

Press Release—Free Maintenance Presentation Offered to New Ag Air Entrants

For Immediate Release

Yorkton Aircraft Service Ltd., February 2010 - The Yorkton Aircraft Service Maintenance Team is pleased to be hosting a Free Maintenance Presentation for new Ag Air Entrants at the upcoming CAAA Conference in February in Regina. New means pilots, owners and ground crew with less than 5-years experience in the industry.

“This isn’t a session about what you can or can’t do as per the Regulations,” states Allan Denesowych, the company Director of Maintenance. “Nor is it a do-it-yourself maintenance program. It is meant to deliver ideas, tips and guidance.”

“To get to the point of being an Ag Pilot, an incredible amount of energy and resources has been spent on developing the necessary flight skills and then getting that first seat or buying the aircraft. It seems information on how to daily manage the aircraft systems is often learnt by trial, error and circumstance which can be costly,” Allan points out. “Many questions I get from new guys are the same and I feel knowing what to look for and do before a problem develops is crucial to staying productive and doing a good job in the field.”

Focused on the industry’s entry level aircraft covering engine, prop, airframe, landing gear, and spray systems, the information is preventative in nature to help minimize downtime and increase safety margins. What to look for, what to watch out for, ideas on how to maintain the aircraft, how the various systems interact to get the job done is the basic theme. The course should help with relating better to maintenance shops too as participants gain a stronger understanding of their machine.

“You can be an incredibly skilled pilot but if your machine or system fails you the work doesn’t get done. Ag planes are unique and need particular attention, especially since the work window is very tight during the season,” states Allan. “If we can help new entrants, it should mean a strengthened industry in the long run. Our company has a 20-year commitment to the Canadian Ag Industry and we see this as an opportunity to contribute and further define our commitment.”

Allan has over 30-years experience working on Ag planes and has delivered various maintenance presentations at conferences in the past. He is also a former ag pilot. “We wondered what to do with the compilation of information Allan has. Should we put it on our website? Present it? Then we got thinking about how the new guy in the industry has limited access to information and decided to formalize a new entrant program, deliver it and see how it is received,” explains Cheryl Denesowych, the company Business Manager.

The presentation will be approximately 2-hours long and certainly won't be lecture style. It will be interactive where questions are welcome. To round out the session, a current and experienced Ag Pilot will come in to answer any flight or operational questions of the participants.

"We decided to host this free session on Day 1 of the Canadian Aerial Applicators conference," says Cheryl. "We see it as a form of 'Welcome to the Industry' program and a place to meet fellow new people and develop a network. If they choose to stay and attend the CAAA conference and trade show I am sure they will gain some insight into what their work means to the industry and what aerial application means to worldwide agriculture but attendance at the conference is optional. Our session is free, we only ask people to reserve their seat so we know how many to expect."

Why is the participation limited to those with less than 5-years experience? "Many of the veterans in the industry have heard my material before plus we can focus on keeping the session very relevant and relaxing to the newcomers. We want them to ask those questions they may not otherwise ask if there was experienced people there or potential employers," emphasizes Allan.

So whether you are a new pilot (with a seat or not), have a new hire in your company, own an aircraft that you yourself would like to know more about, this session will hopefully be worth the time investment.

"We hope to make this an annual event and the new entrants can come back year after year till they no longer find new information in the presentation or they gain those 5-years of experience," notes Cheryl. "We will be looking for feedback and evaluation after the session so we can strengthen it year over year."

Details:

Thursday February 18th 2010

Delta Regina

9:30 am to 11:30 am

Free to anyone in the AG Air Industry with less than 5 years experience

Phone 1.800.776.4656 to reserve a seat

Conference information: <http://canadianaerialapplicators.com/conference/>

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