

April 2005



The Windssock

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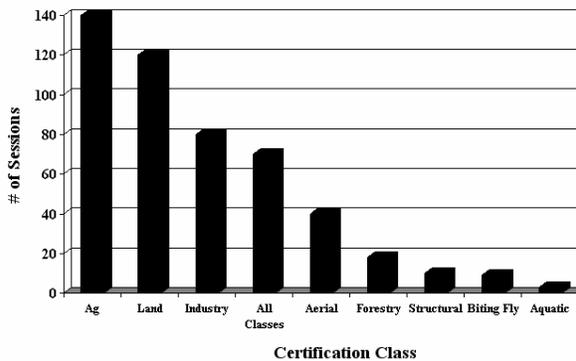
Alberta Licence Recertification Update

In Spring 2004, a meeting of the Alberta Licence Recertification Committee was held in Edmonton with Vivianne Servant and Jock McIntosh, Alberta Environment, Sandra Sitter, Lakeland College, and Fran de Kock, Peter Hansen and Jill Lane representing Alberta Aerial Applicators Association. Sandra Sitter provided an overview of the Licence Recertification program since its inception in 2002. The credit system for recertification was phased in with 2004 being the first year applicators could renew their licence with credits. In 2004, there were 4500 total applicators in Alberta, of which 254 were aerial applicators. Of the 254 aerial applicators, 78 were eligible for renewal in 2004. 38 renewed their licences and 40 expired. Those that expired have one year to renew before they would need to apply for a new licence and write the initial exam. Of the 38 aerial applicators that renewed in 2004, in addition to their aerial certificate, 6 also held a Biting Fly certificate, 18 held a Forestry certificate and 6 held an Industrial certificate.

When the licence recertification by credit sessions was developed, there was a concern there would not be enough sessions for applicators to obtain their 15 credits in 5 years. This is no longer a concern. In 2004, there were 298 approved

credit sessions as indicated in the graph below:

This graph demonstrates the ample opportunity for applicators to obtain 15 credits over a period of 5 years. The Alberta Aerial Applicators



Association is committed to provide on an annual basis, a number of credit opportunities at the Annual General Meeting. All sessions approved for credit are listed on the Alberta Environment website at <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/>.

During the meeting, Sandra Sitters also outlined several areas that have prompted questions from applicators:

- Credit Report Notices, detailing credits recorded at date of printing, are issued to applicators at year 3 of their 5-year cycle. This allows applicators to plan for the required credits, needed in the remaining two years, to be

eligible to renew. Another notice is sent out 6 months prior to licence expiry, including a credit report and an application form.

- Lakeland College plans to have on-line access to credits by 2006, which would allow applicators to view and print credit reports, and update their addresses and records on-line.
- Some applicators expressed concerns regarding the following; not receiving a credit report; not receiving a renewal form, not having courses taken for credit recorded by Lakeland College; not having enough courses available, lack of clarity regarding what class or course they are approved for; and lack of clarity if the course is approved. These issues are being addressed by Lakeland College on a case-by-case basis.

The meeting concluded with a consensus that the overall program has been successful and continued improvement will occur as all parties involved, (government, education institution, the industry and the applicator) become more familiar and comfortable with the program.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY JAMES SPENCE

Spring has definitely sprung. Temperatures in the teens in many parts of the province has melted the snow cover and I heard there are even a few golf courses in the southern areas that will be opening shortly!

We had our last scheduled spring Director's Meeting on March 10th and have not scheduled another until September 29th. The CAP clinic locations have been confirmed (Taber and Camrose) and the dates will be published shortly. Financially, the 4A's ended the 2004 year with greater 'loss' than the 2003 year and actions are being explored to remedy this annual deficit. The Board is working to ensure that The Canadian Association of Rocketry have taken all the necessary precautions with Transport Canada and will work with applicators in that area should aerial spraying be required within the NOTAM zone during launch periods. Information regarding this event is included in this newsletter. Review the information so you can determine the impact it may have on your operation.

On other news, within the next two years, we will be updating our bylaws to reflect required changes. Many thanks go out to the CAAA who have already started updating their bylaws and are assisting us in our changes. Your 4A's Directors and the staff at Managewise are busy finalizing arrangements for our next AGM. We anticipate three or more license re-certification credits being available in Red Deer and we hope to have some interesting & topical speakers again for you. The three provincial license re-certification committees will likely not meet again until the Spring of 2006, as more 'minor issues' will be found during implementation at the provincial AGM's this fall.

Alberta's representation at the CAAA level changed slightly in Vancouver -- Fran De Kock has now taken a seat on the executive alongside Peter Hansen. This may leave an opening for another 4A's Director to sit on the CAAA Board,

but at this time Tom Kinniburgh has only been named as an 'alternate' to myself, should I be unable to attend a CAAA meeting.

I was surprised to learn that I was nominated for an award in Vancouver and even more surprised to win one. Thank you to whomever chose to nominate me and also to those that voted for me... I wish I could have attended, but was thankful that my dad was there to accept on my behalf. I look to this upcoming season with hope and anticipation that it will be a safe and profitable season for all.

2005 AGM Scheduled in Red Deer

The 2005 Alberta Aerial Applicators Association Annual General Meeting will be held on November 14 & 15, 2005 at the Red Deer Lodge. Several Licence Re-certification credits are scheduled along with exhibitors and entertainment. Mark the dates on your calendar and watch for more information and registration forms mailed in early fall.



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Canadian Association of Rocketry

(Letter to the Alberta Aerial Applicator's Association)

On July 14 – 19, 2005 inclusive, Southern Alberta and the Lethbridge Rocketry Association will be hosting the largest high power rocketry event in the world – LDRS24 (<http://www.ldrs24.com>). The launch area (CYR 252) is located between Wrenthem and Skiff (N 49 deg 26' 42.7", W 112 deg 0' 26.6" (WGS84 Datum) or N 49 deg 26' 42.9", W 112 deg 0' 23.2" (NAD27 Canada Datum) and there is a standing waiver of 20,000 feet with windows to 50,000 AGL. This site was selected as it is the usual launch site for Western Canada and already has a restricted airspace window, which can be activated with 24 hours notice by the local launch organization. Usually the launch events occur over a few days and the loss of the airspace to aviation due to flight restriction is minimal however, in July the airspace will effectively be closed for the duration of this event (6 days) and there may be an impact on local aerial applicators who may be attempting to spray in this area.

In the event your operations in this restricted zone cannot be scheduled around LDRS, the Canadian Association of Rocketry has set up a procedure that may allow access to this restricted airspace on a case-by-case basis. Windows of up to 90 minutes may be made available during the event and authorization must be obtained from Simon Stirling at 1-403-501-4136 in order to activate the flight corridor.

Procedure for requesting access are as follows:

1. Local company must contact Simon Stirling (1-403-501-4136) preferably the day before they wish to access this non fly zone and indicate the time requested. The request will then be discussed with the senior launch officials to determine feasibility. Simon will have his cell phone with him at all times. In the event he does not answer please use the VM to outline your request. Simon will be checking VM several times throughout the day.
2. Simon will then contact the requesting body to facilitate the access to the airspace if authorization is granted or suggest an alternative time.
3. If authorization is granted for a flight window, the times will be strictly adhered to. Once the window has expired Simon will be contacting the requesting body to confirm the expiration of the window and all traffic has been cleared from the restricted air space.

Please note these procedures should be used as a last case resource. In the interests of safety for all concerned it would be better to schedule activities around the LDRS event dates. The Canadian Association of Rocketry is dedicated to working with local groups and organizations to minimize the impact such a large-scale airspace restriction may impose. If you have any further questions, please contact Simon Stirling at 1-403-501-4136 or simons@shaw.ca.

Wild Rose Protective Fund

The Wild Rose Protective Fund is please to provide additional coverage to applicators this season. The 2005 Wild Rose Protective Fund applications and agreement have been mailed and details of the new coverage is provided in the package. Please review the new coverage, complete the forms and return them to the Wild Rose Protective Fund office by April 15, 2005 to guarantee your continued coverage. Have a safe and claims free season!



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ALBERTA CAAA CAP CLINICS SCHEDULED

The CAAA will host two calibration clinics in Alberta in April 2005. On April 27th, Kinniburgh Airspray will host a clinic in Taber and Wetaskiwin Aerial Applicators will host a clinic in Camrose on April 29th. Both clinics still have a few spaces available, so if you have not registered for a clinic, please contact the CAAA office at 780-413-0078 immediately to reserve a space.

A Calibration and Patternization Clinic is required every 20 months to apply pre-harvest Roundup and Vantage, and for membership in the Wild Rose Protective and Prairie Protective Funds. The CAAA maintains and publishes the list of pilots and companies certified to apply Roundup and Vantage, and provides the list to provincial regulatory government bodies.

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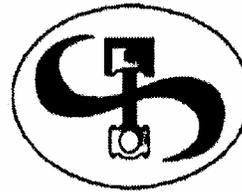
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Calendar of Events

WRPF

**Applications & Cheques due
April 30, 2005**

**Aviation Alberta Conference
May 10-12, 2005
403-717-2272**

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**Cheques cashed
June 15, 2005**

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**Deadline for CAP Clinics completion
June 15, 2005**

COPA Convention

**June 24 - 26, 2005
Wetaskiwin Alberta
780-352-5858**

email: airport@wetaskiwin.ca