

April 2010



Contact Information:
www.AlbertaAerialApplicators.com
P.O. Box 2064
Edmonton, Alberta T6R
2V4
Tel: (780) 413-0079

The Windsock

President's Report

Greetings from windy Wild Rose Country. As I close barnstormers.com to begin this report, Drumheller's temperature is 9 degrees with snow cover a distant memory and very dry soil conditions. Hopefully the El Nino weather event weakens by May as predicted and the Prairies return to more favorable seeding conditions; there's little appetite in our area for a repeat of 2009!

Saskatchewan hosted the 24th CAAA Annual Conference and Tradeshow at Regina from Feb.18th-20th. Congratulations to Jill and the ManageWise team (Joy, Shauna, and Stephanie) for flawlessly orchestrating another AGM; these ladies would have made fine Marines as their ability to Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome is demonstrated annually. Personally, I was pleased with the culinary choices this year; Pancakes, Bacon, and Ta Tonka are vastly superior to Asparagus and Organic Squash!

The unofficial launch of the Convention was Yorkton Aircraft Services' Maintenance Presentation for new Ag-Pilots. The seminar focused on common maintenance issues affecting entry level aircraft and was well attended, interactive, and informative. I was impressed by

the level of knowledge in the room, the choice of guest speaker, and the commitment by Allan and Cheryl to encourage and mentor new pilots. It also had the indirect benefit of increasing membership numbers. During the opening lunch, I noticed two young fellows who had attended the presentation filling out membership applications.

Gold medal curler, broadcaster, and motivational speaker Joan McCusker was a timely choice for opening lunch speaker. Although plagued by an erratic powerpoint presentation, Joan maintained her poise and delivered an inspiring talk entitled "Ordinary People Do Extraordinary Things". Her themes of perseverance and teamwork were certainly applicable to aerial applicators; like athlete's we continuously strive to perfect a complex skill set, and our mental attitude/ toughness will either limit our development or ensure our success. It was a gracious gesture for Joan to allow each of us quality time with her Gold medal; it was heavier than I expected and a once in a lifetime experience.

Following the CAIR Safety Seminar, Wayne Barton of BASF spoke on the benefits of Headline, Lance, and a new fungicide Caramba, for use on all cereals.

Wayne stated that during the Caramba registration process the PMRA did not require separate aerial testing in order to gain an aerial label. If this is now PMRA standard operating procedure, and not an anomaly, we will likely see more new aerial labels as the cost to manufacturers becomes negligible!

Our Icebreaker was hosted at the R.C.M.P. Heritage Centre and featured first nations cuisine prepared by the one and only Sioux Chief with entertainment by Anders Magic. We had the good fortune of having Anders perform his brand of magic for our table and the results were impressive; even focusing on his hands and being well aware of misdirection we were unable to "catch" him in the act.

During the CAAA AGM the following day, we learned that 2009 was another successful year fiscally for the Association. A major reason is the Partnership Program Sponsors who steadfastly support our industry; Thank You to all the sponsors who exhibited, supported, and donated auction items, your contributions greatly enhance the quality of our AGM. During the members' only portion of the meeting, the CAAA Transport Canada Committee

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revealed its proposal to successfully transition flying farmers to commercial operators, in the event that Transport repeals the flying farmer exemption. Whether this proposal proves acceptable to Transport remains to be seen, but it was a necessary exercise that demonstrates to flying farmer members that the CAAA represents their interests and not merely those of 702 operators.

The CAIR AGM was the good news session of the convention. We had zero fatalities in 2009 and although our claims total was average, the rebound in financial markets allowed CAIR to make its biggest payout to date. Thanks to Jim Peters for explaining in laymans terms how our payouts are calculated.

Our credit speakers were Dennis and Sol Taboada who outlined "How to, What is, and Why Imple-

ment an SMS Quality Assurance Program ". We now have a better understanding of the rationale behind SMS and how it will work in practice. That said, I'm still a proponent of the don't fix what isn't broke school of thought, and the ag aviation safety record has improved under the current regulatory regime. I can also confidently declare that implementing SMS will not increase our company's profits ten times, as claimed by our speakers. The reality driving the implementation of this Brave New World (forgive me Aldous), is money (or to be more precise, the lack of money). Transport can't afford the salaries necessary to attract new inspectors, (in a revealing anecdote, Dennis mentioned that when Transport put out the call for 1300 new inspectors in the fall they received 37 applications), so we are expected to regulate

ourselves with zero compensation for our efforts. Details can be found by searching Transports website for the Audit to Assessment document (SUR - 001). The three phase review after the GAP analysis is complete will consist of a Documentation Review, On-Site Review, and an Assessment. Overall the AGM was a success. Attendance was strong, sponsorship and auction totals were stellar, and we had an excellent lineup of topical, informative speakers. I'll conclude by wishing you all the best in your Spring preparations; may all your surprises be happy ones!

Mark Kinniburgh

New Licence Requirements from Transport Canada June 30, 2010 Deadline

This notification is a reminder of new regulations requiring all pilots, flight engineers and air traffic controllers holding aviation licences in a paper format to apply for and obtain an Aviation Document Booklet.

Air Traffic Controller and Flight Engineer licences along with Private, Commercial and Airline Transport Pilot Licences - in the old format - must be replaced by the Aviation Document Booklet by midnight on **June 30, 2010**. After this date, these document holders will be able to exercise the privileges of their Licence or Permit only if they:

- are holders of an Aviation Document Booklet

or

- have submitted an application for the Aviation Document Booklet and have been issued a 90 day Document (licence/ permit)

Additional information regarding the booklet can be found at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/civilaviation/general/personnel/changes.htm>

The new Aviation Document Booklet can be found for viewing and download at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/civilaviation/general/personnel/booklet/menu.htm>



Reminder

Wild Rose
Protective Fund
applications are
due by April
16th. Late
applications
could cause a
lapse in your
coverage.

Think Bee Safety

by
Neil Specht
Alberta Beekeepers
South Region Director

We all understand the job of Aerial Applicators. They are spraying to save the economic benefit to the farmer. In doing so there is a huge responsibility for bee safety. For instance, spraying pesticides and residues cause bee mortality. Even recent research showed that fungicides can kill bees. Moreover, bees can bring pollen contaminated with pesticides' residues to their colonies. Then, bees feed these contaminated pollen to their larvae and consequently, kill them. Selections of pesticide and application time are crucial for bee safety. Pesticide applicators are encouraged to use pesticides that are less toxic to bees. It is highly recommended to read the label and follow instructions, especially on bee safety. Some pesticides are prohibited to use during bloom time. These are highly toxic to bees and should not be used at bloom. To reduce bee kill, it is imperative to apply pesticides that are harmful to bees in late evening, night, or early morning while bees are not flying. In our region, it is generally recommended to apply pesticides between 8 pm and 8 am. Drifting of pesticides is a serious problem. Bees normally forage a three mile radius from the hive. When sprayed pesticides drift and contaminate competitive blossoms

in and around the crop and then bees are killed. In recent years you might have heard about Colony Collapse Disorder. In the USA researchers found a large array of pesticides in bee colonies. Some of these are very harmful and can kill bee colonies. The colony loss can be expensive to replace. It costs \$250.00 per colony and loss of production can be over \$150.00 per colony! There are 250,000 bee colonies scattered throughout Alberta. These colonies represent 43% of the bees in Canada. They pollinate canola, hay, clover and berries in Alberta and they are important to the farming economy. The best method for reducing collateral (unnecessary bee kill) is to:

- Follow the label on the pesticide used for spray.
- Do not apply insecticides that are highly toxic to bees on crops in bloom.
- Spray planes should not turn over fields containing blooming crops or weeds.
- Spray when conditions are suitable with minimum drift.
- Apply insecticides in late evening, night or early morning while bees are not foraging (generally between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.)
- Choose the least hazardous insecticide formulation.
- Emulsifiable formulations normally have a shorter residual toxicity to bees than wettable powders and flowables.
- Contact the beekeeper and

inform him or her of your pesticide application plans so he/she will not have surprises.

It is common for many beekeeping operators to have their bee yards far from their home location. Because aerial application is a fluid business, meaning that there are different needs in different areas throughout the province and the requirements happen very quickly, it is difficult to know where the bees are or will be sprayed. The best we can do is try to be diligent. The land owner is the best link. It is my belief that having good knowledge of each other's businesses will reduce the risk to everyone. I believe that our organizations need to communicate at many levels, possibly to have speakers come to each other's conventions and meetings. Striving to work together is just good business.

Feel free to contact myself, Neil Specht, Sweetheart Pollinators Inc, Southern Region Director at 306 967-2540 or cell (306)463-8864 or email Janeil@sasktel.net. Also you may contact other beekeepers through Gertie Adair, General Manager Alberta Beekeepers Commission at 780 489-6949 or Gertie.Adair@Albertabeekeepers.org for beekeeper contact information. As well you may contact Dr. Medhat Nasr, Alberta Provincial Apiculturist, Crop Diversification Centre North, 780 422-6096 or Medhat.Nasr@gov.ab.ca

Thank you for your time.

2010 CAAA CALIBRATION AND PATTERNIZATION (CAP) CLINICS

The CAAA is pleased to announce that Dennis Gardisser will return as Analyst for the 2010 CAP clinics. The clinics are tentatively scheduled to take place May 16 – 30, 2010, starting in Taber (Alberta) then proceeding to Yorkton (Saskatchewan) and Altona (Manitoba).

NEW FOR 2010

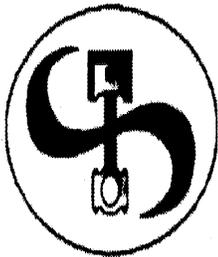
Additional locations in each province may be added. If you are unable to attend the above mentioned clinics it may be possible to hold a clinic at your location. Please contact Joy at 780-413-0078 if you have any questions or if you require a form. Registration form can be found at www.canadianaerialapplicators.com

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Flying Ads

The Alberta Aerial Applicators Association initiated an wing advertising program this spring. The fund raising program is designed to assist the association to continue providing services and education to the aerial applicators industry in Alberta.

Details regarding the program can be obtained by contacting the AAAA office at 780-413-0079.



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