



Mosquito Bytes

Calgary Mosquito
Aircraft Society

Issue #64
January 2015

Yes It's Been Far Too Long...

...Since our last Mosquito Bytes. It's my fault completely, but if you continue to read, you'll come across some pretty nifty excuses.

Happy New Year and Welcome to Issue #64.

Prez

Annual General Meeting Wednesday, February 11, 2015

With all major hurdles and obstacles to our success cleared, and just the handful of the usual suspects showing up at our quarterly meetings, we decided to scale back on face to face meetings to just our Annual General.

This year's happens next month on February 11 @ 7 p.m. at the Phoenix Foundation, 320 – 19 St S.E. After we conclude the business portion we'll look at photos of the first flight of Freddie 2.0 and/or some video from the Pan Productions documentary.



All jiggged up and ready for some serious structural work.



Hurricane rudder bar and control stick in the workshops of HASI in Wetaskiwin.

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Someone Old, Someone New



Communications Director Trevor McTavish hoisting our banner at the 2013 Airdrie Air

Check the March 2015 issue of **AVIATION HISTORY** for a very ‘American’ perspective on our beloved Mosquito. ie., Did you know it was also called the “Loping Lumberyard”?

Ya, right....

These past few months have seen the retirement of two CMS board members: Trevor McTavish and Dave Simms, both of whom have figured large in our success.

If you have been around for any length of time you will know that Trevor has been our Communications Director since our earliest day. Trevor embodied one of the most valuable qualities in the volunteer and not-for-profit world: initiative. Unasked and without guidance he built our website and one day just sent me a link to check it out. Wow! Trevor has been on our board since we were officially formed six years ago and has been the putting up new stories on the website and pushing me to get material in for the Mosquito Bytes newsletters, which is why this one is so darned late: I need the push and I need deadlines.

It was also Trevor, who as a Westjet employee has been

able to secure two ‘fly anywhere’ tickets for us for the past three years. Our raffles for these tickets netted us over \$25,000.

It was also Trevor who learned about grant applications and secured \$25,000 for both the Hurricane and the Mosquito restoration from Alberta Historical Resources.

Couldn’t have done it without you Trevor. Thank you.

Dave Simms was a board member for less than a year, yet his contributions have also been large, important and diverse. Dave approached me after attending one of our public presentations saying he was newly retired and looking for a project to work on. With his media and business background he offered to tackle some fund raising for us. In no time flat, his efforts resulted in an origi-

nal \$37,000 ask from the Calgary Foundation into a \$65,000 grant. And then \$15,000 from Veterans Affairs. And then another \$50,000 from the Calgary Foundation (Percy and Lois Cole Fund).

And then Dave picked up a video camera and produced our first videos and got us up on YouTube with our own channel. Check out the latest with Don Laubman who flew our Hurricane during the war and Mosquito night fighter pilot Evert Hermanson who earned a DFC for downing three enemy aircraft in 45 minutes. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMvwOfjhUSYDt7v9r-64qlg>

Enjoy your retirement out on Canada’s left coast Dave! We’ll miss you.

And Speaking of Videos

Last summer we sent out a special notice to members about a Kickstarter campaign to help fund the post-production work by April Butler of Pan Productions on her documentary of Mosquito sister ship C-FHMJ out at Victoria Air Maintenance. With your help the campaign was a great success and the documentary is now available at:

<http://gainingaltitude.com/>

Want a look at the film before you buy? Then join us at the Art Smith Aero Center of SAIT, on Wednesday January 21 at 7 p.m. when producer April Butler will show the film and take questions about her 5 year journey to cover this restoration. Free Admission!

We were so impressed with the work done by Pan Productions that the CMS hired them to produce a series of 30 short videos on the Hurricane and Mosquito to be posted to our YouTube channel and available on touch screen videos adjacent to our airplanes. We have rounded up some amazing interviews and very much look forward to being able to HONOUR and EDUCATE through our videos.



Richard de Boer



Veteran's Affairs

We would like to express a large and sincere thanks to Canada's Veteran's Affairs and to our own board member Dave Simms for coming through with a grant of \$15,000; money that is to be used in documentary production to tell the story of Can-

adian veterans who flew the Mosquito and Hurricane during the War. Approval came through after we had hit the \$800,000 mark in donated cash, volunteer labour and contributions in kind last June.



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Scott McTavish

John Hopkinson & Associates Ltd.

Jack McWilliam

Calgary Foundation –Percy and Lois Cole Fund

And speaking of bonuses, we were stuck almost speechless to find a cheque in the mail after our August Dinner Celebration for \$50,000 from the Calgary Foundation. This money had been directed from the Percy and Lois Cole Fund which is administered by the Calgary Foundation. It came unsolicited and unasked for. Apparently

someone in a position of influence heard about our good cause and our funding situation and took the initiative to put us over the top. A very big thanks to the Calgary Foundation and the Percy and Lois Cole Fund.

Our sincere thanks to both organizations. The harder we work, the luckier we get.



Jens Donation

Over the past couple of years we have built up a good relationship with Vancouver based Mosquito owner Bob Jens and the shop that completed the restoration on his airplane, Victoria Air Maintenance.

Once his airplane took to the air last June, he decided to donate all of his spare parts and surplus materials to our project. I rented a

14' U-Haul and drove out in November to take advantage of his generous offer. The donation included enough dope to cover our entire airplane, a spare set of 100 gallon external wing tanks, original Spartan instruments, radios and belly panel and enough hardware and duplicate parts to more than half fill that 14' truck. Thank you Bob Jens!



Some of the truck load of parts donated by Bob Jens of Vancouver. Thanks to our regular volunteers they have been inventoried, crated and tucked away for when they are needed.



Calgary Mosquito Aircraft Society

Primary Business Address
#1021, 3235-56 Street N.E.
Calgary, AB
T1Y 2X7

Phone: 403-235-1350
Cell: 403-667-4400
Email: calgarymosquito@telus.com

**RETAIN, RESTORE
HONOUR and EDUCATE**

We're on the web at
calgarymosquitosociety.com



Jack, Craig, Dick and Roger admire an original Spartan era Mosquito radio, part of the donation of parts and surplus equipment by Bob Jens of Vancouver. Full story below.

And Even More Valuable Parts!

We also owe a very big thanks to Glen Lamerton of Whitehorse who took the initiative to contact us and ask if we had any use for a Wild RC8 camera. It's only the exact model used by the Spartan Mosquitoes in the 1950s and '60s. A very big YES PLEASE and THANK YOU to Glen.

Glen noted that it was missing its lens but that we might be able to scrounge one if we keep our eyes open. No need. Glen contacted us in early December to say that a lens was for sale on eBay by a seller in Bosnia. (Welcome to the 21st century –I'm still trying to catch my breath).

We chatted with the seller, made a deal and Shazam; lens on my kitchen floor three weeks later! We now have not just the camera, but also the sizeable and complex mounts, an original lens and thanks to a little digging by volunteer Peter V., a full set of original manuals. The Gods continue to smile on us.

And then we needed a dinghy storage box. It fits in the upper fuselage right behind the canopy. The life raft fits inside and can be released automatically by a water switch in the event of ditching, or manually by a cable to the cockpit. Although Spartan took

them out and used the space for a couple of antenna, as it was an original Mosquito feature, we figured it was worth acquiring. Again, thanks to the world's biggest marketplace a few emails to friends of friends, we made a deal with collector Per Spang in Denmark who agreed to sell it to us. Shazam #2: Dinghy box on my kitchen floor. (We do owe Per the full personal tour as soon as he can make it to Canada). Thank you Per!



Ten cases of Wild RC8 aerial camera donated by Glen Lamerton of Whitehorse, YT.



Dinghy Box purchased from collector Per Spang in Denmark.