



Winnipeg Area Chapter of RAA Canada

February 2013

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| February 28 | Polishing Your Aluminum Plane and other small aircraft maintenance issues
(Note change from our regular meeting date) |
| March 21 | Digital Assistants - iPads and other electronic devices in the cockpit |
| April 18 | Project tour being planned |
| May 23 | Summer plans |

Condolences to Don Hutchison

It is with deep sadness that we heard about the loss of Don Hutchison's wife. RAA members offer our sincere condolences to Don and his family.

Annual Pot Luck dinner

The 10th annual pot-luck dinner was held in the Lyncrest Flight Centre on December 1st. There were approximately 30 in attendance, the selection of food was again outstanding and the evening was enjoyed by all.

2013 Membership dues

2013 Membership dues are now due. Please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and make your cheque payable to Winnipeg Area Chapter RAA and mail your cheque to Steven Sadler PO Box 703 LaSalle Mb. R0G 1B0

Upcoming Events

RAA – U of M - SFC Igloo Building Workshop January 26 + 27th and a 2nd workshop is offered February 2nd + 3rd. Pre-registration is required and both workshops are almost full...some folks registered almost a year ago in the hopes we'd have good snow! Cost is \$150 with family rates available. The course includes igloo construction, winter survival techniques, search and rescue signalling exercises, and the opportunity to spend a magical night sleeping in an igloo on a bed of caribou skins.

Ready-made Igloos are also available to rent by the night, reservations are required. Contact jill.oakes@ad.umanitoba.ca to reserve your place in this adventure ranked by CAA as the #1 winter activity in Manitoba!

February 28, Polishing Your Aluminum Plane with Clive Perry AME. 7:30 RAA Building, Clive Perry AME has developed a terrific polishing system, use it for your whole plane or for parts you want left unpainted! Plus he will also provide answers regarding regular small aircraft maintenance issues. Everyone welcome, RAA Hangar 24A Lyncrest Airport 7:30 pm Thursday February 28. **(note: change from our regular meeting date)**

March 16th - Gil Bourrier Model Aircraft Building Workshop, 9:30 am til 3:00 pm, register now as space fills fast and limited to 20 youth-parent/grandparent couples. For more information or to register, please contact Jill Oakes at 204 261-1007 or e-mail at jill.oakes@ad.umanitoba.ca

Marissa Selman's first cross country solo



Later on in this article I was airborne and encased in a warm nosey bubble a mile or so up from the ground. It was for my first solo cross country and I was to venture across the wide open landscape of the Manitoban prairies.

It was a typical Fall day and I was as prepared as I'd ever be for the warm thermals which sprung up from every corn field and lake. These thermals were, of course, a great challenge when landing, but fun too - in fact, landing is my favourite part of flying.

Already 5pm and my instructor Glen filled with his usual gentle steady determinate words, probed the question - "you ready? - you still have plenty of time you know, but only if you go now". I thought of my mother's words - "hurry up and slow down".

I calculated and filled out my flight plan then called WX –Brief. A very helpful FSS specialist took my details and briefed me in a wonderful, calm and comforting voice. As if he'd known me his whole life! I thought wouldn't it be great to invite him along.

The clubs plane (Cessna 172 at Brandon Flying Club), as always, was filled up, and turned around by one of dispatchers, or Glen. Being a female on this airfield meant I was treated to the beauty of chivalry – a trait (some) younger men seem to have abandoned. C-GXBO carried me to my lofty abode with its funky bright blue seats and a blue and red strip on its tail. I was to be the bird within the bird, so to speak.

The idea of seeing more Peregrine falcons and perhaps a bald eagle warmed my heart. I knew they'd come visit me, I knew they'd wing it near / with me. (and they did!)

With my outside and inside checks done, emergency procedures churning over in my mind (stomach too) it was time to start the engine. I heard my favourite control tower's voice on the radio – "oh it's a marvellous day" I thought. I had not taken off yet!

When the moment arrived for my wheels to lift off the runway – I felt a new shift within - I felt an unusual and uncanny feeling of 'nothingness'. It was a feeling of uncertainty, one that came and went throughout the trip.

A few minutes after that, another new feeling set in - the paradoxical feeling of not wishing to be alone, but I wanted to keep flying for as long as I had fuel to burn.

As I crossed over the beautiful winding Souris River valley - it seemed to shout up to me to get higher, to get out of harms way. I had left Virden, turned the page in my flight log and aimed for Dauphin. The image of sinking deep into a soft warm old armchair in the corner of Virden's old fashioned clubhouse came to mind. I resisted, my inexperienced mind was trying hard to give me false ideas.

The many shapes of lakes and rivers slowly drew themselves into a 3D image in my minds eye. At this moment I felt I was the only person in the sky.

What happened next was simply a set up for disappointment. Not in a crushing way, just in a subtle "what a pity" kind of way. "Brandon Radio in Dauphin, XBO down and clear of the active". I had arrived in Dauphin and confirmed with my favourite control tower chap that I would take a 15mins break and reopen my flight plan. What I had set myself up for: I was wishfully dreaming to see my family (mum, dad and 2 brothers with the O'Flaherty cousins and Houghs from across the field at home in Ireland where I grew up) lined up to greet me.

I was jittery once I put my feet on the tarmac. A quick call to my boyfriend Martin, a text to Glen, a bathroom break, a few stretches, some more water and chocolate and I was ready again to brave the turbulence over Riding Mountain. Even happier to fly back to base and indulge in my customary chocolate milk (Oreo milkshake this time).

Passing Erickson, I turned on the Erickson frequency and gave a position report (and boldly switched on and off their landing lights, but as there was still daylight, I could barely see them anyway). I was hopeful someone would come on the radio to tell me off for being so cheeky. Perhaps in the old days when the sky's has even less aviators – one could do just that!



Anyhow, I got back to Brandon, with a shocking crosswind of about 20 knots, left leg pressed firmly, closed my flight while taxiing back to the apron and thanked the control tower operator.

Glen and his friend Diane were there waiting for me. Their words comforting and supportive. I felt relieved and elated, and ready for my milkshake.

Running through my mind were questions like "wow how did I just land this amazing machine, was it really me, is this really happening"!

Dreams do come true, let persistence be your guide,
 CARPE DIEM, quam minimum credula postero from the Roman poet Horace translates as SEIZE the DAY trusting as little as possible in the future.

(First Selman female to fly solo cross country, took place in September 2012)
 Marissa

2013 Membership Form Winnipeg Area Chapter RAA

Full \$25

Required Information

Name		OFFICE USE ONLY
Mailing Address		Renewal Date
Phone(s)		Chq. Cash Other
E-mail		Initials
Are you an RAA national member? ⁽¹⁾		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you give permission for your information to be made available to other Winnipeg RAA members?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Optional Information

Do you own an aircraft?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are you a member of other aviation groups?	EAA: <input type="checkbox"/> COPA: <input type="checkbox"/> Others:
	Make/model:		
	Registration:		
Are you building or restoring an aircraft?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	What Pilots licences and ratings do you hold?	
	Make and model of project(s):		

RAA Winnipeg contributes \$15 per member towards the insurance program maintained by RAA national. This program provides liability insurance to cover local chapter events.

Please make cheques payable to: RAA - Winnipeg Chapter
Mailing Address: RAA c/o Steven Sadler PO Box 703 LaSalle Mb. R0G 1B0

1) **Note: The \$15 does not provide membership in RAAC.**