The News Letter of the Burlington Radio Control Modelers Club

Box 85174 Brant Plaza, Burlington, Ontario, L7R 4K4

Editorial

This ends my fifth year as editor of Skywords. I hope you have enjoyed these 45 editions as much as I have enjoyed preparing them - even if I am often scrambling for suitable material right up to the deadline. Yes, I tried using a new graphic instead of the Christmas tree but it didn't work!

Many thanks to **Bill Swindells** for his pictures of the Great Rubber Race. I would have taken some pictures myself if only I had remembered to take my camera. By the way, that was a very young Bill in last month's '*who's this?*' picture.

I need more candidates for the series of *profiles* that I have published this year. Understandably, members are reluctant to volunteer directly so I have to rely on recommendations from friends then try to coerce the putative 'victim' to talk to me. Reluctant though they may have been to talk about themselves initially, I think all of them have been (secretly) pleased with the result.

With this edition completed (put to bed) I'll start thinking about the January edition. As usual, I will be looking for input from you, the members of BRCM. Otherwise, you'll just get my stuff. Let me have your pictures, articles, anecdotes, or whatever and send them to me at Binker@Sympatico.ca I'll even take hand written notes and physical pictures. How's that for an offer?

Have a good Christmas and a great new year.

Cheers, Lawrence

Karl Gross launches one of his creations at the Great Rubber Race. (We won!)

Thursday, December 11th
Video by
Charlie Chomos
but mainly social.

Membership renewal.

Remember, your membership renewal is due on or before December 31, 2003. Late renewals are subject to a $25.00 late fee.

Application forms are available from our web site. Just go to www.brcm.org then select *How to join* from the menu panel and click on the link to the BRCM Application form. The MAAC application form is also available from our site.

A Word of Warning

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the January meeting (Thursday, 22nd) as is customary. The meeting will elect your new board of directors for the year 2004. It's your club; if you want a voice in your club's affairs, be there!

To be eligible to vote, you must have paid your dues for the year 2004 which are due on or before 31 December 2003.

Annual Awards

Every year, in January, we award two trophies –

The **Herb Stoneham** trophy, for the *senior* member judged to have made the biggest contribution to the club in the past year.

The **Cliff Moore Memorial** trophy, for the general member who has made the biggest contribution to the club in the past year.

Prospective winners are nominated by the membership with the final selection being made by the Executive. Please be prepared to nominate your favourite candidate at the December meeting.

Your Current Board of Directors:

Officers:

President	Harold Jones
Vice President	Lawrence Cragg
	(& Skywords Editor)
Treasurer	Brian Tailleau
	(& Membership)
Secretary	Tony Moore
Past President	Dick Fahey

Directors:

Howard McNamara	Wings program
Bill Montgomery	Bayview field co-manager
Peter Hagens	Bayview field co-manager
Ivan Wismayer	Bronte field manager
Tom Gwinnett	Meeting events
Dale Eldridge	Mall show organizer
Tim McTigue	Web Master
Karl Gross.	Unassigned

Other Assignments:

Tri-Club at Bayview	Bill Swindells
Corn Roast	Dale Eldridge, Ivan Wismayer
	and George Bartkus
Santa Claus Parade	Dale Eldridge

All Officers must be elected or re-elected at the January AGM. All positions are open to any member wishing to stand for election. The club's Officers are elected directly. The Directors are elected without reference to their specific job assignments.

It's your club, run by you, for you.

!

The Concorde

From your editor.

     I cannot avoid a feeling of deep sadness when I contemplate the retirement of the magnificent Concorde. But what a send off! What other aircraft had a farewell tour? Was there ever another aircraft that evoked such a strong emotional following? At least it is nice to know that all of them, British and French, will be preserved in good homes.

     For those of you who are interested, there is a fine web site devoted to the Concorde at http://www.concordesst.com

Events Calendar, 2004

I only have a few items so far. I'll add to the list when I can. Ed.

Jan 1   Annual Frost Fly, Bayview
June 12 - 13   Laddie's float fly

The versatile Kevin McLeod; from pure jets to rubber powered ornithoptors!

Airline Humor

Never let it be said that Australian ground crews and engineers lack a sense of humor. Here are some actual logged maintenance complaints by QANTAS pilots and the corrective action recorded by mechanics. By the way, Qantas is the only major airline worldwide that has never had an accident.

(P stands for the problem the pilots entered in the log, and S stands for the corrective action taken by the mechanics.)

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.
S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.
P: Test flight OK, except autoland very rough.
S: Autoland not installed on this aircraft.
P: Something loose in cockpit.
S: Something tightened in cockpit.
P: Dead bugs on windshield.
S: Live bugs on backorder.
P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 fpm descent.
S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.
P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.
S: Evidence removed.
P: DME volume unbelievably loud.
S: DME volume set to more believable level.
P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
S: That's what they're there for!
P: IFF inoperative.
S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.
P: Suspected crack in windscreen.
S: Suspect you're right.
P: Number 3 engine missing. (note: this was for a piston-engined airplane; the pilot meant the engine was not running smoothly)
S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.
P: Aircraft handles funny.
S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.
P: Radar hums.
S: Reprogrammed radar with words.
P: Mouse in cockpit.
S: Cat installed.

More:

The following are accounts of actual exchanges between airline pilots and control towers from around the world:
~~~~~~
While taxiing at London Gatwick, the crew of a US Air flight departing for Ft. Lauderdale made a wrong turn and came nose to nose with a United 727. An irate female ground controller lashed out at the US Air crew, screaming: "US Air 2771, where the hell are you going? I told you to turn right onto Charlie taxiway! You turned right on Delta! Stop right there. I know it's difficult for you to tell the difference between C's and D's, but get it right!" Continuing her tirade to the embarrassed crew, she was now shouting hysterically: "God, you've screwed everything up! It'll take forever to sort this out! You stay right there and don't move till I tell you to! You can expect progressive taxi instruc-

tions in about half an hour and I want you to go exactly where I tell you, when I tell you, and how I tell you! Got that, US Air 2771?"
"Yes ma'am," the humbled crew responded.
Naturally the ground control frequency went terribly silent after the verbal bashing of US Air 2771. Nobody wanted to engage the irate ground controller in her current state. Tension in every cockpit at LGW was running high. Then an unknown pilot broke the silence and asked: "Wasn't I married to you once?"
~~~~~~
A DC-10 had an exceedingly long roll out after landing with his approach speed a little high.
San Jose Tower: "American 751 heavy, turn right at the end of the runway, if able. If not able, take the Guadalupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."
~~~~~~
Unknown aircraft: "I'm f---ing bored!
Air Traffic Control: "Last aircraft transmitting, identify yourself immediately!"
Unknown aircraft: "I said I was f---ing bored, not f---ing stupid!"
~~~~~~
Tower: "Eastern 702, cleared for takeoff, contact Departure on 124.7"
Eastern 702: "Tower, Eastern 702 switching to Departure. By the way, after we lifted off we saw some kind of dead animal on the far end of the runway."
Tower: "Continental 635, cleared for takeoff, contact Departure on 14.7. Did you copy that report from Eastern 702?"
"*Continental 635*: "Continental 635, cleared for takeoff, roger; and yes, we copied Eastern and we've already notified our caters "
~~~~~~
The German air controllers at Frankfurt Airport are renowned as a short-tempered lot. They not only expect one to know one's gate parking location, but how to get there without any assistance from them. So it was with some amusement that we (a Pan Am 747) listened to the following exchange between Frankfurt ground control and a British Airways 747, call sign "Speedbird 206":
Speedbird 206: "Frankfurt, Speedbird 206 clear of active runway."
Ground: "Speedbird 206. Taxi to gate Alpha One-Seven." The BA 747 pulled onto the main taxiway and slowed to a stop.
Ground: "Speedbird, do you not know where you are going?"
Speedbird 206: "Stand by, Ground, I'm looking up our gate location now."
Ground (with arrogant impatience): "Speedbird 206, haff you not been to Frankfurt before?"
Speedbird 206 (coolly): "Yes, twice in 1944 but I didn't stop."
~~~~~~
O'Hare Approach Control: "United 329 heavy, your traffic is a Fokker, one o'clock, three miles.
Eastbound United 239: "Approach, I've always wanted to say this ... I've got the little Fokker in sight."

Help Desk. Can I help You?

Here are some conversations, from Microsoft's Help Desk, which had actually taken place between customer support people and their customers:

Customer: "You've got to fix my computer. I urgently need to print a document, but the computer won't boot properly."
Tech Support: "What does it say?"
Customer: "Something about an error and non-system disk."
Tech Support: "Look at your machine. Is there a floppy inside?"
Customer: "No, but there's a sticker saying there's an Intel inside."

Tech Support: "Just call us back if there's a problem. We're open 24 hours."
Customer: "Is that Eastern time?"

Tech Support: "Ok, now click your left mouse button."
Customer: (silence) "But I only have one mouse."

Tech Support: "I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop."
Customer: "Ok."
Tech Support: "Did you get a pop-up menu?"
Customer: "No."
Tech Support: "Ok. Right click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?"
Customer: "No."
Tech Support: "Ok, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?"
Customer: "Sure, you told me to write 'click' and I wrote'click'."

Customer: "I received the software update you sent, but I am still getting the same error message."
Tech Support: "Did you install the update?"
Customer: "No. Oh, am I supposed to install it to get it to work?"

Customer: "I'm having trouble installing Microsoft Word."
Tech Support: "Tell me what you've done."
Customer: "I typed 'A:SETUP'."
Tech Support: "Ma'am, remove the disk and tell me what it says."
Customer: "It says '[PC manufacturer] Restore and Recovery disk'."
Tech Support: "Insert the MS Word setup disk."
Customer: "What?"
Tech Support: "Did you buy MS word?"
Customer "No..."

Customer: "Do I need a computer to use your software?"
Tech Support: ?@#$

Tech Support: "Ok, in the bottom left hand side of the screen, can you see the 'OK' button displayed?"
Customer: "Wow. How can you see my screen from there?"

Tech Support: "What type of computer do you have?"
Customer: "A white one."

Tech Support: "Type 'A:' at the prompt."
Customer: "How do you spell that?"

Tech Support: "Is your computer on a separate telephone line?"
Customer: "No." (clicks the button to log on to our service)
Tech Support: "Well then we can't-"
Customer: "It says 'no dial tone'."
Tech Support: "That's because you're on the line with me right now. You need to-"
Customer: "No, that's not it. It does this all the time. I just have to try a few times, and it will let me through."
Tech Support: "No, ma'am. It's not even trying to dial right now because you're on the phone with me."
Customer: "It must be busy. I'll try again later."

Tech Support: "What's on your screen right now?"
Customer: "A stuffed animal that my boyfriend got me at the grocery store."

Tech Support: "What operating system are you running?"
Customer: "Pentium."

Customer: "My computer's telling me I performed an illegal abortion."

Customer: "I have Microsoft Exploder."

Customer: "How do I print my voicemail?"

Tech Support: "What does the screen say now?"
Customer: "It says, 'Hit ENTER when ready'."
Tech Support: "Well?"
Customer: "How do I know when it's ready?"

Customer: "I have a long distance modem."

Customer: "I don't have a space bar."

Going

(Bill Swindells)

Gone