

FAMFAM UPDATE

Friday AM Friends of Airport Manatee

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WON HIS WINGS

We lost a good friend this week. Bruce Sprouse was fishing with friends when he suffered a massive heart attack and passed away. Bruce and Beth were regulars at Airport Manatee during their Florida winters here. Bruce's wit, sense of humor, and hearty laugh will be sorely missed.

Bruce made a career in law enforcement. He was a people person and a great example of how compassionate and level-headed a police officer can be. He also had a love of aviation. He and Beth owned several aircraft over the years. Recently he had a Cessna 172 that he and Beth, a private pilot as well, flew together. He let his medical lapse so he could fly Sport Pilot while Beth kept him legal. He also had at least one Aeronca Champ... maybe two, to hear him talk.

Sun & Fun and EAA Airventure benefited from Bruce's volunteer spirit. He spent the events shuttling people around in golf carts. As I understand it, he was quite active at his home-based airport in Huntington, West Virginia, too. I should have paid more attention when he bragged about his home strip.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, September 2, at Central Christian Church, 1202 5th Ave., Huntington, WV. Viewing will be from 11:00 - 12:00. Services start at 12:00.

Unfortunately, this newsletter may not reach many of you in time.

We wish you well in the Wild Blue Yonder, Bruce.



The Three Amigos: Wim, Bruce, Ron

BURGERS AND DOGS

Many thanks go out to all who contributed to the success of the Manatee Airport Pilot Lounge Cook Out. Tom Reeder suggested it a month ago although it was slow to take root. John and Sue Santonocito reluctantly picked up on the idea at first but became the driving force for its success. What initially was to be a small group gathering at the picnic table with Tom's barbecue smoking away grew into a full-blown summer gathering of the



airport family. Thanks to the shinny big barbecue grill donated by Tom's sister and the chairs and tables he rented, plus all the potluck food, a virtual banquet ensued. Ron Jarvis's roasted corn on the cob was a hit. Jack Nichols took over spatula duties at the grill, turning out juicy burgers and tasty dogs. Everyone pitched in with setup and tear down. At one point I counted around fifty people. All-in-all, it turned out to be quite a success even with broiling temperatures.



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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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