

# Sailing into the Wild

by Susan Mackie

Last month we introduced an aviation theme. Let's explore it a bit more fully by first finding out about Canada's interesting aviation history.



Did you know that this country's first aviation designer was inventor Alexander Graham Bell? Bell and his team, the Aerial Experiment Association, were responsible for the Silver Dart, which took wing on February 23, 1909 from Baddeck, Nova Scotia. This was the first controlled, powered flight in Canada, flown by another one of its designers, John McCurdy. McCurdy was the first Canadian to receive a pilot's licence in Canada.

Graham Bell's Aerial Experiment Association proved a great success, building and flying four aircraft in rapid succession over a short period of time. The Silver Dart flew 46 times, covering distances as far as 32 kilometres — an astounding achievement for its time. On August 2, 1909, the Dart crashed, suffering irreparable damage.

A replica of the Silver Dart (and many other examples of historic Canadian aircraft) is displayed in Ottawa's National Aviation Museum.

## Canadian Women in Aviation

Eileen Volick was the first Canadian woman to become a licenced pilot. She received her Private Pilot's Licence in 1928 in Hamilton, ON. By the Second World War, many women stepped out of traditional roles and qualified as pilots, engineers and

instructors. Some women flew military aircraft (in non-combat roles) as part of the Air Transport Auxiliary.

After the war, Helen Bristol, Violet Milstead and Marion Orr enjoyed successful aviation careers in Canada. In 1974, Air Canada hired Rosella Bjornson — Canada's first

## LIVE YOUR DREAM

"I have often been asked what it is like to live a dream. Well, it's one of the most rewarding feelings imaginable. There is only one person who can make your dreams come true — you.

"You can do whatever you want in your life, but only if you're willing to work hard and make sacrifices. When you actually start living that dream, you'll realize that it was worth all the work, and that the sacrifices were small, given the reward.

"I was a small-town kid who got to live his dream to become a Canadian Forces pilot and a Snowbird. Reach for the stars.

If you work hard enough, you will eventually reach them." — Captain Jayson Miles-Ingram (Canadian Forces Snowbird pilot)

The Canadian Snowbirds (430 Air Demonstration Squadron) are Canada's own military aerobatic team, consisting of 89 Canadian Forces personnel. This dedicated team of pilots and ground personnel has delighted Canadian audiences for many years with their technical skill and high level of performance.

— Special thanks to Captain Stéphanie Godin and Captain Jayson Miles-Ingram of the Canadian Forces Snowbirds.

# Blue Yonder: Part 2

Let your Beavers or Cubs sit in an airplane, feel the controls and experience flight for themselves.



Photo: Anny Ackermann

"My seagull craft can fly!"



Photo: Hazel Hallgren

female commercial airline pilot. In 1992, the first Canadian woman to fly into space was Dr. Roberta Bondar (a payload specialist) aboard the space shuttle "Discovery".

Canada's unexplored vast north cried out to these adventurers, many of whom started small exploration/flying companies. They played a key role opening up the north, discovering

## Skyways to the North

At the end of World War I, Canadians returned with a wealth of aviation experience. Having tasted the thrill of flying, it was natural for many of these young pilots to want to continue their aviation careers.

## PROGRAM LINKS

Cubs: Tawny Star, Entertainer Badge

## DID YOU KNOW...?

- Canadian Billy Bishop was the top-scoring World War I fighter ace who survived the war.
- Roy Brown (Carleton Place, ON) is credited with shooting down the Red Baron.
- In the 1950s, Canadian aeronautical engineers developed one of the most advanced aircraft in the world — the Avro Arrow.

## OTHER AIR-RELATED THEMES

If your Beavers and Cubs enjoyed an airplane theme, why not try a rocket, kite or boomerang theme? Spring and summer are perfect seasons for these types of activities. Your colony or pack should own several kites and boomerangs. They are also easy to make.

Here's how to make some cardboard boomerangs. Enlarge the illustrated boomerang pattern to 15 cm (6"), then cut it out of a cereal box. This size of boomerang is ideal for inside tossing. (You'll need a large hall.)

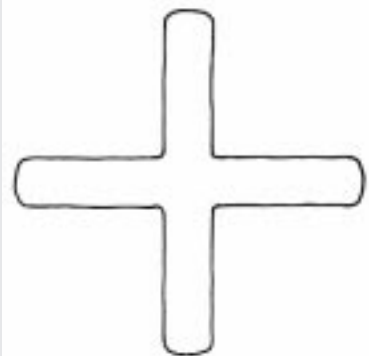
Cubs may want to make much larger boomerangs out of 3 mm plywood. If made from plywood, make sure you sand the edges so there are no 90-degree corners.

How do you throw and catch a boomerang?

Hold the boomerang almost vertical (experiment with the angle), and throw it at about a 30-degree angle into the wind with a flick of your wrist. This may require some practice. Catch a boomerang much as you would a Frisbee™, by clapping your hands together with the boomerang between them.

### Boomerang Pattern

Enlarge, and cut from cereal box.



**"This airplane's going to loop the loop."**



Photo: Rick Ross

and developing the area's natural resources. These small bush plane companies were the actual precursors to Canada's present airlines.

### Fly the World Wide Web

Surf the Internet for more aviation ideas and information.

- Canadian Aviation Museum: [www.aviation.technomuses.ca](http://www.aviation.technomuses.ca)
- Model Aeronautics Association of Canada: [www.maac.ca](http://www.maac.ca)
- Transport Canada/Air: [www.tc.gc.ca/air/menu.htm](http://www.tc.gc.ca/air/menu.htm)
- Women in Aviation: [www.altitudeis.com/history.htm](http://www.altitudeis.com/history.htm) #Women%20in%20Aviation
- Western Canada Aviation Museum: [www.wcam.mb.ca/NewWeb/HTML/kidsKorner.html](http://www.wcam.mb.ca/NewWeb/HTML/kidsKorner.html)
- Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum: <http://acam.ednet.ns.ca>

Now that you know a bit more of Canada's aviation history, let's look at some specific program ideas. ✈

— Susan Mackie works at the National Office. Thanks to flight instructor Kevin McMahon for information on pilot training and qualifications.

## CALLING ALL STUNT FLYERS

from Hazel Hallgren

If your kids are just itching to make a stunt flying airplane, ask them to make paper airplanes of their own design. (Keeo or Kim can help members create interesting designs.) Some youths may want to colour their creations, so provide markers. In addition, you will need construction paper, scissors, and light card stock.

Before anyone throws their airplane, show them how to make their airplanes climb or dive by turning up (to climb) or down (to dive) small flaps on the back of the airplane that they cut into the paper (see diagram).

Then, when everyone is ready to go, toss the airplanes into the air and see whose flying machine glides the furthest. By turning the back flaps upwards, a child can make his or her airplane loop the loop or perform other dramatic stunts.

### Straw Rocket

Cubs and third year Beavers will like this experiment. Give each child a thick

plastic straw, and let them toss it. How far does it go? Does it fly straight or crooked? Why doesn't it go straight?

Now cut an "X" about 5 cm in from the end of the straw (see diagram). From construction paper, cut out two pieces of paper about 5 cm by 15 cm. Fold each strip in half lengthwise (see diagram).

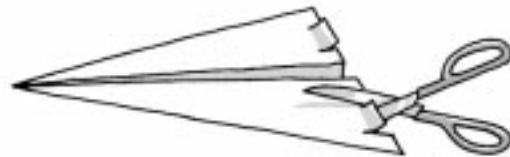
Insert each strip into the end of the straw so you get four fins at right angles to each other. Now throw the straw. How does it fly now? Compare its flight characteristics now to previous times when it did not have the fins. Why does it fly straighter?

Looking for a good resource book? Check out *The Paper Airplane Book* by Puffin Books, or *Super Flyers* by Kids Can Press.

If you're planning an aviation weekend camp, consider showing the movie, *Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines*. It's very funny.

— Hazel Hallgren Scouts in Red Deer, AB.

### CUTTING FLAPS



### STRAW ROCKET

1. Cut the end of the straw
2. Fit the fins in end of straw
3. Ready to toss

