



**NEWSLETTER**

# *Carb Heat*

**Hot Air and Flying Rumours**

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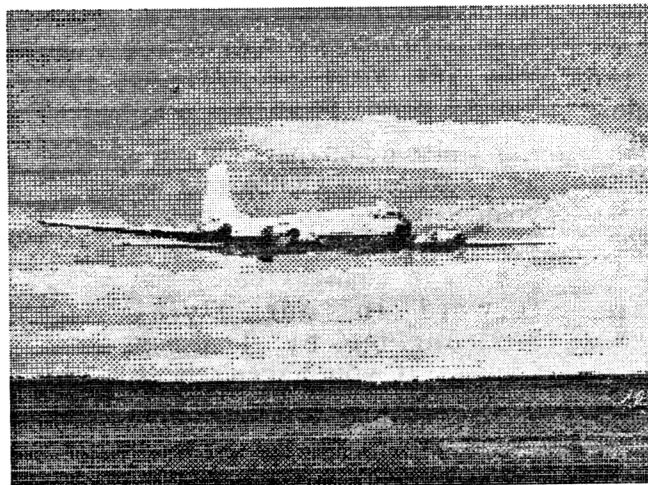
## *November 1996*

**Next Meeting: Thursday 21st November 2000hrs  
Bush Theatre  
National Aviation Museum**

**Program:** Regular monthly business  
**Inside:** Biennial Certs...Who Needs 'Em? Mike Busch editor@avweb.com

**Guest Speakers:** George Mayer relats his experiences flying the  
Coastal Patrol Argus aircraft

**Jennifer Taylor from Transport Canada will enlighten  
us on recent new airspace changes in the Ottawa area**



**Argus landing at Greenwood, N.S.**

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This past weekend saw our first wet snowfall; a sure sign that for many of us, the flying season is nearing an end. For some of us it is time to focus our efforts on construction projects. One of the latter is Les Staples, who has embarked on an ambitious Mazda Rotary Conversion project.

Les is following the same route pioneered by Tracy Crook in his RV-4 which has been chronicled in Kitplanes. A unique aspect of Les's project is the use of the manual transmission stripped down to provide the PSRU. This promises to be a significant cost reduction from the normal Ross Gear box. Les has promised to take lots of photos for a future presentation on his project. I must say I am very impressed with what I have seen so far. The Rotary is one robust engine.

### Carp Airport Status

Work is nearing completion with the official opening date set for Tuesday November 19th. Most everything is complete except for the Runway lighting, an item which may be some weeks before all material is available for completion. While the construction has certainly disrupted all of us, and at times left our site in a bit of a quagmire, I am sure that next summer we will be marveling at how smooth our landings have become on our new "alighting surface" as the Brits call it.

### October highlights

The October meeting was fuller than planned with **Lindsay Cadenhead** covering the new recency requirements in addition to our planned speakers. As they stand right now, the self study test published with the

latest Flight Safety bulletin is certainly the easiest way to go. What the future holds remains to be seen, but don't be surprised to see a full blown bi-annual requirement similar to the U.S. before long.

**Lorna DeBliquy**, filled us in on the positive experiences of the Canadian Precision Flight Team, and also gave us all a chance to purchase the colorful T shirts sponsoring the team. She did a roaring business, and I want to thank everyone for their support.

**Larry Lorretto** of OAS filled us in on the new Grob advanced trainer which they will be using for IFR and unusual attitudes training. Larry was also kind enough to donate a certificate good for one hour's free training. I plan to make the presentation to the worthy recipient at the next meeting, so don't miss it.

Larry also noted that the Rotax 912 in the Katana's is working out extremely well, and the TBO is now up to 1200 hr's, and expected to reach 1500 hr's in the near future. Thus if you have been considering a Rotax 912 for your project, the outlook is very positive.

Larry also noted that in his role as a director of COPA that we could expect to see a return to a harder line from COPA towards the many changes being put forward in our flying environment by Transport Canada. If you haven't been reading the AIP carefully, you may be perturbed at some of the changes being quietly slipped in.

### Regulation Changes.

The 4/96 AIP amendment contained a number of surprise packages from our friends? at

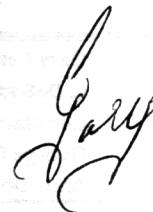
TC. Perhaps most notorious was the humungous class D airspace surrounding Ottawa that had pilots and controllers alike short tempered as they tried to cope with this poorly planned and implemented change. Not only is it enormous in size, it is so irregularly shaped that no simple radius can be programmed into your GPS or Loran to warn you of an impending transgression.

Also hidden in section RAC 3.6.1 is a mandatory requirement for flight plans or itineraries for any flight more than 25 nm from the airport of departure. At the very least big brother is keeping ever closer tabs on us, or as the more cynical might note, little brother (AKA Nav Canada) is planning to keep their hand in our pockets to the tune of \$\$\$ per mandatory flight plan. I for one will be glad to see COPA taking a more aggressive stance. This is probably a good time to ensure you renew your COPA memberships; you are members aren't you?

### Nov. 21st Mtg. at NAM:

Our next meeting is Thursday November 21st at the **National Aviation Museum**, 8:00 PM start. Our featured speaker will be **George Mayer** who will be relating his experience flying an **Argus** in Coastal Patrol. In addition, **Jennifer Taylor** from Transport Canada has volunteered to stand in the firing line and field your questions on the massive new airspace changes in the Ottawa area. I look forward to seeing you there.

Gary



**Canadair CL 28**  
**RCAF Designation**  
**CP-107**  
**Type-name ARGUS**  
**"...in Greek mythology**  
**- endowed with a**  
**hundred eyes..."**

**The aircraft**

The Argus retained the principal structural and aerodynamic feature of the Britannia but was re-engined and extensively modified to suit its specialized role.

As the principal requirement for this aircraft was long range operation at very low altitudes, the Britannia's Proteus turboprop engines were replaced by four 3700 bhp Wright Turbo Compound radial piston engines. With a maximum fuel load of no less than 24 hours and a range of more than 4000 miles at cruise speeds of 175 to 200 knots.

The fuselage was structurally altered to accommodate bomb-bays forward and aft of the wing centre-section. The front fuselage was also modified considerably to provide a nose observation station, a new forward crew compartment and a large "chin" radome for the search radar. Since operational flying was to be done at the lower altitudes, fuselage pressurization was not required. It was the first time that titanium was used in a Canadian aeroplane. More than 2700 lbs of titanium was employed; the weight saving was approximately 900 lbs compared with the minimum which could be achieved with aluminium alloy or stainless steel.

The first aircraft rolled out of the assembly line on December 21, 1956, and its first

flight took place on March 28 the following year. In September 1957, the RCAF accepted its first Argus.

**The flying**

Anti-submarine Warfare (ASW) remained one of the major duties of the ARGUS; through the years its role was expanded to include Search and Rescue, Sovereignty, Fisheries, and Pollution patrols. These national requirements over the Atlantic, Arctic and Pacific oceans were often carried out in less than desirable conditions.

These long and sometimes monotonous patrols were always flown at the lower altitudes where all the bad weather and turbulence is concentrated. Frequent deployments with extensive flying also imposed a heavy burden on aircrew and groundcrew alike. The stress associated with this type of flying, the boredom experienced on detachments away from home and family, the frustrations of having to live in substandard, hot and noisy quarters all contributed to make Argus flying a hazardous operation.

However, the expertise, the training, and the professionalism of aircrews and groundcrews counteracted its menace. Over the years the Argus' maritime operation achieved one of the most impressive flight safety records. From September 1957 to July 1981 only two aircraft were lost. Although we regret the loss of eighteen crew members, when we consider the size of the crews and the factors previously mentioned, the record shows the Argus as having been a very safe and reliable aircraft.

The DFS computer readout indicates over two

thousand air occurrences. From forced/precautionary landings (total of 1349) to near wheels up on landing or take off (total of 1), some fifty types of air occurrences have been recorded through the years. These statistics are not important anymore, but they serve a purpose in accident/incident prevention through the service life of the Argus. They indicated trends to be corrected to ensure safer operation. The Argus' record speaks for itself.

**The end**

In July of this year the Argus flew its last flight from Greenwood N.S. to Summerside PEI, the "Garden of the Gulf" having been chosen as the final resting place. Our venerable aircraft fleet will remain there on an old abandoned runway until its fate is decided.

*Former aircrew and groundcrew salute their old retired friend and bid their last farewell!*

*This article is reprinted from FLIGHT COMMENT, no. 4, 1981 and was written by Capt. Simon Picard of the Directorate of Flight Safety, DND.*



**Biennial Certs...Who Needs 'Em?**

AVNET NEWS

Every two years, the A&P or radio shop tells us that it's time

for those pesky biennial altimeter and transponder certification tests. What exactly do they test, and what's the point?

This originally appeared in Cessna Pilots Association magazine.

by Tom Rogers, Ph.D.  
(trogers@avweb.com)

There are two FARs that dictate the biennial checks for most general aviation aircraft: FAR 91.413 for the transponder and encoder, and FAR 91.411 for the static system and altimeter. First, notice that I didn't mention the pitot system. While any sane pilot would like to know that his airspeed indicator is reasonably accurate, the FARs do not require any test of the pitot system. Go figure.

An avionics shop worth its salt will check the pitot system and alert the owner if there is excessive error. My experience indicates that it is not at all unusual for airspeed indicators to have errors of 10 knots or more, particularly in the normal cruise speed range. We check the airspeed calibration at a number of points, especially at the stall and flap speeds.

**Transponder/Encoder Certs**  
FAR 91.413 calls for the transponder to be tested for proper output power, frequency, bit encoding, ident time, and a host of other items. It also calls for the encoder to be correlated to the altimeter; in other words, whatever the altimeter reads when it is set at 29.92, the encoder must read the same within fairly close tolerances. This test is quite elaborate and takes some time to perform. FAR 91.413 must be complied with regardless if the aircraft is flown IFR or not. We call it the "VFR FAR" because even VFR-only aircraft must have it done. Even mechanics sometimes get

confused about this. Recently, some maintenance people were fined by the FAA for returning an aircraft to service without this FAR being complied with.

**Static & Altimeter Certs**  
FAR 91.411 applies only if the aircraft is to be flown in IMC or on an IFR flight plan. It requires that the static system be tested to make certain it doesn't have leaks greater than a certain threshold. The permissible leakage depends upon whether the aircraft is pressurized or not. In addition, the altimeter must be tested for friction, scale error, hysteresis, and accuracy at a whole series of altitudes from sea level up to the maximum altitude that the instrument is certified for (usually 20,000' for normally-aspirated aircraft or 35,000' for turbos.) Aircraft with air data computers require more elaborate testing.

If you are interested in seeing a "spec sheet" that shows just exactly what tests have to be run to comply with these FARs, give me a call at (805) 922-2580 and I'll send you a copy. The tests can get quite complex and time-consuming, particularly in pressurized aircraft.

**Unpleasant Surprises**

Frequently, an owner will taxi up to the shop for biennial certs and tell us that everything has been working great, only to discover later that we found problems during the tests. Common problems are weak transponder output, a Mode C report that differs from the altimeter, or a leaky static system.

This scenario is far more likely if the certification tests haven't been done for many years. In cases where the biennial certifications have been kept current, usually problems are few and any repairs are inexpensive. I recommend that these certifications be done religiously

every two years. If the aircraft is not flown IFR, then you can save some money by complying only with FAR 91.413.

**Transponder Tips**

If ATC reports that you have a problem with your transponder or Mode C altitude, be sure to verify this with a couple of other ATC facilities before you panic. It could just as easily be a problem with the controller's equipment as with yours.

If your transponder is weak or intermittent, check your antenna. We often see these symptoms being caused by nothing more than an accumulation of oil or dirt on the transponder antenna, causing the signal to be attenuated. An intermittent DME can be caused by the same thing. These antennas are of the "stubby rod" or "shark fin" variety, and are usually mounted on the belly where they are prone to getting coated with oil, exhaust, and dirt. I recommend wiping down all belly-mounted antennas at every preflight. Your avionics shop will do the same thing, but they'll charge you fifty bucks.

Another frequent cause of intermittent transponder operation is poor cooling. The Cessna/ARC transponder must be cooled with forced air or it will fail. A good avionics cooling fan is a must. I've actually seen them catch fire and burn up the main printed circuit board! This destroys the transponder, of course, and maybe some other stuff as well.

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

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1<sup>st</sup> OF THE MONTH**

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

12 November 1996

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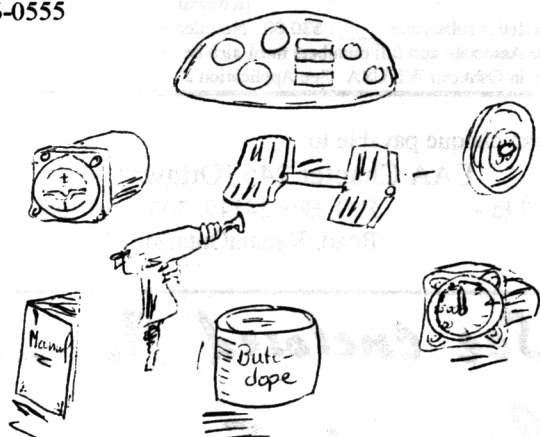
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Note Associate and full members must also be members of EAA's parent body in Oshkosh WI, USA See Application above.

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