



SKYWORDS

BURLINGTON RADIO CONTROL MODELERS

JULY/AUGUST 2020

It's Your Turn, Speak Up

THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF OUR HOBBY

By Joe Fazzari

This is the first part of a series of articles that demonstrates the importance of our hobby to society in my opinion.

I am of the opinion that there are windows of opportunity where essential skills can become part of our nature and am concerned that some of these skill will be lost if we focus too narrowly on modern technology. For example: I feel that colouring and learning cursive writing contribute to the development of fine motor skills. I personally feel that young people lost something when society went from using the slide rule to digital calculators for our calculations. There is no common measuring device that allows one to measure to 8 decimal place accuracy, yet digital calculators may leave one with this impression.

The following article, which initially appeared in MacLean's Magazine and is reproduced here with the permission of the author, demonstrates my point. Pay particular attention to the last paragraph which is highlighted.

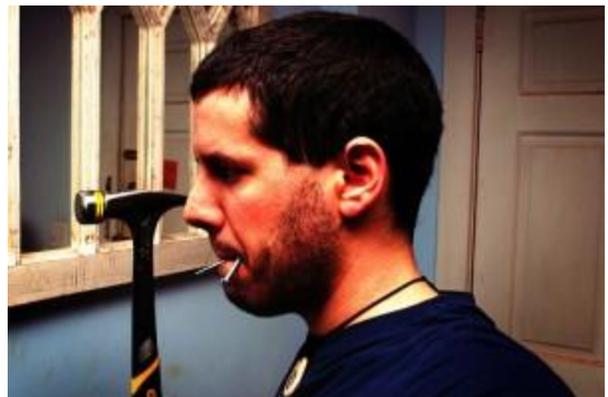
[The mechanically challenged generation](#)

By Macleans.ca | August 29th, 2011 | 7:42 am

Young people today can't hold a hammer or screw a screw driver.

Photo courtesy of B Rosen on Flickr

By Cynthia Reynolds



It's hard not to laugh when Barry Smith starts telling stories about the hapless young workers he has to deal with. Smith, who runs Toronto-area roofing company RoofSmith Canada, tells of one who didn't come to work because his cat had fleas, and another who jumped off a shed roof, even though he'd just tossed bags of nails into the garbage bin below. But the laughing tapers off when Smith, 46, talks about skills.

"They don't know how to handle a tool properly," he says quietly. "They're bright kids, but they hold a hammer at the top instead of the bottom, so it takes four swings instead of one to get a nail in. They don't know how to read the short lines on a tape measure and they've never used power tools, which makes you really cautious." He says they can't seem to detect the patterns of the work—you rip up part of the roof, that gets thrown down, that goes into the garbage—so they just stand around. "It can get really frustrating."

There's much talk about a coming crisis in the trades—that we simply don't have enough new recruits to replace an aging workforce. By some estimates, Canada could face a shortfall of up to one million skilled tradespeople by 2020. To address this shortage, the government is funding a variety of incentives to attract young talent and it's beefing up our apprenticeship training programs—registrations are at an all-time high. But a stumbling block has emerged that's getting harder to ignore: by all accounts, we have the least handy, most mechanically deficient generation of young people. Ever.

It's easy to see why.

Shop classes are all but a memory in most schools—a result of liability fears, budget cuts and an obsession with academics. Still, even in vocational high schools where shop classes endure, a skills decline is evident. One auto shop teacher says he's teaching his Grade 12 students what, 10 years ago, he taught Grade Nines. "We would take apart a transmission, now I teach what it is." Remarkably, most of his Grade 11 students arrive not knowing which way to turn a screwdriver to tighten a screw. If he introduces a nut threaded counterclockwise, they have trouble conceptualizing the need to turn the screwdriver the opposite way. That's because, he says, "They are texting non-stop; they don't care about anything else. It's like they're possessed."

At home, spare time is no longer spent doing things like dismantling gadgets, building model airplanes or taking apart old appliances with dad; there's no tinkering with cars, which are so computerized now you couldn't tinker if you wanted to. A 2009 poll showed one-third of teens spend zero time per week doing anything hands-on at all; the same as their parents. Instead, by one count, entertainment media eats up 53 hours a week for kids aged eight to 18. As for those new apprentices? They're signing up and then they quit. Depending on the province and trade, some 40 to 75 per cent drop out before completing their program.

In Nisku, Alta., John Wright, the technical supervisor at manufacturing company Argus Machines, oversees 12 apprentices in the welding, machinist and millwright trades. Three years ago, he started noticing two tiers of applicants, those with basic mechanical skills and a new crop who, as he says, had no clue what they were doing. He speculated the disparity stemmed from their upbringing.

"The ones from the farm community weren't afraid to get in there and get dirty. They could figure out basic repairs. And when you have to feed the chickens and milk the cows every day, you learn how to show up to work on time." Those who didn't have hands-on experiences couldn't grasp basic nuts-and-bolts mechanics, they couldn't solve simple problems. Worse, they lacked the same work ethic, which made them too difficult to train. The implications reach well beyond the trades.

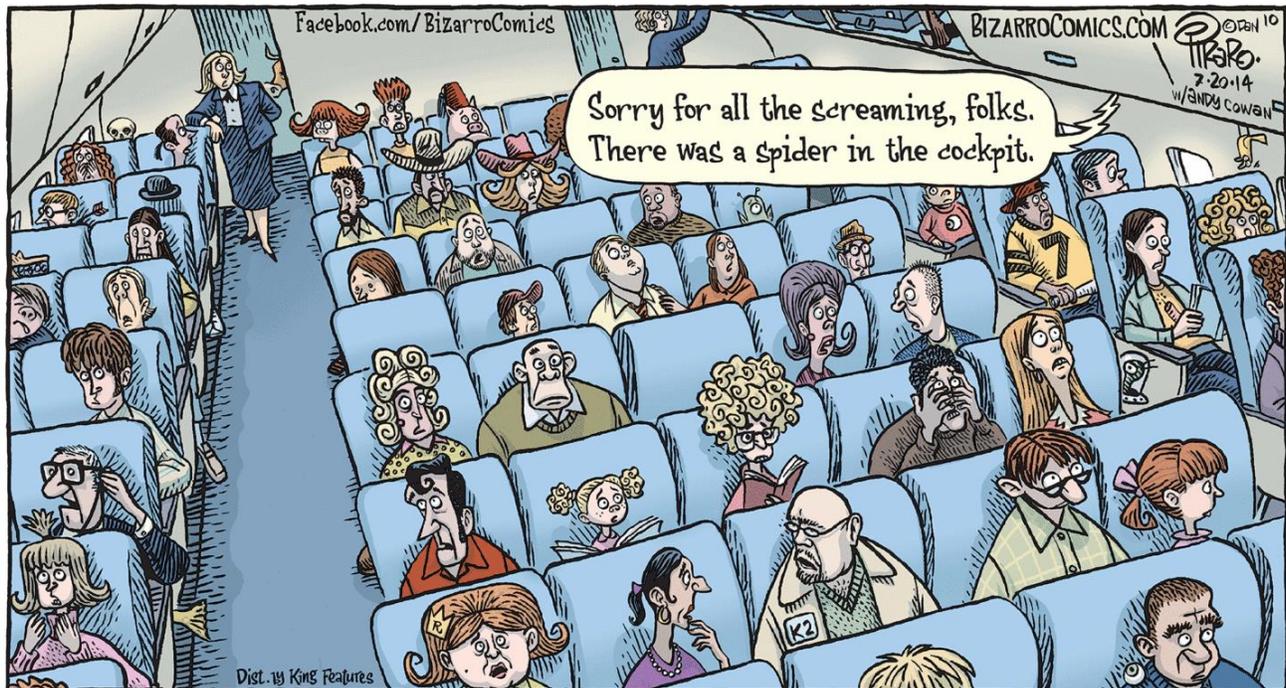
Occupational therapist Stacy Kramer, clinical director at Toronto's Hand Skills for Children, offers one explanation for what's happening. It begins with babies who don't get put on the ground as much, which means less crawling, less hand development. Then comes the litany of push-button toy gadgets, which don't exercise the whole hand. That leads to difficulty developing skills that require a more intricate coordination between the hand and brain, like holding a pencil or using scissors, which kindergarten teachers complain more students

can't do. "We see 13-year-olds who can't do up buttons or tie laces," she says. "Parents just avoid it by buying Velcro and T-shirts." Items that—not incidentally—chimpanzees could put on.

When the first apes climbed down from the trees to explore life on the ground some three million years ago, it was their hands, no longer used for branch swinging, that helped trigger our evolution. Hand structure changed, enabling us to perform increasingly complex grips. The conversation between hand and brain grew more complex, too. We advanced to the unique ability to visualize an idea, then create that vision with our hands. That's meant everything from developing tools to imagining airplanes to performing open-heart surgery. So what happens if that all-important hand-brain conversation gets shortchanged at a young age? Can it be reintroduced later, or does that aptitude dissipate?

"We don't really know," says neurologist Dr. Frank Wilson, author of *The Hand: How Its Use Shapes the Brain, Language and Human Culture*. "That research wouldn't get through an ethics committee, even though it's happening on a massive scale in our homes every day." We only have these uncomfortable clues, such as young people who can't visualize how to best wield a hammer. Or teens who, despite years of unscrewing bottle tops and jars, can't intuitively apply the righty-tighty, lefty-loosey rule of thumb.

Predictably, this is affecting other industries that depend on a mechanically inclined workforce. After NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab noticed its new engineers couldn't do practical problem solving the way its retirees could, it stopped hiring those who didn't have mechanical hobbies in their youth. When MIT realized its engineering students could no longer estimate solutions to problems on their own, that they needed their computers, it began adding remedial building classes to better prepare these soon-to-be professionals for real-world jobs, like designing airplanes and bridges. Architecture schools are also adding back-to-basics courses. As for the trades? Veterans like Barry Smith have little choice but to attempt to nurse a hands-on ability among new recruits one hammer faux pas at a time, teaching the next generation of trades people just how to hit a nail on the head.



And They Call the Wind Mariah

The wind she blow like hurricane
And then she blow some more.
The safest place on Lac Nipsing
Was right along the shore.

Per Scollard Hall Class of 1970

A few of the veteran flyers offered some insights into the winds around the Bayview Flying Field.



When the leaves on the Weeping Willow at your back, when at the Flight Stations, are blowing horizontally – it's too windy to fly.

When the leaves on the trees in the area toward the Skyway are shimmering in the wind, there is a terrible up draft in the area. This area is known as the Bermuda Triangle and it has been said that planes have been ripped in half. It would be a wise idea not to fly low over this area at any time.



When the leaves of the trees to the west of the runway are shimmering, there is an up draft coming from the valley. Don't fly low over the area beyond the trees.

FROM CLUB TO MEMBERS



IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT EVERY MEMBER SUPPORT THE WINGS PROGRAM AND INSIST THAT ALL NEW FLYERS TO OUR CLUB COMPLETE THE PROGRAM AS REQUIRED. WE, AS MEMBERS MUST ALL INSIST UPON THIS. REMEMBER “WE STAND ALONE TOGETHER”.



SAFETY CONCERN:

We are now back to flying this year, the first flight on each and every aircraft will be our maiden flight for that aircraft.

Make sure that you check all aspects of the aircraft but in particular:

- All control surfaces
- Fail Safe settings and operational status

What's Happenin' at BRCM

It appears that due to the current lock down and social distancing protocols all plans including WarBirds and the planned regularly scheduled field BBQ are on hold. All members will be notified by personal email when the status of anything, including field park openings and flying, changes. Until then it doesn't seem reasonable to post anything here. Apparently some members are not receiving the emails that have been sent out. If you are not receiving emails from Mike Block I suggest you contact membership.

Please send your comments, pictures and articles to: skywords@brcm.org

CLUB ELECTRONIC SITES

Club Website: www.brcm.org

Facebook Page (note: I am not all that familiar with FaceBook) To access the club page I do the following. If there is a more efficient means please let me know.

1. GO TO: www.facebook.ca
2. LOGIN IF NECESSARY
3. Select GROUPS on side bar
4. Search for: BRCM Club



Preparing for a maiden flight.

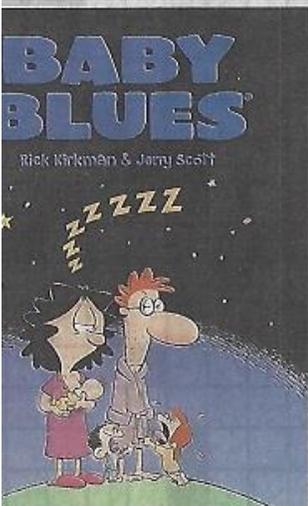
Ian Brown preparing to have a good day flying at the field.





The results of Ian Brown having a bad day flying at the field.

Ian Brown making alterations to his beautifully finished bi-plane to convert it to a single winged STIK.





I have been up at the Bayview Field almost every morning during the past few months.

It is refreshing to see the number of new members who are visiting the field. The additional bonus is that many of them are Father and Son teams. It is a great hobby for such teams. I trust that all members will make them feel welcome to the field and the club.

The names that I have are:

Dad: Brad
Son: Cameron

Dad: Peter
Son: Michael
Son: Martin

Retirery Guy

You can submit information along with a picture for a focus article at:

To make it easier for members to submit information regarding The Focus and Show N' Tell Project section forms have been created. These forms will be modified per your requests as we all get more experience in using them. There are currently 2 forms and each should allow you to upload pictures:

- Member Information Request Form
- Project Information Request Form

These forms can be found at the website:

<https://form.jotform.com/201305678922052>

I am attempting to give this site a more acceptable name and perhaps allow access from the club website. You will be advised when this is done.

NOTE: THE FORMS ARE WORKING VERY WELL AS DESIGNED AND TESTED

THE FORM SITE IS NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL

AVIATION History



CLUE #1



Show N Tell



Carl Finch is working on an aircraft called a Gamine which he is building from a plan. He claims that the phrase that best describes this project is "Balsa Bashing".

The colour scheme will be black and yellow and the aircraft will be powered by a Mills .75 Diesel.

This plane is thought to be the last design by the late Vic Smeed, a prodigious designer of both planes and boats. Almost all of Vic's models are free flight but this was designed for two channel radio assist.

Carl says that he never had a Mills .75 growing up in England but was able to buy a used one at a SAM old timer meet in The UK last year. At the time he supplied this information the model was ready for covering - the part he likes least when build as he is never happy with the result.

Meanwhile Gord McTavish has finished a ¼ scale Fleet Finch WWII Canadian Trainer – The Concept Fleet (from the 70's). I don't believe that he has completed the maiden flight yet due the current Covid 19 situation.

The plane is finished in the original trainer colours of yellow and black and is modeled after the plane that currently resides at the Hamilton War Plane Heritage Museum. It will be powered by a US 41 Gas Engine.

Gord even hand crafted the cylinder heads himself.





It's like deja vue all over again

FROM MARCH 2005 ISSUE

Yogi Berra

The Great Rubber Race

Report from Art Titmarsh

Even though we captured 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes (medals) we lost out on total score from sheer numbers. 1st prize overall went to Tony Moore, 2nd prize overall went to Charlie Chomos and 3rd prize overall went to Art Titmarsh, Ivan Wismayer was a very close 4th place finisher with Carl Gross capturing best ARF prize. Bernie Sudol even won the 50/50 draw. All in all, we won everything except the trophy which they won only by outnumbering us, We definitely were the best flyers! The scoring for the trophy definitely is geared to the most participants and is usually won by the home team because the visitors are such a small group.

And from Ivan:

Tony Moore got 1st, Charlie got 2nd, Art, Tom & I tied for 3rd and Carl was fourth. Ken was also there. Bernie won the 50/50. That's the good news. We had more points than they did, but with their wacky point system and that they had more participants, we lost the cup till this new November.

Meanwhile

On the sunny shores of East Naples, Florida, Bryan Dixon caught this "yellow tipped crevell jack" then threw it back. He says it can't fly but it sure can fight.

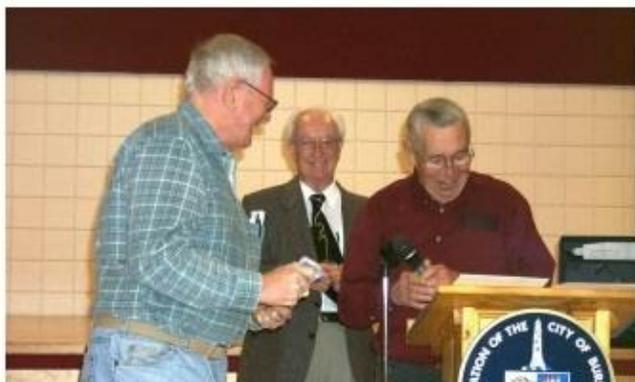
About the name: I don't know if he's kidding or not. I only know it's definitely not a kipper. Oh well, at least he didn't eat the ghastly thing!

Ed.



The February Draw

Art Titmarsh corralled most members into contributing to the 50/50 draw. He collected \$228 of which half went to the club. Here is a picture of the primary winner (we had two).



You might be an R/C modeler's wife if:

This is from the wife of one of our members. I'll never tell!

- Your spouse proudly displays pictures of aircraft, but has none of you.
- You say "aircraft" and not plane.
- There isn't a C-cell in sight for the kitchen clock but there's a plethora of something called NI-MH.
- You have a fine layer of "airplane dust" on your furniture and you don't live near an airport.
- You have noxious fumes arising from your basement every winter.
- You only have to pre-scrub one knee of his pants.
- You have Flash cyanoacrylate in your freezer.
- There is more than one scar on his cranking hand.
- You have no idea how all those 'planes' got into the house, or how much they cost.
- On a beautiful Sunday morning in June he agrees to accompany you to a family function it's windy.
- Your spouse is having elective surgery but won't have it scheduled between April and October.
- The only wearing apparel he will happily purchase is any part of flying club "uniform."
- He spends hours hunched over the work bench with a Barbie-sized iron, but the only one who actually irons clothing is you.
- The structure of your house is in peril due to sagging floorboards below the stash of model airplane magazines (anyone need one from January of '96 ?)
- You scan the "Events Calendar" in Skywords before making any plans.
- He comes home from flying quiet and depressed and you make no comment about the wreckage that trails in with him
- You know that Futaba makes servos (okay, I had to look that one up!).



Oooops!



Swap Shop/Flea Market

I have decided to move into the 21st century and am therefore selling some of my older equipment, which is perfectly fine and may be attractive for someone who wants to try the hobby out. If you decide that the hobby is for you I would suggest the newer equipment, now that I have been exposed to it. Money refunded if returned in same condition as sold and not satisfied.



9 Channel JR 9303 Transmitter with rechargeable
9.9V 1500 mAh LiFe Hobby King Transmitter
battery.
\$60.00



Rechargeable 9.9V 1500 mAh LiFe Hobby King
Transmitter battery.
\$2.00 or
Tim Horton's Coffee – Double Cream



Spektrum 5 Channel Dx5e transmitter which takes
4 AA Batteries.

\$25.00

**COUNTER TOP IS NOT INCLUDED
IN ANY SALE**

FROM THE BOARD

SORT OF



There has been some confusion regarding the completion of the Covid 19 Log at the Bayview Flying Field. The following is the:

OFFICIAL WORD FROM PUBLIC HEALTH REGARDING THE COVID 19 LOG

It is currently recommended that, if feasible, organizations and businesses “Maintain a log of the people who enter the premises to assist with contact tracing. Include name, contact number of email and date in the log. Keep logs for 30 days before destroying.”

Please refer to the following guideline provided by Halton Public Health: <https://www.halton.ca/getmedia/22533559-161e-48d8-9c9a-5b1fe9ce986c/HE-COVID-19-Public-Health-Guidelines-Reopening-Organizations-and-Businesses.aspx>

Please call 311 with any further questions or concerns. Visit our website www.halton.ca/coronavirus regularly for updates, and for information on how to protect yourself.

REGARDING MAAC ZONE E GENERAL MEETING

REMINDER

THE ZONE E MEETING WILL BE HELD SOME TIME THIS FALL.

THE ACTUAL DATE AND LOCATION HAS NOT YET BEEN SET.

THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT A NEW ZONE DIRECTOR WILL BRING NEW IDEAS, NEW ENTHUSIASM AND NEW ENERGY TO THE JOB. AS SUCH THE CLUB IS SUPPORTING

JEFF GRAINGER FOR ZONE DIRECTOR.

JEFF HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF BRCM IN THE PAST AND IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE WATERLOO CLUB.

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING JEFF BY COMPLETING THE PROXY VOTING FORM PER INSTRUCTIONS FOUND ON THE CLUB WEBSITE OR AT:

https://brcm.org/wp-content/uploads/doc_pdf/open_proxy_instructions.pdf

ALSO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR MAAC PROFILE SHOWS YOU IN ZONE E: THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IF YOUR RESIDENCE IS OUTSIDE OF ZONE E.