



SUNDRE FLYING CLUB
Mountain View Pilots & Flying Association
Box 1241, SUNDRE, AB T0M 1X0
COPA FLIGHT #146 SUNDRE

February 19, 2009

Letter to the Editor Dan Singleton, Sundre Round Up

2009 is the Centennial Year of the First Heavier-than-air *Controlled* Powered Flight in Canada. On February 23rd, **1909**, the Silver Dart flight took off from the frozen Bras d'Or Lake, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, flown by Pilot, James. D. McCurdy who was later honoured by being named Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Nova Scotia. The flight of the Silver Dart was **the first *controlled* powered flight in Canada.**

In the **1903** Flight of the Wright Flyer at Kittyhawk, North Carolina, U.S.A., while it was the “FIRST Flight” it was not really a “*controlled*” flight. The Flyer didn't have ailerons and the pilot had to warp the wings to get around a corner.

For more than 75 years, the Sundre & District has enjoyed an aviation history. Mel Cipperley often flew in from Olds. In **1934**, Charlie Hodges, bought a wrecked deHavilland Cirrus Moth 60X and rebuilt it completely in their family home in Olds. The Sundre Museum Archives and the Sundre Airport Terminal have photos of Sundre and District dignitaries standing in the snow welcoming Charlie and his G-CARZ when it flew in from **Olds to Sundre, March 31, 1936**, with the “**FIRST AIRMAIL**”!

According to local pilots Jack Morgan and Jack's nephew, Herb Morgan, along with Allan Dougan and Allan Frizzell, in **1954**, a visit by the Flying Farmers of Alberta was the Sundre Flying Club's **FIRST FLY-IN**.

A pioneer Calgary pilot, Frank Ellis in his book “*Calgary's Flying Heritage*” wrote the dedication which has inspired this year's theme for the Sundre Flying Club's **56th Fly-In**, the annual Mothers' Day Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast, which will be held on Sunday, May 10, 2009:

**“TO MY MOTHER FOR HER CONFLICTING ANXIETY
AND ASSISTANCE DURING MY FLYING YEARS,
AND TO MY WIFE ELSIE, WITHOUT WHOSE HELP
AND ENCOURAGEMENT THIS BOOK WOULD NEVER
HAVE BEEN COMPLETED”**

Dan, after 100 years, it does appear that aviation is here to stay. Please, urge your readers - they don't have to be a pilot, or own an airplane - to come help pay tribute to **Mothers, Fathers and Spouses** who in the last 100 years have given “conflicting anxiety and assistance” to Canadian

aviation enthusiasts. Everyone is welcome to come to the annual Mothers' Day Fly-In/Drive-In Breakfast, Sunday, May 10, 2009.

It's from 8 AM to 12 Noon. The charge for Breakfast is the same as last year: \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 & under. The Sundre Airport's Rural Address is 32463 Range Road 55. There is NO CHARGE at the Gate. **SUNDRE AB CFN7** is listed in the Pilots' Canada Flight Supplement. There is no landing fee.

Yours truly,

Alf Bicknell, GPS Coordinator
Sundre Flying Club
#2 Hangar, Sundre Airport
(Home phone) 403-638-9001 (Cell phone) 403-638-7628
anbic@telus.net

Sundre Flying Club Breakfast 2009, Co-Conveners:

Norma & Alf Bicknell 403-638-9001 anbic@telus.net
Tom Mennear 403-638-6336 northernmist@telus.net
Bryce Schacher 403-556-1369 bryces@telusplanet.net
Wayne Bumphrey & Michelle Penney 403-628-8027 bumphreyw@aol.com
Jim Cummins 403-226-2003 caravicci@shaw.ca
Myron Bignold 403-628-2214 winnmy@teluplanet.net
Shane Wolfe 403-556-8584 wolfepac@airenet.com
Bill Beaton 403-531-9722 bdbeaton@shaw.ca
Colin Minty 403-335-9875 cminty@gasdetect.com

Dan for your information: The Sundre Flying Club has actually developed **three** names over its **56 year History**:

- 1. Sundre Flying Club**, established in **1954**, using landing strips on Jack Morgan's properties West of the Town of Sundre.
- 2. "The Mountain View Pilots & Flying Association"**, established in **1985**, as an Alberta non-Profit Society with the opening of the present Sundre Airport, which is on land owned by Mountain View County.
- 3. COPA Flight #146 Sundre**, established in **2006**, with the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) by the Sundre Flying Club members who are also members of COPA to honour longtime airport supporter Norman Cummins as the first COPA-Captain.

Also of note! The former *volunteer* "Sundre Airport Commission (SAC)" which managed the Sundre Airport had the name changed by Mountain View County to the "Sundre Airport Committee". The management of the Sundre Airport has now been **combined by Mountain View County Council and Administration** with the Olds/Didsbury Airport to become the present: "**Mountain View County Airport Management Committee**".