

# NEWSLETTER

## EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION



Happy Holidays and a  
very happy New Year  
to you all.

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MONTREAL



## You should know that the...

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Next meeting is Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 at 19h30

Room 204, Penfield Building

John Abbott College, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue

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## The Romance of Flying *Dick Pickering*

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The cover photo this month is of Doug Pickering, a pilot whose flying career spanned almost 50 years. Doug began flying at the Hamilton Flying Club in 1928 and accumulated 480 hours over 8+ years in Hamilton, winning many flying trophies along the way. The highlight of his career was his participation in the Maritime Goodwill Tour in 1933, flying a DH Moth 60. He accompanied a number of other aircrafts from Toronto and Hamilton to the Maritimes and back, a distance of 2800 miles.

His next period of flying was during the Red Lake *Gold Rush* in the mid 1930's where Doug accumulated over 3500 hours in 2 ½ years flying in Northern Ontario for Starratt Airways. This was difficult because he was flying on both floats and skis.

Doug then joined Laurentian Air Services in Ottawa where he spent the next 35 years. Doug test flew and ferried many military aircrafts during the war years while with Laurentian. Doug was involved in the making of the war promotional film *Captain of the Clouds* with James Cagney. He supplied a Waco for the film. Another event Doug participated in was flying the Governor of the Hudson Bay Company in a Grumman Goose to all the Quebec/Labrador trading posts. ■

*Dick Pickering*

**There will be a presentation on Doug Pickering at the February 2013 EAA Meeting. For all those interested, it will be a treat.**

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## Bill's Christmas Letter: The Year That Was 2012

Bill Evans

I find it hard to believe this year, the nations and governments that have fallen or people revolted and overthrown their leaders. Such a year has been unknown to me.

I celebrated New Year's with Bruce and Carol Glencross. My notes say just 2 words: Prime Rib. I take it the event was a success...

January was a decisive month for me. I've wanted a larger engine for my airplane, possibly needed it for some years. In January I took delivery of a Jabiru 3300 engine, purchased from a friend of a



friend. It's taken me all the rest of the year to get it figured out and running properly. But it runs now and will be installed this winter. This engine has benefits for me in 16 areas.

2012 has been the first year I've been President of the local Homebuilt Aircraft Club: EAA Chapter 266, Montreal. The Directors and members have been very supportive and come out to the events we plan.

My dear friend Lorna Glencross has had basement floods for a generation. If the rains fall and winds takes down the electricity, she has a flood. In February I fabricated a battery backup for her sump pump. It works better than I had hoped and has pumped water all night. That system took a lot of planning, wiring and installing. So, I feel my efforts worthwhile.

In April I went to the Sun&Fun Flyin at Lakeland, FL. I've been going for almost a decade. There is a Forum I present on Inspecting Aircraft. It is well received and the room is always full. In 2012 my forum was FAA Approved as a Course for the Aircraft Inspection Qualification. It's nice to be recognized. There is nothing in Canada quite like that. I'm not sure how 2013 will go.

On May 27th, I celebrated my 65th birthday, with family & friends, the best birthday I recall.

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This summer I flew to more fly-ins and fly-outs than I can recall since the 1970's. Perhaps I went to 4 in all, most of them in my Sonerai II.

My kids: Julia took some vacation in the summer and fall and a new job this fall. She's visited Germany, Oman, and Zanzibar. I think she can already say she's well travelled.

Peter's employment ended after 2 years apparently amicably. He'll hopefully register for more math, and possibly CEGEP. The Navy say they'd like him as a Ship's Engineer. Apparently Engineers are in demand, paid astonishing salaries commercially. The years will tell the story.

Arielle seems to be happy with her Mom in Hamilton and doing better at High school. Thus I am very pleased and happy for her. She visits Montreal 3 or 4 times each year.

Sept 1, saw me flying to Chute St Phillippe in the Laurentians, in a loose formation, for a fly-in picnic and BBQ. It was a great event. Somehow my friend Karl Heindl had engine problems and did not return to Cornwall. He called me later that night for a rescue effort. His Aircraft is a Europa XS Trigear. That took a couple of weeks and the aircraft repairs are on-going. There are many lessons to be learned from this. I hope to learn them all well.

I find that each year the demands, of remaining current and with a class 1 medical for my flying, increase. It's mostly a matter of time and lots of money. One year I spent about one thousand dollars on tests. Diabetes does that to you. The illness is much easier to control than the costs. For me diabetes is really just wearing down the pancreas. Your body has to make insulin for every gram of fat you carry. One day it just can't cope any longer. We would all do ourselves a big favour be getting back to our weight at say age 20. Why? Diabetes isn't just one thing. The meds affect other organs: kidneys, eyes, thyroid and the list goes on. Kidney issues in time result in heart issues.

I am sustained as ever by the grace and mercy of God, and trust God for that in 2013. May His Light also be your Light in the coming year. We are meant to be Children of the Light. Amen.

A Blessed Christmas and Joyous New Year to you and yours. ■

*Bill Evans*