

Notes From Around the Pattern

March 8, 2005

Greenville Municipal Airport (4G1)

Welcome Spring!!! At least by the time you read this, hopefully things will be a little more spring-like..... Had a couple of fun events this winter. On January 2nd we had the inaugural Fruit Cake Fly-In and Bomb Drop competition. The weather was great, and 14 different pilots, many with bombardiers participated. Mr. Ray Ablanalp was kind enough to serve as the Judge. He disqualified a few of us...something about not maintaining enough altitude. Bob Griffin won in his Kitfox ably landing the delectable morsel 33 feet from the center of the target. Bob's name will be placed on the "Flying Fruit Cake" plaque on display in the terminal building. The award for nicest & best "fruit to batter ratio" went to Dale Oman. His was the only entry in those categories and no one actually tasted it, but it looked great. Probably the biggest winner from the event was Carol's dog Molly. For the next week and a half she dined on the fruitcake remnants scattered all over the grass runway. (Yes, we are planning to do this next year)

On the 27th of February we had chili.... at least for awhile. About 40 airplanes, and lots of folks in cars stopped to visit.. unfortunately we ran out of chili after the first 20 planes. It was a good problem to have except for those of you that did not get any food. We are sorry and will try to keep from letting that happen again. Thank you for stopping by.

Speaking of events, on March 20th we are holding our second annual Easter Egg Hunt. Armstrong Cable from Butler is sponsoring the event. Kids aged 1-4 will need to be there by 2:30, with the older kids, 5-10, hunting immediately after. The food is pot-luck, please bring a dish to share..... The annual fly-in breakfast will be held on May 21st . The Greenville Moose will be serving.

Flight School News...First solos are Dan Beckwith and Mark Little. Congratulations Fellas!! There are several more close, but the weather has not been favorable. Jason Scheistle had an eventful January. On January 27th he passed his private check-ride, and on Friday the 28th he and Jamie gave birth to a little girl, Hauna. (Of course Jamie actually gave birth to Hauna, but we like to give credit all around) On Sunday Jason was giving airplane rides. Not a bad way to end the month...Congratulations Jason, Jamie and Damon.

We were supposed to go to Florida recently, but the plane was in the shop..(See it even happens when you run the FBO), so since the weekend was accounted for we decided to leave town anyway. We went to DC for the weekend, visiting the Memorials etc.. I used to be a tour bus driver and thought I knew the city quite well, but I guess things will change over 25 years. No matter where we went, we always ended up at the Pentagon...but we had a good time anyway. It was surprising how many flowers were left at the Lincoln Memorial for President's Day. The Korean Memorial is very moving. We also made it out to Dulles and new Smithsonian Exhibit. The Enola Gay, SR71, Space Shuttle Enterprise, a Concorde and many other aircraft are all under one roof. It is huge. They had to let the air out of the Shuttle tires to get it in the hangar, and still needed to open a 6-inch hole to get the tail in the building. The only thing better would be to pull them all outside on a sunny day and to fly around the pattern a few times. Several years ago I was at Oskosh when they brought in the Concorde. What an amazing plane. You could walk up, smell the Jet-A from the engine, then watch it fly by a couple of times. It's just not the same when they are sitting there...

I was driving down the road listening to the reporting on Steve Fossett's around the world adventure, and the commentator noted that an achievement like that 50 years ago would have gotten Fossett a ticker-tape parade. Now it's a yawn at best, and very little notice at all without the fuel question. When there seemed to be a chance he would end up in the drink between Hawaii and California, it became much more interesting. Not sure if it is good or bad thing, but it certainly is different...

Speaking of fuel..(was that a reach for a segway??) we now just have a flat cost for fuel. The discount with purchase was just too hard to keep track of. I think you will like the new price (currently \$2.50 a gallon). With the current world oil situation, we probably won't be able to keep that price, but we will continue to give you a good price for fuel.

In case you haven't heard, the FAA is getting out of the Flight Service business by signing a contract with Lockheed to provide this necessary service. The end result is supposed to be better for all...but in the short term it may get a little ugly. Altoona and Williamsport Flight Service Stations are scheduled to be closed this fall. For those of us that remember the friendly "local" FSS (Dubois, Bradford, Franklin, Youngstown) it is just another step down the road same road. I had a conversation with a briefer on Saturday who expressed his displeasure, and noted that with the low morale, they may have trouble getting people that are losing their jobs to come to work - this is certainly understandable. Reading between the lines, it seems as if our choice may be to either expect to spend a little extra time on the phone on hold or use DUATS. (Progress???)

We will be putting a new layer of asphalt on 15-33 sometime when this summer. During construction we will operate off of the grass as long as we can. Our engineer tells me that we should only be totally closed for a couple of days at the most when they do the intersection of the two runways. As soon as there is a tentative schedule, we will get the word out.

Finally, we will be closed on Easter Sunday to spend time with our families. For fuel etc... please call me @724-967-1503. Have a great holiday. Hope to see you at the Easter Egg Hunt.

Rod Paul

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