

May, 2003

# TOPCAP

The Newsletter of the ORCC

**This Month's Meeting: Tuesday May 6th .. Features:  
Float Setup .. Building Floats .. Walbro Carbs .. Airbrushing**

## Your President's Message

### Concours D'elegance

To my great disappointment, I was unable to attend (or enter) this year's Concours. However, from the feedback I've received, despite the fact that there were fewer models than usual, the event was well-attended and folks seemed to like the change in format. I bet you also liked the change in prizes, right? In case you weren't at the meeting, winners were given ribbons as well as \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATES from the various local hobby shops. The winner of the Grand Prize received 2 \$25 gift certificates. Not bad, eh? We figured that we'd surprise everyone by providing more substantial prizes this year than we've been able to offer in previous years to reward them for all of their efforts.

Thanks to Todd Murray, the ORCC Secretary, for almost single-handedly coordinating this event and to Shahram Ghorashi and Jean Populus for also lending a hand.

### Flight Training Program

Shahram Ghorashi, our Chief Flight Instructor (Powered), has taken it upon himself to revise the flight training program for student pilots. A major change includes the development of a comprehensive flight training manual that will be given to students to help them understand the basic dynamics of flight as well as all of the various basic manoeuvres they will need to master in order to pass their flight test.

In addition, Shahram is updating our list of instructors to ensure that it is current and reflective of those who are currently available and willing to assist students this year.

All of these updates and changes to our training program will be finalized by the time the Wednesday night training shifts into high gear.

[www.ottawarclub.ca](http://www.ottawarclub.ca)

As you probably know, the website has waxed and waned for quite sometime now. Clearly, despite the best efforts of various club members we've come to realize that maintaining the website is a major undertaking requiring significant amounts of time and money. The Executive has decided to emphasize the overall re-development of the website in order to increase the features and usability to club members. Watch this space.

### It's a (Work) Party!

Since the snow is (hopefully) gone, Karel Tettelaar, the West-end field Manager, is planning a work party on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> to prepare the field for the season. Hopefully, you'll read this in time to volunteer a couple of hours of your time to get the field ready for flying. Your support and assistance is appreciated!

As always, I heartily encourage club members to contact me directly with any questions or concerns that they may have. My e-mail address is [weekesj@rogers.com](mailto:weekesj@rogers.com). My home phone number is 727-0066.

Hope to see you at our meeting in May. Once again, we'll be drawing for gift certificates! But remember: *You must be a registered club member and present at the meeting to win.*

**John**

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## Float Flying ... by Aurele Alain

I am pleased to announce that the ORCC will be able to use the float site once again this year. A couple of weeks ago, Gerry Pronovost advised me that the gate at the float site was now locked. This was a major cause for concern since the gate has never been locked since we started using this site over 10 years ago. In addition, we had lost contact with the owner over the years!

After a good bit of investigation, I managed to track down the owner who has agreed to let us continue to use the site for float flying. The gate was locked for other reasons. The owner did not intend to prevent us from using the field.

I received permission from the owner to add a second lock to the gate for our use. I have purchased a pair of like keyed locks. This will allow us to have a single key to unlock both the gate and the retrieval boat. The old lock and key for the retrieval boat will no longer be used. I will make keys available to members on a cost recovery basis.

I HAVE REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OWNER *THAT THE GATE WILL BE KEPT LOCKED AT ALL TIMES.*

LOCK THE GATE BEHIND YOU WHEN *ENTERING* AND *EXITING* THE SITE.

PLEASE RESPECT THE OWNER'S WISHES AND HELP PROTECT OUR FLYING SITE!

The new lock should be installed by the time you read this in TopCap. Over the next week or so, I will be working out the logistics for distributing keys to interested members.

Don't forget that the annual Doug Pinhey Float Fly will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2003 starting at 10:00am. This event usually draws a big crowd so come out and enjoy the fun. This year, prizes include a Hangar 9 Double Vision field charger complements of Discount Hobbies (very nice!) and gift certificates. See you there!

## Weed eater Conversion - Part 1

... by Brian Wattie

### Some Opening Thoughts:

For the past few years I and several others have gone through the process of converting small utility gas engines for use in model aircraft. The process has been challenging and fun in its own right but it hasn't all been rosy or easy. There are some lessons to be learned and I hope to pass them on to you in this two part series.

First of all, it is possible, and you can do it, with the result of an economical conversion that will be a great reliable sport engine if you are patient and selective.

But be realistic, you're not going to get a high performance engine for your 3D pattern ship for just a few bucks at the discount hardware store!

What you can have is great sport performance on a Sunday flyer and a lot of fun with an engine you converted on your own!

Now that you've got your expectations adjusted lets proceed with how to start

### Tools and Equipment:

You will need some machine work along the way. So first of all, if you don't have a metal lathe then you are going to need a friend who does. Invariably, some parts will need to be made and some modifications to the raw motor will be requiring a lathe. So if you don't have one yourself, then now is the time to start sucking up to someone who does. (*The Tuesday night sessions at the Cock 'n' Bull - Giant get together are great opportunities for this!*). In addition, you are going to need a selection of hand tools. Here's a list of some of the items you may not already have.

- A good hacksaw with a new blade. (*for removing excess metal casting pieces from the weed eater*).
- A Dremel tool with a carbide cutting burr. (*really good at cutting off unwanted excess metal and plastic housing*).
- Tap & Die set. You'll want metric and SAE sizes especially 5/16 -28 for prop bolts/hubs. (*metric because a lot of these machines are of asian/european origin*).

- Allen wrenches/drivers again in metric and SAE.
- Torx drivers. Most of the plastic housing pieces are held on with Torx type screws/bolts.
- Caliper Guage. An inexpensive one will be invaluable in measuring parts etc. for the motor.

### Selecting the Right Engine:

The first question that comes to mind is: "Where do I find a weedeater for conversion?" Well there are a number of starting points beyond asking around. Locally we have found 'Princess Auto Supply' to be a treasure trove of these things. But, also check out the local small engine repair and supply shops. Large discount hardware merchants also have a lot of these on clearance sales. I have found that a lot of the repair shops are more interested in the housing and parts that aren't directly part of the motor. So the possibility of a deal is there!

The next question is: "What's a good brand or make to look for?" This isn't easy to answer since a given manufacturer or model will change from year to year and a lot of the companies are being bought and sold so that the name alone isn't a sure guarantee that you'll get one that's right for the job. In the recent past, both 'Echo' and 'Robin' makes have been popular choices. For example, the Robin 23 cc model is a great choice and only requires a bit of work on the throttle connection and the muffler modification, while the Robin 26 cc model is not only a pound heavier, it also requires a special custom bracket to be made to hold the magneto. Recently, we found (at Princess) a supply of Poulin brand 25 and 21 cc models that only took a few hours to convert. **So the conclusion is: to take your time and follow the selection hints below.**

**Selection guidelines:** Most of the candidate motors come with a lot of housing, handles, and other parts attached that are of no use to you and only make it difficult to see inside as to what the motor, carb, magneto etc is really like. Persevere and with the following hints you can make a better choice:

**Rotation direction:** Make sure that the motor will be turning counterclockwise when looking at the flywheel. Use the pullstarter to check. No, not all

motors turn the same way. I got a bargain several years ago but, they all turn the wrong way. I've still got them in storage waiting for a good pusher design a/c.

**Carburetor type:** Avoid a reed valve induction. Is the carb mounted on the cylinder? - That's Good! Avoid the ones with a rear or crankcase carb mounting. Does the carb throttle linkage look like you can connect without a Rube Goldberg arrangement of levers and pulleys?

**Muffler location:** Avoid a muffler mounted to the rear. This will make mounting on a firewall difficult. Will you have to replace or make a suitable muffler? Will it bolt on or is it held on with spring clips? Make a mental image of this converted and mounted. Which way will the exhaust be blowing? Do I need to make extensive mods?

**Bearings:** The ideal motor will have two bearings one front; one rear. This is true of the Echo and Robin engines. Some have two in front like a glow engine. However, you won't know this until you have it apart so it's a debatable point.

**Ignition:** Most will have a magneto coil/flywheel system. Check that the coil is mounted to the engine casting and not to the cover. This was the Robin 26 problem mentioned earlier. You could consider discarding the magneto system altogether and incorporating an electronic ignition system such as C&H makes. This would save a lot of weight but it means making a custom hub and the added \$75-\$100 cost of the system. Let's get back to what you want out of this effort. I've seen cases where the modeler spent almost as much doing this as it would have cost for a commercial Zenoah or Quadra engine.

**Engine mounts:** Looking at the engine, can you see a clear way to mount it to a plate or to the firewall. Some have so much casing as part of the crankcase that it's going to be difficult to get enough to hang on to a mount of some kind. The best have some kind of rear crankcase that will allow a flat mounting plate to be attached.

The above are some of the things to look for when selecting the raw engine. No single factor is a showstopper. There's a solution for everything, but considering some of this will make it easier later on.

Next installment: Removing everything that looks like a weedeater!

## Big Bird Events for 2003

... By Brian Wattie

Looks like a great giant flying season for 2003.

Here's the schedule.

Your attendance is all the thanks the organizers want. So make plans now. Talk it up and bring along your flying buddies.

Print this out.....

Go to the family calendar and mark in these days that you and the family MUST attend!!

### Saturday 31 May Arnprior

Season opener fun fly at the great ARCC field!

0800 Meet for Breakfast at the Antrim Truck Stop on Hwy 17

Features a Rhinebeck Mission Event (*Rain Date Sun 1 Jun*)

Contact: **Brian Wattie** for details

### Thursday 19-22 Jun. IMAA ROG, Castle AFB California

OK it's a bit out of the way but a couple of us will be there!

### Sat. & Sun. 19-20 July Chapt 617, Barrie Ont

Now a classic annual event at the best flat grass field you can find.

A great variety of big birds from Canada and the US

Free camping on site.

Contact: **Tom Russell**

### Sat. & Sun. 16-17 August Chapt. 217, Kingston Ontario

The oldest annual big bird event in Ontario.

Great Sat night Barbeque dinner

Free camping on site

Contact: **Mike Ingham**

### Sat. & Sun 13-14 Sept. Stetson Field, Ottawa Ontario

Excellent giant field

Sat. night Pig Roast

Free Camping on site

Contact: **Gerry Nadon**

## ORCC 2003 Events

Event Name	Date
Winter Fun Fly	March 1, 2003 (Sat.)
2-day Thermal Duration Contest	June 7-8, 2003 (Sat./Sun.)
Doug Pinhey Float Fly	June 14, 2003 (Sat.)
SMALL Event	July 26, 2003 (Sat.)
Fall Fun Fly	October 4, 2003 (Sat)

## ORCC Meeting Topics ...2003

May 6, 2003. 1. Float flying set-up

2. Building Floats
3. Walbro Carbs
4. Airbrushing

June 3, 2003 1. Aero towing Planes & techniques

2. Crash repair techniques
3. Home brew fuel mixing
4. Diesel engines/fuels

Jul-Aug, 200 Meetings suspended for summer flying

Sep 2, 2003 1. Videos of the summer fun

2. Electronic ignition
3. Vacuum bagging

## ORCC Membership ... 2003

Junior	Open	Senior	Life	NonFlyer	Total
4	53	22	9	1	89

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# Dynamic Hobbies Inc.

Dynamic is proud to announce the partnership of ORCC and Dynamic Hobbies Inc. to promote the already very popular O.R.C.C. S.M.A.L.L. Event. Together we want to make this event the "MUST ATTEND" fun fly of the summer.

Please plan to attend:

## The Dynamic Hobbies S.M.A.L.L. Event Saturday July 26, 2003.

We at Dynamic believe the S.M.A.L.L. event is very close to our philosophy on our great hobby.

**"It's not how big it is, but how much fun you have"**

Watch for more details on this event coming soon.

Call us at **225-9634** ask for Fred

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### Brighton R/C Hawks Static Show May 10, 2003 ... 9.00am to 4.00pm

To introduce our new club to area R/C clubs, we are holding a one day *Static Show* At the Brighton Curling Club. The theme of the show is *Canada's Aviation Heritage*, in conjunction with the *100th year of powered flight*. This is a *Show and Tell* event and Clubs are invited to set up a Club display to show the models of their members. We expect the *RL204 Model of the Avro Arrow* to be on display.

There is no charge for displaying models but we need to know what clubs will participate, so we can set up specific areas for them.

You are invited to bring RC goodies for a sale run by BRCH. (A 10% fee will apply to all sales).

We look forward to seeing you and your favourite models at the show.

For ongoing updates check our website [www.geocities.com/brightonrchawks](http://www.geocities.com/brightonrchawks)

Ray Leadbetter, Pres. Brighton R/C Hawks, Tel. 613 475 3786, <[ravcarol@sympatico.ca](mailto:ravcarol@sympatico.ca)>

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# Discount Hobbies

Unit 106, 1803 St. Joseph Blvd. Orleans, K1C 6E7

**(613)830-2373**

**Open: Mon.-Fri. 9am to 9pm**

**Sat. 9am to 5pm, Sun. 11am to 5pm**

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**Specializing in a Wide Range of  
R/C Model Products**

**Recommends that When Flying**

**Think Safety**

**Thank you for your support  
from all of us at  
Discount Hobbies**

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## **ORCC Concours d'Elegance ... 2003**

On April 2, 2003 we had our annual ORCC Concours d'Elegance. We tried something different this year. Each member had a hand in judging the different categories. Next year we hope to improve the event further, as well as encourage more entries. Each winner was awarded a \$25.00 gift certificate from one of our local hobby shops. The grand champion was awarded a \$50.00 gift certificate.

Congratulations go to the following people who entered their models:

**Grand Champion;**

Paul Penna

**Sport:** 1st, Dave Martin

2nd, Peter Olshefsky

3rd, Gerry Pronovost

**Electric:** 1st, Paul Penna

2nd, NA

3rd, NA

**Sailplane:** 1st, Jeff Ross

2nd, NA

3rd, NA

**Indoor:** 1st, Gerry Pronovost

2nd, NA

3rd, NA

**Float:**

1st, Shahram Ghorashi

2nd, Wade Cuthbertson

3rd, NA

**SMALL:** 1st, Martin Passfield

2nd, NA

3rd, NA

**Scale:** 1st, Hector Nunez-Diaz

2nd, Richard Campion

3rd, NA

Special thanks to Shahram Ghorashi and Jean Populus for their assistance with the event.

... **Todd Murray**

NOTE: Some nice colour photos of the winners and their best may be seen on the club's website.

## ORCC Executive Committee

President	John Weekes	727-0066
Vice President	Ken Norris	820-9097
Executive Secretary	Todd Murray	728-6383
Treasurer	Dick Mills	526-4957
Memberships	Aurele Alain	738-8797
Past President	Jean Populus	591-9738
TopCap Editor	Tom Ross	733-9470
Gliders	Dick Mills	526-4957
Scale Sailplane	Gudmund Thompson	837-0648
Helicopter	Len Gaultois	746-8526
Giant Scale/Scale		
SMALL / Air Combat	Ken Park	823-1933
Float	Aurele Alain	738-8797
Electric	Paul Penna	731-5627
Yachting & Indoor	Jim Zufelt	733-1210
Chief Flying Instructor, Power	Shahram Ghorashi	726-8709
3D Flying	John Weekes	727-0066
Winter Flying	Shahram Ghorashi	726-8709
West End Field Manager	Karel Tettelaar	226-5023
Mall Displays		
Webmaster	Andrew E. Mileski	565-1827
MAAC Zone Director	Richard Lyle Barlow	613/348-1696

**ORCC Website : <http://www.ottawarcclub.ca>**

### **May Meeting: Tuesday May 6th, 2003**

**ORCC Club Meetings** The first Tuesday of each month  
**Date & Time:** from September to June at 8:00 PM.  
**Location:** McNabb Community Centre  
 180 Percy (at Gladstone), Ottawa

Submissions for the TopCap Newsletter can be sent to:  
 Tom Ross, TopCap Editor  
 2971 McCarthy Rd, Ottawa ON K1V 8K7  
 EMail: teejay@mondenet.com , Tel: 613/733-9470

**Closing Date for the June TopCap: Friday, May 16th, 2003**