

FAMFAM UPDATE

Friday AM Friends of Airport Manatee

issue 43

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EAA Chapter 180 SPRING COOKOUT REVIEW



The turnout for EAA Chapter 180's Spring Cookout was less than exciting with only a handful of aircraft flying in. Particularly when compared to pre-covid fly-ins where dozens of aircraft lined the runway. Weather may have been somewhat to blame. Airport Manatee enjoyed blue skies while several of the surrounding airports were socked in. Even so, the food was good and so was the commoradary of those attending.

One huge bright spot was the unexpected arrival of two super stars. Well known Kermit Weeks of Fantasy of Flight showed up in the other star, a recently restored Sikorsky S-38. As I understand it, there are only two remaining. It is painted in its original livery when the aircraft acted as a camera platform in Africa

circa 1934-1935 for the famous explorers Martin and Osa Johnson.

Kermit hung around for several hours enjoying the company of fellow aviators. Our own Rachel Rheintgen got some special attention. Not unexpected for the attractive up and coming flight instructor pursuing an aviation career. All-in-all, the good food and surprise guest made the day a success.



Around the Airport



Whether it is to fly airplanes, work on airplanes, or talk airplanes, almost any day of the week, friends can be found gathering at Airport Manatee. Sue, Ron, Kathy, Winn, and Bruce (left photo) take a break for a photo op.

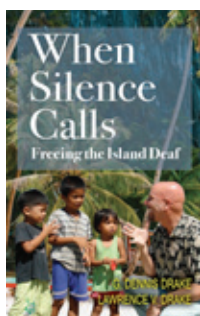
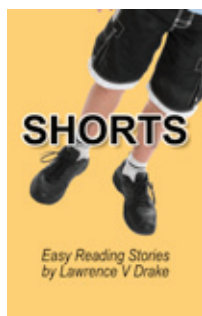
No, Smitty (center photo) isn't doing what you might think. He just needed to find a shady spot out of the wind to talk on the phone.

Wimauma's modified banner towing Cubs (right photo) found fuel available at Airport Manatee when their pumps went dry. Having had a banner in the past, I was surprised to see four tail hooks on each airplane. The pilot told me they could drop one banner and pick up another without having to land. Clever, I'd like to see a demonstration one day.

Progress on clearing the property north of the runway seems to have slowed to a halt. Still no new update on the plans for that area or the near term or future fate of Airport Manatee. We all hope that an airport improvement is still in the plans. If anyone any new reliable information, please contact me.

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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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