

HIGH FLIGHT

LAKEWAY AIRPARK
DECEMBER 2006



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Wow how time flies. The Holidays are here already, meaning winter is soon to arrive.

At last month's work-day we replaced a bunch of tie down rope. If anyone notices any in poor condition, please relay that to me so we can get it replaced.

The Airpark improvement list is growing. Any ideas for improvements that affect the utility and safety of the Airpark are welcome.

Thanks to the following gentlemen for doing ramp checks the last month: Ken DeBower, Clint Beacham, and Chip Freitag. We could use a couple more volunteers to share the fun. A sign up sheet is on the table in the terminal.

I have also noticed the terminal building and restrooms in particular are staying in a nice clean condition. Thanks to Steve Bangs for keeping a watchful eye on these things.

My calendar says the next workday/meeting is December 9. There is not much work to do, so we can just sit around, tell stories, eat donuts, and see if there are any more birthday surprises

Jeff



Jeff Klaas
Airpark President

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas all over the place
When we were confronted by an old flying ace.
There was icing reported and turbulent air,
He said, "File me a flight plan, I gotta get there".

Outside sat his aircraft all ready to run,
And the old man walked out to that P-51
"Bad weather's no problem," he silently mumbled,
The prop came to life...that big Merlin rumbled.

He eased in the throttle, the roar shook the ground,
He taxied on out and turned it around.
He went through the run-up and seemed satisfied,
Then he said to himself, "I'm in for a ride."

So he lined it up straight as he poured on the coal,
The tailwheel came up as he started to roll.
Up off the runway, he sucked up the gear,
And that mighty V-12 was all you could hear.

He screamed overhead with a deafening crack,
Blue flames flying from each little stack.
"He pulled up the nose and started to climb,
No ice on that airframe, it didn't have time.

On top of the weather with the levers all set,
He looked up above him and saw a Learjet.
"With jet fuel and turbines there just ain't no class,
Gimmee pistons, and props and lots of avgas!"

Now he was approaching where he wanted to go.
But the weather had covered the runway with ice and snow
How will he land it? We just have to guess,
Because the only way in was a full I-L-S.

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CHARLIE BROWN

Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomber Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged and they were flying deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

After flying over an enemy airfield, a pilot named Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he 'had never seen a plane in such a bad state'. The tail and rear section was severely damaged, and the tail gunner wounded. The top gunner was all over the top of the fuselage. The nose was smashed and there were holes everywhere.

Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to control his damaged and blood-stained plane.

Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180 degrees. Franz escorted and guided the stricken plane to and slightly over the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe.

When Franz landed he told the c/o that the plane had been shot down over the sea, and never told the truth to anybody. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it.

More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew. After years of research, Franz was found. He had never talked about the incident, not even at post-war reunions.

They met in the USA at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now - all because Franz never fired his guns that day.

Research shows that Charlie Brown lived in Seattle and Franz Steigler had moved to Vancouver, BC after the war. When they finally met, they discovered they had lived less than 200 miles apart for the past 50 years!!

Note from
Sharon Gardner:

Lefty and I had the privilege of meeting Franz at several different functions through the years, CAF, P-38 Aces Group, etc. in fact I flew with him from the valley to San Antonio at a reunion in the late 70's in his ME-??? a four seater. Sharon



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (Continued)

Then over the outer marker, he started his run,
The ceiling was zero, visibility....none.
Still going three hundred and he felt the need,
For an overhead break to diminish his speed.

Over the numbers he zoomed, along like a flash.
Pulled into his break, we just knew he would crash.
Oh, why do they do it on these kind of nights??
Then over the threshold, we saw landing lights.

I'm on a short final with three in the green,
And I see enough runway to land this machine,"
Then he tied down that Mustang,
and they all heard him say,...
"Next year, I'm stickin' with my reindeer and sleigh..."



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE KITTY HAWK!

Santa was getting ready for the annual Christmas run when the local Federal Aviation Administration Inspector informed him, he was due for a checkride. Protest as he might, the FAA official would not let Santa fly until he had passed his checkride. So Santa schedules the checkride for the next day.

On the day of the checkride, the check-pilot grills Santa on restrictions, limitations on the sleigh, instrument procedures and emergency procedures.

Finally after four hours of pain, they go out to the sleigh for the flight. Santa harnesses the reindeer, taxis down to the end of the runway and prepares to takeoff.

He looks next to him, the checkpilot is struggling to pull a shotgun from under his seat. He watches as the checkpilot calmly loads the shotgun and jacks a round into the chamber. Santa nervously exclaims, "What Are You Doing!"

The checkpilot grins and says, "You are going to loose one on takeoff."

AIRPARK SOCIAL
No Airpark Social
For December
We'll meet at the
Lakeway Inn in January

AIRPARK WORKDAY
Saturday
December 9—8:30 AM
Board Meeting
Immediately Afterwards

Airpark Static Display Model
Ercoupe on top of a gas station in Wau-toma, Wisconsin that gave the idea to Bill Thompson for our Airpark static display. . Submitted by Wayne Wagner



LAKEWAY AIRPARK BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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