



Skywriter...



April 2010



*The gang prepares to depart from High River for Red Deer.
Picture by Al Perrault*

From The Cockpit

By Robin Orsulak

Here we are again, saying goodbye to winter and welcoming spring! I can't say that I'm sorry to see winter leave us. I must confess that we really did not have that harsh a winter, but nonetheless, I'm happy to see it go. There are a number of things to be thinking about when it comes to flying this season: perhaps we need to be looking at periodic cleaning of our aircraft or it is time to do a scheduled maintenance or whatever. One thing that comes to my mind is "What kind of flights will I make this season and perhaps where might I go?" There will be a contingent of pilots going to Oregon and the Yukon later this year for those looking for adventure. There will be Sun 'n Fun next week as well as Oshkosh and Arlington later on.

No matter what or where you are thinking of flying, we definitely need to watch springtime weather as it can be dynamic in nature and change frequently throughout the day, especially the winds. Being a Challenger pilot, I really pay attention to those "humpty bumps" and the winds as it can be uncomfortable at times. I guess one of the better tradeoffs with this time of year though is the fact we have more daylight which of course translates into more flying time.

An opportunity to go flying came up recently, so a group of us flew up to Red Deer to see Melanie and the girls off at Tipitinas. After eight years of serving excellent breakfasts, lunches and pies (Ed: You just

can't say enough about the pies), the ladies have sold the restaurant and are going onto other ventures. The restaurant will be open under new management and will be open on Saturday's so that will add another destination to get some good eats (Ed: the restaurant will be closed for renovations until April 13.).

The send off was quite the affair with approximately 30 planes flying in from all over southern Alberta to get a chance for a final lunch with Melanie. Of course, this didn't include the dozens of local fliers that made their way over to the restaurant that morning without planes.

Wherever you fly and wherever you land, remember to have fun, be safe and professional... and take a friend along.
→

Robin Videos the gang at Red Deer. Photo by Al Perrault



Calgary Recreational and Ultralight Flying Club

COPA Flight 114

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month, except July and August, starting 7:00 PM at the Northeast Armory, 1227 – 38 Avenue NE, Calgary.

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Skywriter

Skywriter is the official newsletter of the Calgary Recreational and Ultralight Flying Club – COPA Flight 114, published 12 times per year

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CAVU Dreams

by Ken Beanlands

Although the farmers haven't been happy with the recent weather, it's been great for us pilots! March and April have been awesome! I've been able to take advantage of the weather with a number of memorable flights. The best of these was on Sunday, March 14th. At our last monthly meeting, Barry Wood had mentioned that he was interested in doing a mountain trip in his new Cessna 182 to get a feel for the plane in the Rocks. His intended destination was Invermere, BC and he planned on going the following Sunday morning. The Carstairs Contingent happened to overhear the comments and we jumped in by inviting ourselves along.

The weather decided to cooperate and delivered a calm, sunny day with a high pressure ridge right along our intended path. By mid morning, the Carstairs Contingent had gathered and included Richard Schmitt and his son in the Stinson, Glenn and Alice Bishell in the Bishcaddy, Mike, Marilyn and Erin in the Cessna 170, Pat Cunningham and Brian Byl in the Cessna 120 and myself in the Christavia.

Our take-off and climb in the cool morning air proved to be quite energetic buoyed by the dense air making our climb to 10,000' quite easy. In fact, we had to

level off a couple of times to keep from encroaching on Calgary's Class C airspace. By the time we could see our first waypoint, the Lake Minnewanka Pass, Barry Wood and Gerry McDonald had joined up with us in the mighty Cessna 182.

I led the way into the pass, having left first from Carstairs. The theory was that since I had the slowest airplane, I'd leave first and arrive just behind everyone else. As it turned out, I kept my position all the way to Invermere.

Once we passed Lake Minnewanka, we turned right and headed for Castle Mountain and the Highway 93 junction. Although it's quicker to fly over the Sunshine ski resort and cut the corner, we weren't really looking for the quickest path on this glorious morning. Instead, we decided to meander through the mountains and take in the sights... and what incredible sights they were.

For me, this was only my third time flying through the mountains in a light plane. Last summer, I took a quick little jaunt up to Banff following highway 1, then out through the Lake Minnewanka Pass. On Boxing Day, I made my second trip up the Kananaskis Valley and on to Castle Mountain before returning through Lake Minnewanka. In addition, on July 21, 2007, Troy took me to Nelson in the RV-9 for my 40th birthday. As you can see, I've been taking baby steps; working up to this first, true cross country through the Rocks.

We make our way into the Lake Minnewanka Pass



Instead of following Highway 93 all the way down to Invermere and having to make an 8000' descent in about four miles, we cut over the last range early through a low wide pass, giving us about 15-20 miles to make that 8000' descent and putting us over highway 95. Even with that, we were dropping in quite quickly to make circuit height by the time we crossed the runway.

I was the first on the tarmac and was surprised to find a marshaller waiting to direct me to a parking spot. She turned out to be an instructor with Babin Air and was incredibly helpful. In addition to our squadron of six aircraft, there were two more aircraft arriving at the same time turning this sleepy little airdrome into a beehive of



That thin line ahead, just right of the highway, is Invermere Airport

activity. Once the dust settled, we were directed to the Supper 8 hotel on the other side of the runway for lunch. Fortunately, Barry had the foresight to call ahead as prior permission is required.

The restaurant turned out to be a great little spot and was quite capable of handling 12 wayward aviators for lunch. After a relaxed lunch, we made our way back to the planes and into the air. Despite the denser air at the lower elevation Invermere provided, the full bellies seemed to make the climb slower than our departure in the morning. However, we were able to make our cruise altitude before reaching the pass that would take us over to highway 93 with miles to spare.

On the way back, we decided to follow Barry's suggestion to cut the corner by flying

over the Sunshine ski resort back to Highway 1 and saving about 25 nm. This was a great idea and gave me the opportunity to finally see one of my favourite ski areas from the air.

As we came up over Lake Minnewanka, we hit the first bumps of the trip. The rough air was to stay with us until we were almost back to Carstairs. However, everyone agreed that this was only a small tax to pay for such a wonderful day.

It turned out to be an excellent learning experience for us amateur mountain aviators and did a lot to increase our confidence in taking on the formidable landscape that forms the western reaches of our flying range. I look forward to more Rocky

adventures over the next few months including a trip to Oregon and maybe another visit to Nelson, this time in Chrissy... any takers? →

Sunshine Mountain



FLYING EVENTS

WEEKLY Lethbridge, AB – The Lethbridge Sport Flyers (COPA Flight 24) would like to invite you to our weekly Saturday morning breakfast, 7:30 am, held at Smitty's Pancake House, 2053 Magrath Dr. S. in Lethbridge, Alberta. We encourage you to call ahead if you're in the area. For more information see our site at www.lethbridgesportflyers.com. To contact us please call our club President, Brian Wilson 403-345-6603 or send us an email at Lethbridge-Sport-Flyers@telus.net.

MONTHLY First Thursday of every month High River Airport (CEN4), AB – EAA Chapter 1410 Monthly Meeting at the Dueck Hangar the 18:30hrs to 21:00hrs. Come by and visit! Please contact Paul evenings at 403-271-5330 or eaahighriver@shaw.ca or visit www.eaahighriver.org for more details.

May 2nd, Red Deer, AB, (CYQF) – Red Deer Flying Club, COPA Flight 92 Fly-In/Drive-In Pancake Breakfast and Rust Remover. \$20 for Breakfast and Lunch from 8 AM to 2 PM (3 Sessions)

May 8th, Rocky Mountain House, AB – COPA for Kids with a rain day of May 15. For more information please contact Alan Acker at 403-845-0978 or email ala@ghgsolutionscorp.ca.

May 9th, Sundre, AB – The Annual Mothers Day Fly-In Breakfast from 8 a.m. - Noon. For more information please contact James Cummins at 403-226-2003 or Bryce Schacher 403-556-1369 bryces@telusplanet.net.

May 16th, Barrhead, Alberta, Barrhead CEP3 – Fly-In, Drive-In Hungry Persons' Breakfast - 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Barrhead Airport. Golfers bring your clubs to enjoy the day at the adjacent course. Contact Person: Peter Stupniski 780-915-1569 pstupniski@xplornet.com. Additional Details: N54 05.81 W114 26 .33. Fuel available, ATF 123.2.

May 23rd, Westlock, AB, (CES4) – St. Albert Flying Club, COPA Flight 61 NavDash Fun Event. Westlock Airport (CES4). Precision flying exercise around a course. Two classes: 1. Ultralights and 2. Homebuilts/Certified combined. Each class will have it's own course geographically separated to ensure no conflict. Plaques for 1, 2, 3 in each class and a complementary barbeque to follow. Pilot briefing 9 a.m. in terminal building. Join us for a fun day of

flying. Rain date Monday, May 24. For more information contact Ben Strafford 780-458-1606 or email larandben@cruzinternet.com.

May 29th, Cold Lake, AB, (CEN5) – COPA Flight 90 Cold Lake/Bonnyville. Annual Spring Fly-in/Drive-in breakfast pancakes and sausage 0800-1200. Reduced fuel pricing for attendee's. Located at the Cold Lake Regional Airport - Terminal Building. For more information please contact Cliff Conrad 780-594-5707 or email cbconrad@incentre.net.

May 29th, Sedgewick, AB – COPA For Kids with a rain day of June 05. Located Killam Sedgewick. For more information please contact Collin Cumberland at 780-384-2031 or email cumberland@persona.ca.

May 29th, Airdrie, AB – Flight 134 COPA for Kids 10 - 1300 alternate date June 2/10. www.airdrieflyingclub.ca

May 30th, Saint Paul, AB (CEW3) – Fly-In Breakfast. Pancake, ham & egg breakfast at \$5.00/plate served from 8:00 to 12:00. Come and show your airplanes, motorcycles, antique or sports cars. Co-ordinates N53 59 36 W111 22 49. For more information please contact Tyler Elliot at 780-808-7094.

June 6th, Lacombe, AB, Lacombe (CEG3) – Fly In Breakfast. Come join the Lacombe Flying Club COPA Flight 155 for the 48th annual Fly In Breakfast. Rain or Shine From 8:00 am to 12:00 pm For more information please call Don (403) 396-4323. E-mail: dhwarner@telus.net

June 13th, Bonnyville, AB (CYBF) – COPA Flight 90, Bonnyville Flying Club. Annual Fly-In Breakfast from 07:00 – 12:00. Co-ordinates N54 18 15 W110 44 37. For more information please contact Yvon Rondeau at 780-826-7457.

June 19th, Carstairs Bishell (CGB2) – 14th Annual Fly-In Breakfast 8:00 A.M. until noon. for more details please contact Glenn (403)337-2564.

June 20th, Tisdale, SK – Fly-In, Drive-In Hungry Persons Breakfast – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Eggs, sausage, hash browns, toast, coffee, juice and lots of airplane talk - Everyone welcome. Located at the Tisdale Airport. For more information please contact David Lamb at 306-873-2718 or email d.q.lamb@sasktel.net.

June 20th, Lloydminster, AB (CYLL) – Fathers day Fly-In Breakfast from 8.00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Hotcakes, sausages and eggs fresh fruit platter, \$8.00. For more information please email Person Barney Creech at wendysabwest@hotmail.com.

June 20th, Morinville, AB – Mike's Father's Day Fly-In in breakfast Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Located at Mike and Rose Poworoznik's farm strip. One mile north, three miles east of Morinville. Strip Information: Coordinates: N53-50 W113-33 Runway length: 2600 ft. North/South orientation. 60 foot wide groomed grass. Caution: Wires at south end. For more information please call Ben Strafford 780-458-1606 or email larandben@cruzinternet.com.

July 17th, Nanton, Alberta – Joe English Memorial Fly-In Location: A-J Flying Ranch (6.4 miles east of Cayley, Alberta; Coordinates: N50 27 32; W113 45 46). Sponsored by the Bomber Command Museum of Canada; Breakfast and Lunch Available; Vintage aircraft will be participating but all are welcome; Transportation to the museum provided; Details at www.bombercommandmuseum.ca

July 17th, Nelson, BC (CZNL) – FlightFest 2010, Fly-In breakfast. Displays of antique, classic, military and homebuilt aircraft. Tour historic Baker Street, shopping, golf, under wing camping. Lunch and BBQ. Lots of fun for the whole family. Located at the Nelson Municipality Airport co-ordinates N49 29 39 W117 18 02. For more information please contact Case Grypma at 250-505-3249.

July 18th, Vulcan, AB (CFX6) – Vulcan Flying Club 35th Annual Fly-In Breakfast. Commencing 0800-1100 local. Co-ordinate N 50 24 17; W 113 17 00. For more information please contact Norm Kristjansson at 403-485-2791 or cfiwc@telus.net

July 26th, August 1, Oshkosh, WI – EAA Airventure

August 8th, Westlock, AB – COPA-Flight 139 Fly-In breakfast from 07:00 to 11:00. If you have any questions please contact Georg Hertz-Kleptow at 780-349-1094.

August 18-20th, Calgary, AB – Webster Trophy Competition to select Canada's top amateur pilot. COPA is a key contributor and President Kevin Psutka is one of the judges. Regional competitions are on now, visit <http://webstertrophy.ca/> for more information on how you can participate. Lots of fun and a great opportunity to hone and demonstrate your skills. Download poster here (for French here) and post it at your airport to encourage others to participate. →

FOR SALE

1992 Rans S-6ES Coyote-II (BULA), Rotax 503 DCDI Single Carb with <100hrs SMOH, great plane just a little too small for a 6'3" 240lb pilot, \$11,000 or trade. Always hangared at Indus, you buy you can take over the space. Dave Goldsmith (403) 289-9310 (home) 203-8201 ext. 6224 (work) dgoldsmith@gienow.com →

Another image of our trip to Invermere. The notch in the middle ridge is the pass we took to Highway 95

