

The Windsack



Stanley Sport Aviation Association Newsletter

Winter 2024



**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!**

Included in this issue:

- *Profiles on new and founding club members*
- *Update on Stanley post-fire rebuild from club President*
- *Sky Ranger in the sky!*

PHOTO CREDIT: Derek Brown

STANLEY SPORT AVIATION ASSOCIATION

Unit 16 - 50 Airport Road, Stanley, NS B0N 2A0 Ph. (902) 632-2251 CCW4 - N45 06 02 W63 55 14

Unicom 122.8 Weather: <https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/ISTANL31>

<https://www.facebook.com/StanleySportAviation/> <https://www.stanleysportaviation.ns.ca/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Leonard Lowe

Hello Stanley Sport Aviation Members

I trust the last couple of months have been good for everyone. It doesn't feel like we should be talking winter, but here we are. This fall saw good flying weather and brilliant colours. I hope you all had time away from the daily grind to enjoy the beauty this part of the country provides.

The airport runways and infield have received their final cut for the season in preparation for the winter flying season. Our new mower reduces work time and gives us a better cut. We're fortunate to have such great equipment and people willing to take the time to utilize it. A big thank you to everyone who contributed their time to the ongoing maintenance of the airport property.

As we transition into winter operations so do preflight activities. Preparation certainly takes longer with heaters thawing out oil and engine components. Take your time, be safe and enjoy the process. With luck, the airfield will remain snow free enough for members to continue flying throughout the winter.

Meanwhile, the club has continued to grow with more and more new members joining. We're indeed fortunate to have such a large membership and welcome and appreciate the interest. Our events this year were very well attended by members as well as by visitors from other airports around the Maritimes and beyond. Please remember the excellent facilities we enjoy and get compliments on from the many visiting pilots and aviation enthusiasts have taken many years to evolve. This evolution has only come through the efforts of the dedicated members, past and present, who have contributed their time and expertise toward it. It is important our current members continue with that practice. Please take part in scheduled work parties or volunteer time toward maintaining and improving the airfield. Every little bit helps.

Planning for the next flying season's club events at the airport will be starting early in the new year. As usual, there will be the fly-ins at Stanley Airport, welcoming enthusiasts to enjoy great food and interesting activities for which we've become famous. Of course, there will also be fly-outs to show support for flying clubs at the many small and large airports that the Maritimes is so fortunate to have.



PHOTO: Derek Brown

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (Continued from Page 2)

SSAA’s next year’s to-do list, like every year, will be aimed at continuing to maintain and improve the airport facilities. A major focus will be on replacing hangars lost to the fire at Stanley this summer, while a few areas of the clubhouse also need attention. There are ongoing efforts to maintain Runway 09/27 and reclaim more usable length to Runway 02/20. Look for notices of work parties in your email as the plans are finalized.

As everyone is aware, August 15th's fire resulted in the loss of buildings and personal property. The Directors have been busy working on the plan to fund and rebuild the lost buildings. This is a complicated process with much to discuss and align. We’ll be preparing detailed plans to share with the members at the upcoming AGM, where we will be looking for approval to move forward. The AGM is quickly approaching— Saturday, January 25, 2 pm. to 5 pm. Once again, it will be held at the Beaver Bank Lions Club. Please put this on your calendar and plan to attend. Your voice is always welcomed and important, and especially so this year with the hangar rebuild.

One important activity during the AGM is the Election of the Executive and Directors for those whose terms are ending. Look for more on this in the coming weeks in your email from the nominations committee. We encourage members to think about volunteering to fill the positions. It’s a small commitment with regular meetings a few times a year. The health of the club depends on the input of enthused members.

Below is the current state of the Executive and Directors and at what period they are in their terms. I want to thank everyone for the time they’ve committed to the continued growth of the club. This has been a challenging year; the strength of the club that shone through proved it will be around for many years to come.

<u>Executive-</u>			<u>Directors-</u>	
President	Leonard Lowe	<i>End-Term</i>	Director Airport Manager <i>End-Term</i>	Jim Ward
Vice President	Mike Whitehead	<i>End-Term</i>	Director Fuel <i>End-Term</i>	Nick Wilson
Treasurer	Tom Sabeau	<i>End-Term</i>	Director Newsletter <i>Mid-Term</i>	Gayle Wilson
Secretary	Josh Dykens	<i>Mid-Term</i>	Director Membership <i>Mid-Term</i>	Debbie Murley
			Director Social Media <i>Mid-Term</i>	Derek Brown
			Director Safety	Position vacant
			Director Special Events	Position vacant

’ll close with a wish for all of you to have an amazing holiday season, with time spent enjoying the company of family and friends. See you at CCW4!

LEONARD LOWE—SSAA President



Airport Manager's Report



Jim Ward

Well winter has once again arrived at the Stanley airfield. Some of the directors and members have completed the pre-winter tasks. Thank you for all your efforts.

The trailer line and The Hilton have been winterized. Please do not open any valves in the pumphouse. Mike Whitehead and I are working on some replacement security cameras. By the time you read this I am hoping we will have them in place.



PHOTO: Gayle Wilson

Our Christmas potluck and party was held in the afternoon of December 1st. My plan is to winterize the clubhouse soon afterward. The garbage collection is scheduled to end soon with the last pickup on December 6th. Please do not add any garbage to the bin after this date; take it home with you for disposal. While I'm on the subject of garbage, some items are still not being sorted correctly. Remember, full size black bags are for regular garbage. Recyclables go in a clear bag. Returnable cans and plastic water bottles can

go in the container in the clubhouse. Cardboard should be tied up in a bundle or put in a clear bag.

Please use this link if you are unsure, <https://www.easthants.ca/garbage-recycling-organics/> Just type in the name of the item and you will get an answer on how to handle its disposal. There is an app for this as well. Remember, East Hants recycling procedure can be different from where you live.

The Directors are still working on and looking at designs and options for hanger replacement. Nothing firm has been decided yet.

I'm hoping everyone has a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, and I look forward to seeing you at the airfield in 2025.

JIM WARD—SSAA Airport Manager



Stanley's Christmas Potluck



Social Media Director's Report

As we move into the winter season and reflect on the closing days of fall, it's worth mentioning that Stanley has a core group of year-round regular flyers. So the flying season can be perpetual.



Derek Brown

As the months get darker, it's also worth mentioning that in addition to runway reflectors over the past year I've taken the initiative to set up and trial run about a dozen



PHOTO: Derek Brown

solar dock edge lights, randomly dotting them along the edges of Runway 27. So for those wishing to use Stanley at night (aside from the military, and civilian helicopters, which don't seem to require the lighting), this has become a new possibility. That being said, the lighting is minimal and only recommended for those very familiar with the airfield. Please contact me for a safety briefing if you plan to utilize this new airfield feature, and especially if you are coming from away. My contact number is (902) 580-6450.

Meanwhile, I'm looking forward to continuing to post pictures on Facebook of Stanley activities. Photos for our FB page are sent to me at: thepilot60@hotmail.com

Thank you to everyone for all your positive comments and support of our club, especially those of you who have donated to help us rebuild from our fire losses this past summer. Details of our plans to rebuild will be forthcoming in the new year. Thank you and happy holidays!

DEREK BROWN—SSAA Social Media Director

Membership Director's Report

SSAA experienced new growth in the last couple of months. We're happy to welcome to the Stanley family Mark Thibodeau and Robert Bird. Both hail from areas close to Stanley Airfield. We wish them happy and safe flying experiences into and out of CCW4!



Debbie
Murley

I would like to remind everyone that the membership fee invoices for the 2025 season have been sent out. At this time, I'm happy to say that many current members have already paid their dues and I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage other pilots and flying enthusiasts to do the same.

There are basically two types of memberships: ASSOCIATE and FULL. While all members are able to benefit from the Club's amenities, an ASSOCIATE member, who is usually new to the Club, does not have voting privileges at the AGM. An ASSOCIATE membership fee is \$45. A FULL membership fee is \$55 annually and along with all the amenities the Club offers it gives the member the right to vote on pertinent SSAA matters at the AGM. Please forward your membership fee to Tom Sabeau at: ssaviation.treasurer@gmail.com

Stay safe out there everyone and hopefully we'll see you all in the spring!

DEBBIE MURLEY—SSAA Membership Director

Welcome aboard!

Stanley Sport Aviation Association often profiles new members.

This issue, meet ROBERT BIRD and MARK THIBODEAU

It was a love of aircraft that first drew ROBERT BIRD to the RCAF, where he began work as an aviation technician in 2000.

Eventually the itch to get flying more led him to change his trade to flight engineer, allowing him to spend a lot of his time on the job in the air.

"I flew on the CC-115 Buffalo doing Search and Rescue for about five years in Comox, BC. After that, I was posted to Greenwood, where I am currently still flying on the CC-130 doing Search and Rescue," he told *The Windsock*.

In 2010, Robert decided he still didn't fly enough at work. "So I got into hang gliding, which I still fly."

Fourteen years later he found himself wanting to fly yet even more, and this past August he bought his first Ultralight, adding to his "several" hang gliders.

"I saw it on Fly Nova Scotia for sale and it had the options I wanted," Robert explained, adding that he likes its versatility, having both floats and skis.

Still a flight engineer with the RCAF, Robert lives in Viewmount in the Annapolis Valley. His job has him flying all over eastern Canada, "and sometimes far places around the world."

As for the Ultralight, he's only done local flying. "I am sure I will extend that a bit in the coming years, but most likely just the Maritimes," said Robert.



MARK THIBODEAU'S love of flying started as a teenager in the Air Cadets.

"My first experience was flying gliders. Even ground school was fun back then," he recalled to *The Windsock*. "Now, decades later I have finally gotten into flying for real with my PPL."

While now residing in Lower Sackville, all of Mark's flights so far have been around the Maritimes. "Heading over to PEI for the \$100 ice cream, of course, and over to Moncton for lunch."

Mark is a Business Area Director for a large defence company. His team provides equipment to support the Royal Canadian Navy on its missions.

He's currently renting aircraft time, building up hours so he can pursue his IFR rating and enjoy longer flights.

"I haven't owned my own aircraft—yet" he told *The Windsock*, adding, "That is the dream someday."



In it for the long haul

The Windsock acknowledges SSAA's most long-standing members whose love of flying and hard work over the years have helped make Stanley the outstanding flying club that it is. This issue we tip our caps to FRED SMITH.

Not all of Stanley's members can claim a flying history dating back to when they were a youth, but FRED SMITH is one who can. When he was a boy in 1957 a friend told him he was going to join the Air Cadets and he encouraged Fred to do the same. Fred did, and he's never looked back since.

"It was one of the best things I've ever done," Fred recalled to *The Windsock* of the next several years he spent as an Air Cadet. Among the various opportunities the cadet program offered was a flying scholarship. Fred worked hard to obtain one and by the following summer he was off to Waverley, NS to learn to fly. Waverley was a seaplane base flying a few Piper J-3s.

An incident following his first solo sticks clearly in Fred's mind. It's tradition to acknowledge a first solo with some sort of event. At Waverley, it meant throwing the new pilot in the lake. However, Fred is a non-swimmer. When he was tossed into the water, he reported, "I had to be rescued by one of my buddies."

A lack of funds and transportation put a drag on his flying for a while after that, but ultimately he managed to carry on. Eventually Waverley was operating Champion 7ECs on floats with wheel and ski conversion in the winter. He did the wheel endorsement on ice and checked out in a Piper Super Cub once the club was back to float flying.

In 1970, Fred's job saw him transferred to Moncton, NB, where he started flying Piper Cherokee 140s and added a night rating. "I got wind of the formation of EAA chapter 305 in Dartmouth, NS and joined as a 'cross country' member." By 1973 he had been transferred back to Halifax and become a full member of the EAA, attending meetings regularly.

Over the next few years, Fred would marry and he and his wife Jean would buy their first home. "We began camping at Stanley in a hardtop trailer when our daughter Katherine was an infant. Since then, we had three different travel trailers which served us well," said Fred.

Fred's first plane was a 1946 J-3, which he flew for a few years, until he found it needed some welding.



PHOTO: *Contributed*

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In it for the long haul (Continued from Page 8)

He stripped the fabric and was getting the aircraft ready for the welder. However, it was around that time that he discovered a Piper Colt. He bought it and sold the Cub as a project.

“I’ve had the Colt ever since.”

As a member of Stanley, Fred held positions as a Club Secretary and editor of the Club newsletter, the latter which he and Jean put together monthly. “She did all the typing on a manual portable typewriter,” said Fred.

Later, he served as “home builders’ rep,” which involved setting up home visits with kit builders so interested Club members could get a tour of their projects.

“Flying in those years was mostly local hops, with some modest cross-country trip,” recalled Fred. However, with the Colt he was able to venture out on some longer trips. His good friend and fellow club member, the late Ron Seeley, and he once enjoyed a flight to Ottawa.

“Weather caused us some delays getting there, but good VFR and a tail wind got us home quite well.”

A trip to New Hampshire was another highlight, again taken with Ron, although that trip had weather issues which meant more time getting home. “I made some poor weather decisions, which put some pucker factor into this trip,” Fred admitted.

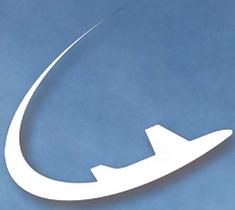
Nonetheless, he made many successful and enjoyable trips around the Maritimes.

“Some to fly-ins, and others just for fun.” Many of those trips were with another of his friends, Club member Wayne Hatch.

“I still have the Colt and we both have aged so the activity has slowed down to a great extent,” said Fred.

However, both he and his many friends at Stanley can regularly be seen at the Club, working on the planes, relishing the memories and the ongoing camaraderie of Stanley.





News and Views

SKY RANGER IN THE AIR

Well, we did it! After an eight-year hiatus, the late Tom Forsyth's pride and joy—Sky Ranger—is finally back in the air.

After much blood, sweat and tears (and a lot of cursing) the plane flies quite nicely.

We owe a lot of thanks to Mark Lynch who gave the engine a clean bill of health. A Borescope showed no signs of internal corrosion, and, when run, a differential compression test showed all cylinders in the mid-to-high 70s.

We replaced fuel, oil, and water lines, as well as electrical ones due to time limits. As of this writing, there were only about 60 hours on airframe and not much more on engine.

My partner in crime—Ray Bent—is responsible for a lot of the maintenance and finish work, because of his patience and dedication.

A lot of friends also helped out, either by passing a tool, holding onto something, or offering a suggestion or a kind word about our working skills, which inspired us to take a second look. Thanks guys; you know who you are.

The first flight officially was christened when Nick Wilson brought over what was left of a bottle of Appleton Rum that Tom never quite finished and was left in his hangar. I think old Tom might be pleased and having a little laugh about that.

Story and photo by Wayne Hatch





News and Views

UP AND AWAY

Several weeks of hard work has paid off for new Stanley member John Levy.

John has been working to restore Cuby Sport C-FFRC since he bought the airplane and hangar at Stanley earlier this year. On November 5th he took it up for the first time.

As we reported on Facebook at the time, all systems checked out, and are looking and sounding good.

Well done John!



PHOTO: Derek Brown

IFR AT CYAU

The South Shore Flying Club announced on October 31st that the Liverpool airport now has IFR approaches again.

“Hot off the press!! Find them in the Restricted CAP!!” SSFC said on Facebook.

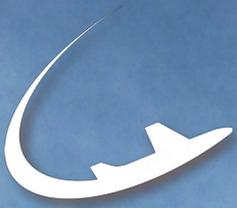
The club gave thanks to JetPro “for their amazing support in making this happen!”



AUTUMNAL SKIES

Pilot James Glew was proud to show off this spectacular sunset on Fly Nova Scotia/Facebook, which he captured flying between YHZ and Greenwood this fall. Not all the great colours in autumn are on land.

Great shot James!



Flying fraternity

Aviation clubs and contacts in Atlantic Canada:

Nova Scotia

- **Bluenose Flying Club New Germany - COPA Flt # 186**— bluenoseflyingclub@gmail.com
- **South Shore Flying Club – Liverpool-** David Oickle oickledavid1@gmail.com
- **Tri-County Flying Assoc., COPA Flt # 63** - Ken Pothier kennethpothier@hotmail.ca
- **Digby/Annapolis Regional Airport – Digby** - (902) 245-5885
- **Annapolis Valley Flying Assoc, COPA Flt # 147** - Gary Dunfield gary@gaspereau.com
- **Kings/Hillaton (CHL2) Aerodrome Canning NS:** <https://kingsaero.com/kings-aerodrome/>
- **CFB Greenwood (CYZX) NS: Freedom Aviation** <http://freedomaviation.ca>
- **EAA Chapter 1051 Scotia Eagles** (located at CHL2 Kings/Hillaton Aerodrome, Canning NS: <http://www.eaa1051.org>)
- **Truro Flying Club, Debert, COPA Flt # 188** Derek Shiers - dshiers@bellaliant.net

Prince Edward Island

- **PEI Flying Assoc. Charlottetown, COPA Flt 57** – Barry Martin Bmartin@Islandtelecom.com
- **Brian Pound** - brian@brianpound.ca
- **Summerside Airport & COPA Flt 125** – Dave Thomas drdaveaviator@hotmail.ca

New Brunswick

- **MONCTON AERO CLUB - COPA Flight #112** – Jim Lockyer Lockyerj@umoncton.ca
- **HAVELOCK NB - COPA Flight #27** - Steve Eastwick sdeastw@nbnet.nb.ca
- **Saint John - COPA Flight #193** - Ian Cameron airshow1@nbnet.nb.ca
- **FREDERICTON - COPA Flight #2** - Ray St Lauren
- **WOODSTOCK - COPA Flight #86** - Blair DeGrace bdegrace@acadiantimber.com
- **MIRAMICHI - COPA Flight #39** - Doug Brown nbdbrown@nbnet.nb.ca

Reach out to The Windsock c/o the Editor, Gayle Wilson, at: wilsongdh@gmail.com

STANLEY SPORT AVIATION

Membership Application



Stanley Sport Aviation Members Enjoy:

Use of Stanley airport facilities, ready access to the fuel pumps at best prices possible, use of the clubhouse and bunkhouse with showers, a place to camp, aircraft storage, and great fellowship.

Members are expected to contribute to the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of Airport Facilities to support the Club Mission Statement "Providing Access to Affordable Facilities and Infrastructure that Supports Aviation enthusiasts of all ages."

NAME: _____

PARTNER'S NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____

RATING: _____ ENDORSEMENTS: _____

FLYING SKILLS: _____

AIRCRAFT OWNED: Year _____ Type _____

AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION _____

PROJECTS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____



COST: Associate Member \$45.00

MEMBERSHIP IS FROM **JAN 1ST TO DEC 31ST**. PLEASE COMPLETE AND REMIT TO MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, UNIT 16 - 50 AIRPORT ROAD STANLEY NS BON 2A0.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS CAN ALSO BE SENT TO: ssaviation.treasurer@gmail.com