

FAMFAM UPDATE

Friday AM Friends of Airport Manatee

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CHRISTMAS PARTY!

What happens when fifty aviators get together? PARTY!

The Christmas get-together at Popi's Restaurant was a huge success. A big thank you goes out to Jeff and Pam McNabb who kept us well entertained with music. Who knew they were so talented? Check out their website at starsatnight.net.

Sue Conklin went all out on homebaked cookies, while John and Sue Santonocito brought a huge tray of chocolate-coated pretzels. Popi's served a nice turkey and ham dinners.

After dinner, all played the chaotic white elephant gift exchange to the "pass left, right, or across" story of *The Origins of the Left Seat Pilot*. Everyone took home a gift, like it or not.

We have Tom Sawyer to thank for the idea of the Christmas party and for getting it rolling. Last year we had thirty-two souls on board... this year fifty-three. The party is indicative of a very special airport filled with very special people. A great time was had by all! Have a Merry Christmas!



AIRPORT NEWS

NO IMMEDIATE CHANGE

John Santonocito got the following message from Robert Blazer, owner of Airport Manatee.

We have no definite plans to change anything except to take down the berm and level the ground on the south side of the runway. We share your interest and concern for keeping this airport community functioning.

UNIQUE VISITORS

Hang around Airport Manatee (48X) for any time at all and you're bound to see some interesting aircraft come and go. The Icon Aircraft A5 (left) stopped as it was being delivered recently to its new Florida owner. A beautiful 1984 CAP 10B did some circuits around the patch while its new Saint Petersburg owner got a checkout. Unfortunately, I have lost the names of both owners. I hope they will return one day and join in on the FAMFAM gatherings.



INTERNATIONAL VISITORS



Last Friday you may have seen a group of guys hanging around Ashley Place's hangar while he gave rides in his Cessna 170. It turns out they are a visiting tennis team from Vietnam in the U.S. for a tournament. Their U.S. contact is a friend of Ashley's. Through the friend, the team said the airplane rides were the highlight of their trip. They were all excited with big smiles. Flight by anyone other than the military or commercial airlines is forbidden in Vietnam. Even drones are banned.

Talking with them, I couldn't help but be thankful for the freedom we have in the United States even though the regulations continue to expand and the costs escalate. At least we can fly.

MY BOOKS



Find my books at
DrakeIP.com
Available on
Amazon, Kindle, Barnes
& Noble, and more.



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.) ldrake@drakeip.com or phone 970 593-2711