

Upcoming Events

March 31st, 2014 (Monday)

GOING WITH THE FLOW ON LAND AND WATER

Canoeing, Sailing, and Hiking Adventures in Canada

- Sailing in Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands)
- Canoeing the Yukon River
- Hiking the Chilkoot Pass (Gold Rush Trail)
- Rafting the South Nahanni River, North West Territories
- Wild Labrador (Iqaluit, Nunavut to St. John's, Newfoundland)



CRC Image 06-4516

Presented by:

Marlene Medaglia, RN (retired), B.A. (Nursing), M.Ed. (Adult Education)

Forty years as a critical care nurse in staff nurse, teaching, and management roles in Ontario, Alberta and Quebec.

Edward Gurgurewicz, BSc.

Systems Auditor, Royal Bank of Canada, 35 years, (retired), Montreal and Toronto

Please note that this month's presentation has been moved to Monday, March 31st due to scheduling conflicts.

April 16th, 2014 (Wednesday)

Friend's Spring Luncheon (please see details on page 2)

April 24th, 2014 (Thursday)

Mac Evans, former president of the Canadian Space Agency will discuss the future direction of the Canadian Space Program. Following Mac's talk, we will conduct the Friends' Annual General Meeting.

(All events in the CRC Auditorium at 1300 hrs unless otherwise noted. Friends and spouses, Shirleys Bay staff all welcome.)

Spring Luncheon

When: Wednesday, 16 April 2014 at 11:30 am

Where: The Friends of CRC's Annual Spring Luncheon will be held on April 16th at BistroFiftyFour, 54 Springbrook Drive in the Amberwood community of Stittsville.

Reservations: If you plan to attend, please call the Friends telephone at 613-990-6673 before Friday April 11th, leaving your name, contact number and number of guests attending.

Spouses, partners and friends are encouraged to attend. The venue has been the Friends' choice for several years; it has free parking, a congenial bar area and space for everyone to catch up on their news after a particularly cold winter!

Some Cheery Photos from the CRC Image Collection!

All images taken at Shirleys Bay.

Far right: 05-5071

Right: 10-7714

Below, left: 11-7736

Below, right: 06-2015

Reminder: If you receive the newsletter via email, then all images are in colour!

Please let us know if you'd prefer the emailed version rather than the black and white printed version.

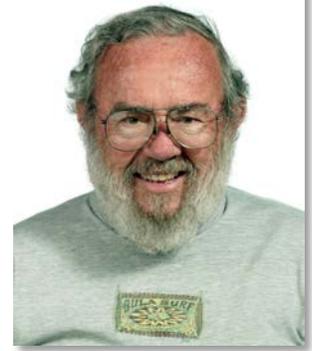


Now For Something Different, by Colin Billowes

Unintended consequences and repairing automobiles

Like some of you, when I was a young guy the only way I could afford a car was by repairing it myself. Out of this necessity came my philosophy that much money could be saved throughout life if one bought older cars and maintained them oneself .

Thus, apart from a classic Rolls-Royce which I own, I have never paid more than \$5000 for a car in my life and I reckon I have saved a small fortune in depreciation expenses. Indeed, I'm proud to report that my lifetime depreciation expenses are only in the range of \$500 per year.



This strategy seems to be crashing about my ears and I am at a loss on how best to proceed. As a snowbird I keep a car in Florida for use while I'm there. It is a low mileage 1992 Cadillac in beautiful condition except that the electronics are beginning to cause me grief. Recently the cabin lights would not go out due to a computer glitch so I had to pull the fuses on them which meant that I can no longer lock all the doors from one location. Then the air conditioner failed together with the climate control panel. OK there are lots of people who can fix the a/c but nobody seems to be able to fix the control panel. The problem is that it is electronic and computer controlled. I'm told that the application of wads of money might fix the climate control panel but nobody is prepared to guarantee that it would solve the problem.

In delving into these issues more deeply I found out that much of my problem stems from the recent US government's "cash for clunkers" program which offered people large subsidies on new cars if they scrapped their old ones. A condition of the program was that the old vehicle had to be completely destroyed and not broken up for parts. This has resulted in an acute shortage of used parts for older cars which is wrecking my car-owning strategy.

As a sidebar to the "clunker" program it turns out that the US government overlooked a big loophole of which one of my friends gleefully took advantage. He owned an elderly golf cart in a gated community which was probably worth all of \$300, as is. It turned out that in Florida, at least, golf carts can be bought in a street legal format and used on the highway and thus qualified for the 'clunker' program. So he promptly bought a beautiful new golf cart for about \$6000 on which he received something more than a 50% cash subsidy. Needless to say this loophole was extensively exploited by many of the good citizens of the USA.

So here I am today with a beautiful white Cadillac whose mechanical condition is excellent all-round but whose electrics are failing at an alarming rate. Normally I would simply trot off to the used car dealer and buy another older car, sell the Caddy for anything I can get for it, and go happily driving off into the sunset. This probably won't work though for the very same reasons: i.e. the electronics may crap out and be unfixable at any reasonable price.

So my lifelong strategy for car buying has hit a roadblock and I'm not sure where the solution lies. One important lesson I have learned is that if you are buying a used car, try to find one with minimal electronics and electronic displays because when they fail, as they surely will, they may not be fixable.

[Colin Billowes](#)

Colin welcomes your comments!

Dr. Jack Meek, DRTE Space Pioneer



CRC Image 62-6957

Preserving the history of DRB/DRTE/CRC and CSA is one of the Friends' mandates. To that end, we are always looking for documents and photographs relating to early projects. What better way than to remind ourselves of the accomplishments of our Founders. Following a recent piece on Frank T. Davies, this article provides a brief résumé of the career of Jack H. Meek, including his second career in Japan.

Jack H. Meek was one of our pioneers:

<http://www.friendsofcrc.ca/Pioneers/Pioneers.html>

He received his early education at Upper Canada College, Toronto followed by a BA Mathematics and Physics, University of Toronto (1940); MA Physics, University of Saskatchewan (1953) and PhD Physics, University of Saskatchewan (1955).

From 1940-42 he was Forecaster and lecturer with the Meteorological Service of Canada stationed at RCAF stations, including Uplands, and at Rockcliffe as Meteorological Officer-in-charge.

<http://www.cmos.ca/Metphotos/T1/shortcourse2.html>

From 1943-47 he was a Lieutenant in the RCNVR posted to the Operational Intelligence Centre for the duration of the war, engaged in operational analysis and spending part time on radio propagation research. With Frank Davies, he was responsible for overseeing the training and inspection of ionospheric stations, including those in Canada staffed by members of the US military. In 1945 seven stations were located across the country¹.

From 1947-51, he directed the Radio Propagation Laboratory dealing with the research, methodology and analysis of forecasting ionospheric disturbances affecting radio wave propagation.

He was posted in 1951 to the University of Saskatchewan where he conducted detailed studies on the correlation between magnetic, auroral and ionospheric variations, in an attempt to use magnetic variations as a precursor of ionospheric disturbance.

From 1956-60 he was Deputy Director of Physical Research at DRB/HQ concerned with DND R&D projects in the fields of physics, electronics, communications, radar and the atmospheric and geophysical environment.

From 1960-67 he was Director of the Communications Laboratory of the DRTE carrying out propagation and engineering research on radio communications, including responsibility for the ground station network and control of Alouette I. The next year he spent in Quebec City following the Government bilingual and bicultural program while delivering a full year course on radio communications as a visiting professor in Electrical Engineering.

(continued on Page 5)

Dr. Jack Meek, continued

From 1968-72 Dr. Meek was a member of the planning staff at DRB/HQ concerning the problems of program evaluation and of applying planning and forecasting methods to the defence research program.

From 1973 to his retirement in 1977 he was Director of Scientific and Technical Intelligence following science and technology in all disciplines in other countries which might be of interest to Canada.

After his retirement in 1977 he returned to his first love, lecturing and conducting upper atmosphere research at the Institute of Space and Aeronautical Science in Tokyo, Japan (1978-79); at the Geophysics Research Laboratory, Faculty of Science, University of Tokyo (1979-81) and back in Canada with ISIS/CRESS researching with Gordon Shepherd at York University, Toronto (1982-83).

Dr. Jack Meek passed away in California in October 1983.

Next month the Friends' Newsletter will feature examples of his scientific research and professional affiliations, including his all sky camera.

<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/full/1961JRASC..55..203P>

We welcome your comments.

Submitted by John Gilbert with thanks to Dr. Meek's family and *Defence and Discovery: Canada's Military Space Program, 1945-1974*, by Andrew B. Godefroy, for additional information.



The original RPL facility on the site of the Experimental Farm (since demolished)

CRC Image 51-RPL-0173

Obituary: Pat Butler



BUTLER, Patricia Ruth "Pat". Passed away on Monday, March 10, 2014 in her 85th year with her special and best friend, Tom Ohno by her side. Daughter of the late Guy and Ruby (Carlson) Butler. Sister of Art (Shirley), late Bill (Shirley), Jim (Theresa), late Grace DeGrasse (late Dusty), Alice Hawkins (late Bert), late Esther McLeod (late Jack), late Nonnie Hildebrandt (Harry), Beatrice Chapman (late Frank) and numerous nephews and nieces.

Born in Blind River, Pat received her schooling in Ottawa. Her working career began in photography and then 30 years with the Federal Government, Defence Research Telecommunications Establishment (DRTE)/Communications Research Centre (CRC), Shirleys Bay. Pat enjoyed working with the close-knit family building the first Canadian satellite (Alouette). She ended her career working in microelectronics. Pat enjoyed her home in Ottawa during winter months and at the cottage during summer. Her flower gardens at home and at the cottage were beautiful. Tributes, donations and condolences may be made at www.tubmanfuneralhomes.com.



CRC Image 64-1925



Left, CRC Image 77-35254

Pat receives recognition from Governor-General Jeanne Sauvé for her contribution to the Hermes project.

Right: CRC Image 62-5783

Pat at work on the line camera in the DRTE Photo Lab.



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