

GPS Report, April 27, 2006, by Alf Bicknell

The Sundre Flying Club's **GPS Overlay for the Sundre Airport** has been published by NAV CANADA in the RESTRICTED CANADA AIR PILOT (RCAP) since September 1, 2005. However, it has been repeatedly NOTAM'd by TRANSPORT CANADA, this time to Thursday, **June 8, 2006**.

Designer Ed McDonald of JetPro Consultants emailed April 18, 2006:
“ Instead of sending a nasty letter I decided to phone to discuss this issue with Transport Canada. I have placed a call with Deb Martin to give me a ring back to discuss about Sundre. I am standing by for further.”

And so the Sundre Flying Club is standing by for further.

Of parallel interest: the weather reporting station on the Sundre Airport does not give aviation weather reports, only “environmental” weather. This automated weather station is owned and maintained by Environment Canada. There are no Barometric Pressure readings so **it does NOT meet** TRANSPORT CANADA requirements for **AVIATION** weather reporting.

The published design for the Sundre Airport uses Calgary barometric pressure allowing the minimum of **500 feet on the let-down**.

The Digital Altimeter that Weldwood Canada donated to the Sundre Flying Club is therefore most important to the Club's GPS as it will give the barometric readings at the Sundre Airport which would allow a minimum let-down of **256 feet**.

The Digital Altimeter is **ready to be installed** and the phone calls have been going between myself, VAISALA in Boulder Colorado, VAISALA Helsinki, Finland, ANS (AWOS towers) in New Brunswick, and Bruce McMillan, Transport Canada Inspector in the Winnipeg Region. When the phone-circle closes we will have an idea if it's possible, and what it will cost, to have a fully automated transmit tower incorporating the Digital Altimeter on the Sundre Airport. The next step will then be to apply to Canada Standards for a “Discreet Frequency”.

Hopefully, Ed McDonald's talk with Deb Martin will mean the lifting of the NOTAM sooner than June 8th.

At any rate, the Club's Guest Speaker at **7:00 PM on Thursday, June 8th** will be **Dr. Geoff Strong**, President of the Canadian Meteorological Society. Dr. Strong has spent several years of foothills weather research in the region and is very familiar with the Sundre Airport. He has voiced to the Minister of Environment, Hon. Rona Ambrose that the weather station on the Sundre Airport is an essential one for this region. He also agrees that it should give aviation as well as environmental weather reporting. Dr. Strong will speak during the meeting on the evening of June 8th in the Terminal Building **right next to the automated weather station** on the Sundre Airport.

Alf Bicknell, Treasurer
(403) 638-9001