind that we are trying to win people over to our way of thinking; we are trying to make what we do more interesting than what they are currently doing.

In the past, we've had the Club newsletter, the 'Fliteline', to communicate internally, and our Mall Shows and Air Show to present our hobby to the public. In more recent years, our club has also maintained a web page.

In many ways, while the above are still very important to maintain, they are now partly outdated (but still necessary) ways of communicating.

If twenty percent of the club membership actually reads the newsletter, I feel I've presented an exceptional issue. Beyond looking at the pictures and checking for the date of the next meeting, most people will just skim through, and retain very little. So, in general, the newsletter is an archival medium. Some people will actually save the email attachment, most won't.

This makes our Web Page even more critical – it has become both our public face and an internal messaging system. The Executive will be working hard this year to upgrade and keep the web site current. But even if we upgrade/update and generally make ours a first class web site, who is our audience? While it may be very gratifying to have our friends in Australia check our site weekly, that is not going to help us raise our own membership. How do we focus our site to get the public in "Oakville, Milton and District" to show interest (or even find it in the first place)? How do we get return hits? While a good web design will be key, we must also make it a destination interested people will want to save in their browser 'favorites'.

Mall Shows were another way that we have tried to raise public awareness of our Club. However, we have also recently decided that they are not a particularly effective way of communicating. Is that because people are just not interested, or because we are targeting the wrong audience? Perhaps a mall full of busy shoppers or seniors is not the correct venue, or maybe summer is not the right time. We are still left with the task of communicating and showing what we do to the public – that is where our new members will be found.

Our Air Shows are generally well received by the public, but attendance is varied from year to year. Yes, weather is a huge factor, but do we know what brings people out to the event in the first place? Where did they find out about the Air Show? What are we doing to try and have people come back on a yearly basis? Do we know why people attend? What are they looking for, and what can we as a modeling club, can offer them?

Finally, are there other ways of getting our message out to prospective members? Are there methods of communication that we are simply missing because we aren't familiar with them?

I know these are a lot of questions without a lot of answers – if I had the answers I'd be rich and famous (and the club would have a lot more members). But the discussion process has to start; maybe (hopefully) the answers will come quickly. (asulkowski@cogeco.ca)

Our Treasurer wants all members to be aware of the late renewal fee requirement of OMFC. Several members have not renewed their memberships at this point so.....**please note that the late fee of \$25.00 will go into effect on January 1st, 2012.**

OMFC Financial Statement (unaudited)

INFLOWS

2011 Memberships	13,161.09
2011 Scale Fun Fly	48.75
Bank balance	6,072.69
Donations	628.00
Hat	20.00
Raffles	364.00
Return of Advance	69.61
SE Zone Safety Promo	100.00
Swap Shop 2011	515.10

TOTAL INFLOWS 20,979.14

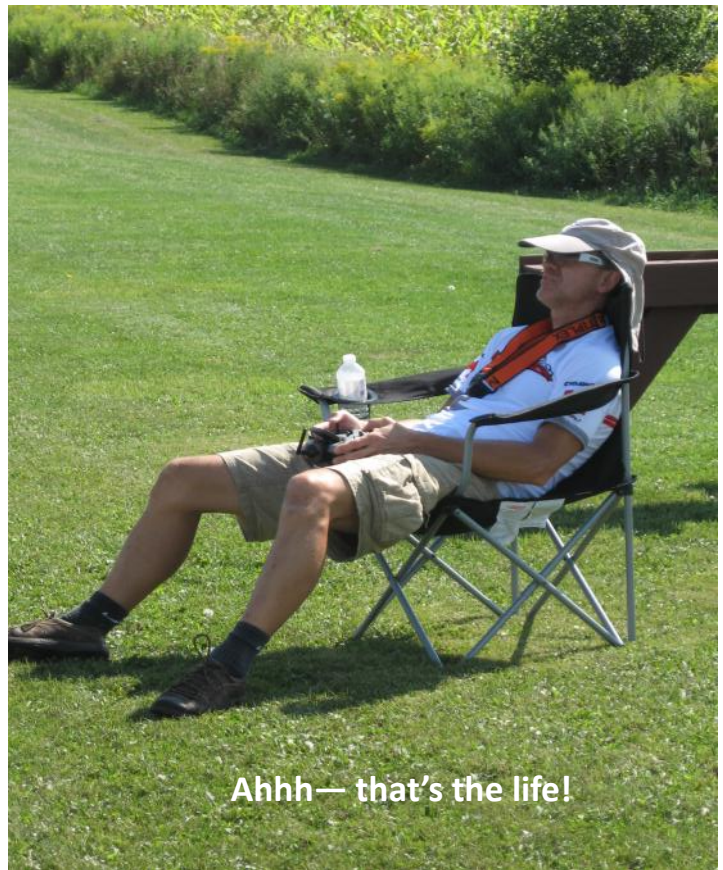
OUTFLOWS

Electric Fun Fly 2011	-45.51
Gratuity 2011	675.00
Helicopter Fun Fly 2011	137.07
Administration	297.14
Airshow 2010	509.94
Airshow 2011	422.24
Bank Charge	62.83
Electric Fun Fly	67.71
Field Maintenance	4,854.02
Field Registration	26.91
Lease	1,204.00
Meetings	559.68
Membership	4,802.08
Newsletter	111.66

Pattern Contest 2010	-262.44
Pattern Contest 2011	-175.09
Raffle Prizes	187.37
Summer Fun Fly	255.02
Team Canada F3A 2011	100.00
Wings Programme	11.30
Uncategorized Outflows	20.00

TOTAL OUTFLOWS 13,820.03

OVERALL TOTAL 7,158.21



Ahhh— that's the life!



Gotcha going and coming (hmm—must have been a calm day)

The O.M.F.C. Archives

OMFC Honorary / Lifetime Members

- 1961 Stan Gorman (Owner – flying site land)
- 1966 Jim Burt
 Lud Frische
 Sig Hubenig
 Bruce Hutchinson
 Doug Johnston
 Bob Nelson
 Bill Ponzo
 Bill Stone
- 1971 John Donovan (Owner–flying site; grass cutter)
- 1973 Bill Bateman (Supt.—Town of Oakville Parks)
-
- 1977 Ted Hignell
- 1981 Don Wray
- 1984 Ken Dawson
- 1986 Al Cook
- 1990 Jim Burt
- 1992 Art Blackburn
- 1997 Jim Eichenberg
 Tom Bakonyi (Owner - Hobby Hobby)
 Jim Hickey (Owner - Oakville Hobby & Crafts)
- 2000 Don Field
 Rodger Young
- 2011 John McNicol

There is some ambiguity as to the use by the Club of the “Honorary Membership” designation, and in fact the term “Lifetime” was not used until the late 1970’s. In the 1960’s and early 1970’s there were a number of “Honorary” members – individuals who were not Club members but performed an important service to the Club. There were also Club members that were awarded a place on an “Honors List” (1966) for their contribution to the Club’s history and success. Exactly what that meant for those honored is not known, nor is the structure or duration of the that award known.

The first “Honorary Lifetime” membership was awarded to Ted Hignell in 1977, and the meaning of that membership classification has remained unchanged since then. Using these definitions, it is interesting to see that Jim Burt was both a member of the Honors List (1966) and an Honorary Lifetime member twenty-four years later (1990)!

Note: all dates were taken from the club minutes or the newsletters. In cases where there were conflicting dates found, the earliest source was considered valid.

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OMFC 2012 Executive

President:	John Pretty	North Field Manager:	Bill Funnell
Vice-President:	Terry Sears	South Field Manager:	Jody McConnell
Past President:	Percy Ford-Smith	Chief Flying Instructor:	Brian Anderson
Membership Director:	Denis Loo	Field Acquisition Mgr.:	Mike McDermott

Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Eichenberg
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Fliteline Editor: Andy Sulkowski
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Webmaster: Bert Armstrong
bert@virtuhost.com

OMFC Meeting Dates for 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Agenda</u>
Monday, January 9	Regular Meeting—TBA
Monday, February 6	Eric Babin to speak on Electric Flight and his Web Site
Monday, March 5	James R. Main—WWII RCAF Gunner in Halifax Bomber
Monday, April 2	Denis Loo—Electric System Configuration
Monday, May 7	Annual Beauty Contest

OMFC Event Dates for 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Event Sponsor</u>
Sunday, January 1	Frozen Finger Fly (North Field—12 noon)	Jim Eichenberg
Sunday, February 12	OMFC Swap Meet—Union Hall	Erik Genser
TBA in late May	Display at Milton Fair	Bill Funnell
Saturday, June 2	Electric Fun Fly	Jack Linghorne
Sunday, June 3	Electric Fun Fly (rain date)	
Sunday, June 24	OMFC Air Show (North Field)	John Pretty
Saturday, July 14	OMFC Fun Fly & BBQ (North Field)	Terry Sears
Saturday/Sunday July 28/29	Pattern Contest (North Field)	Jim Eichenberg
Saturday/Sunday August 11/12	Aero-Tow (South Field)	Jim Eichenberg
Saturday August 25	Heli Fun Fly (South Field)	Jody McConnell
TBA in mid September	Scale Fun Fly (South Field)	Percy Ford-Smith