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## Teams learn to take flight; [Final Edition]

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### Abstract (Document Summary)

Alex Pagonyi, David Lee and Georges Rouget decided to enter their plane, the design of which is based on the modern bi-plane with a mix of First World War-era elements, after being approached with the idea by several Red Bull ladies. They gave the team a kit that included a DVD and a few Red Bulls. Pagonyi and Lee, the key builders of the plane, wanted to focus on the flying aspect of the contest: to make sure their plane flew well and to break the previous glider record of 78 feet. Rouget was responsible for the showmanship aspect, which involved creating a one-minute skit to show audiences before lift off.

### Full Text (407 words)

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"We wanted to build something with rules and regulations." And there enters the SPADFlyer team into the Red Bull Flugtag, an annual event held throughout the world where participants are challenged to build a glider and are judged on creativity, distance and showmanship.

Alex Pagonyi, David Lee and Georges Rouget decided to enter their plane, the design of which is based on the modern bi-plane with a mix of First World War-era elements, after being approached with the idea by several Red Bull ladies. They gave the team a kit that included a DVD and a few Red Bulls. Pagonyi and Lee, the key builders of the plane, wanted to focus on the flying aspect of the contest: to make sure their plane flew well and to break the previous glider record of 78 feet. Rouget was responsible for the showmanship aspect, which involved creating a one-minute skit to show audiences before lift off.

The physical building of the plane began on July 9 after the team managed to secure \$1,500 from various sponsors. Despite setting a budget, Lee estimates they will almost double the original figure by the end of things.

All three members of the team are first timers. Pagonyi has experience with building remote-controlled gliders and teaching ACAD and Lee is a sheet metal mechanic for Air Canada. While they may be green, they both speak with enthusiasm and intelligence when discussing the project, and have already come up with a few improvements, should they try again. "If you take us back two months, we would make the wings lighter, like the tail," Pagonyi said while inspecting the craft. Despite already noticing areas of improvement, the two come with an interesting mixture of confidence and weariness: when their plane takes off on Saturday, it will be the first run.

Starting on Saturday, Aug. 19 at 2 p.m., the Red Bull Flugtag promises to be an exciting event. Thirty-one teams are participating, including two other Surrey teams,

"Sushi Surprise" and "Blue Coloured Bombers." SPADFlyer will be the 30th out of the 31 teams, so expect them to be flying closer to 5:40 p.m. Admission is free; gates at Vancouver's Concord Pacific Place open at noon.

### [Illustration]

Photo: Carmine Marinelli, Surrey Now / David Lee (left), Alex Pagonyi and Georges Rouget (not pictured) have designed a glider that

Lee plans to fly in the Red Bull Flugtag. The SPADFlyer team is one of 31 teams competing today (Saturday).

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