

FAMFAM UPDATE

Friday AM Friends of Airport Manatee

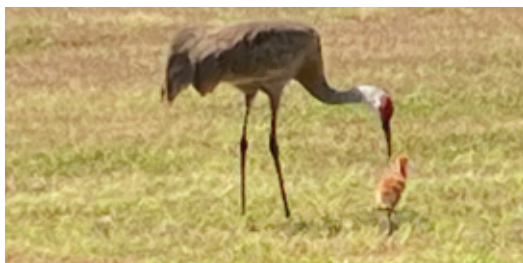
issue 44

*view previous newsletters online
drakeip.com/famfam*

MAY 5, 2023

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AHHH... THE SIGNS OF SPRING



The Snow Birds may be flying north but our resident Sand Hill Cranes stayed around and introduced a new cadet to the air field a few weeks ago. I had to do some fancy footwork in the Cub to avoid a close encounter while landing. Mom and Dad wouldn't take flight and abandon their pre-solo pupil to get clear of my approaching machine. They held their ground as I floated over their heads.

The chick must be a teenager by now, although I haven't seen it around lately. Even though the family is a bit of a pest when it uses the runway for meals, I like having them around. I hope the little shaver survives.

Sand Hill Cranes mate for life and usually have only one chick per season that survives to fledgling. I'd like to get the chance to see this one's flight training.

GREAT WEATHER AND GREAT PLANES



April didn't produce many showers but it did blow its way through the state. Even so, there were many days of good flying weather and lots of opportunity to practice crosswind landings. It seemed the wind took up a permanent path from the south directly across 5-27. Either way one sliced it, a lot of aircraft arrived with a wing down and into the wind.

Wind or no wind, almost any day sitting at the picnic table outside the pilot lounge provided a front row seat to the occasional unique aircraft feeling the grass at Airport Manatee. I caught this PT17 Stearman doing bounce and goes one morning while washing the Legend Cub. There's nothing like the sound of a Stearman.

Another day brought a beautiful Swift with enough great mods to make me and a few others drool. Both aircraft are products of the 1940s and belong on a grass strip. Both bring smiles to a lot of faces.

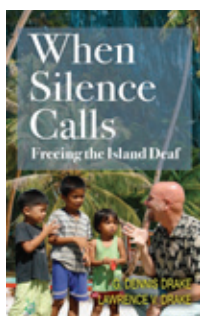
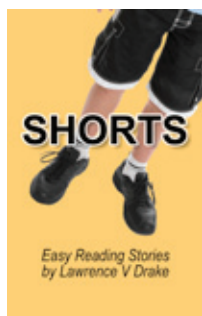
STOP THE DIRT

There were days in March and April when a constant wind blew across the barren fields south of Airport Manatee, caking our aircraft in dirt. Even the aircraft in enclosed hangars were not safe from the encroaching silt. After seeing the oily concoction building up on the Cub's air filter, I figured something had to be done. A few of us talked about it and figured an airfilter cover was the best solution. Some sewed a cover. Others fashioned a cover from wood. Magnets were chosen as the best method for attaching the covers. I discovered that a blank light switch cover plate is the exact size of the Cub's air filter. A hot-melt glue gun, some magnets, and red paint... voila... I had my cover. A chord attaches it to the cowl inlet covers so I won't forget to remove it.



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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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