

# FAMFAM UPDATE

Friday AM Friends of Airport Manatee

issue 40

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## The Snowbirds Have Returned and taken over Popi's

Ever since the first of the year, our numbers have swelled as the snowbirds wing their way south. It's great to see familiar faces and friends once again. On Friday mornings the pilot lounge overflows into Charlie Turner's hangar and down the row to Rich Hueber's at the far end. There always seems to be an abundance of donuts, cookies, brownies, and more.

As if munchies at the airport weren't enough, a small crowd heads for Popi's for lunch. Last Friday we had sixteen as we scrambled to put tables and chairs together to seat everyone. Thanks to Mike Hascall's generous donation of free red shirts to commemorate our fighting forces, our group is easy to spot. I think I heard Teresa, our waitress, calling out, "the red shirts are coming... the red shirts are coming!"



## KEEPING THE AIRPORT NEAT

A few Friday's ago, Ron Jarvis presented Ricardo, Airport Manatee's maintenance man, a gift of several hundred dollars. Our FAMFAM group collected donations in appreciation for Ricardo's efforts in keeping the airport green and trimmed. Almost every day you can see him on the mower or pulling a roller down the runway. He has been doing it for thirty-five years. Ricardo is a quiet guy with a friendly smile and wave, who goes about his business in the background while we tinker with airplanes bouncing up and down his manicured turf. For those of us who love grass runways, we have Ricardo to thank for keeping ours in good shape.





## WINGS OR WATERMELLONS?

Timber and brush clearing continues on the north side of Airport Manatee. According to initial planning, a hard surface runway is slated to take the place of the current jungle. The reality of the situation is elusive since no one seems to know the actual status of the property. At least, no one is talking. Rumors and speculation suggest that, because the property was initially zoned agricultural, the first step in converting it to a runway will be to plant crops. In any event, the face of Airport Manatee is changing.



## A COUPLE OF OLD FARTS

Every Thursday several Airport Manatee pilots join the stream of aircraft heading for an Old Farts Fly-out somewhere in South Florida. Recently we gathered in Brooksville with over eighty other airplanes. If you want on the mailing list for upcoming events, send a



request to... [roger.dga15p@gmail.com](mailto:roger.dga15p@gmail.com)

## MY BOOKS

Yep... I still have books for sale. They can be bought on Amazon or I carry copies with me. Amazon offers both paperback and Kindle. Just Google Amazon and enter Lawrence V Drake to see all my books.

Reviews are always welcome... good, bad, or ugly.

VISIT: [DrakeIP.com](http://DrakeIP.com) to see all my books.



## Have You Ordered Your Cup?



Send the following to be printed:

- Name (prefer first and last)
- Favorite Picture (jpg file preferred)

To:

Larry Meadows - [lmeadowsw@yahoo.com](mailto:lmeadowsw@yahoo.com) or call (813) 419-4839



*If you have any announcements or news you would like to share with the group, please Email it to me and I will include in the next update (whenever that may be.)*

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