

November 11, 2024 • ISSUE 62

New Life After Milton



Although Manatee Airport still looks like time has stood still since it was ravaged by Milton, there are signs of recovery. A few snowbirds have returned and found nesting spaces in the remaining hangars. The arrival Saturday of Mike Hascall's new LC-11 Legend Cub signaled a new dawn of replacement aircraft. It sits across from the crushed remains of his former bird and next to a J-3 of similar fate... a dichotomy of sadness and joy.

John and Sue Santonocito will be retrieving their newly acquired Cessna 150 next weekend to replace the one they had invested so much time and energy in, only to have it bounced off the roof of their hangar and dashed to the ground.

So many aircraft were deemed a complete loss by insurance adjusters. Even aircraft that appeared to have repairable damage were officially totaled. Without extensive and thorough inspection, it would be impossible to know what unseen damage was done by the 100+ mph winds that tossed aircraft and hangars around like untethered cardboard. Broken and bent control surfaces, busted brackets, and control yokes torn from the instrument panel called airframe integrity into question.

Even as twisted wreckage of aircraft and hangars overwhelm the field, spirits are high and there are signs that aviation is still alive and well at 48X. Pilots, airport friends, and aircraft have resumed their Friday morning gathering. Cubs, RVs, Cessnas, Pipers, and more arrive for coffee, donuts, and good conversation. Even a Stearman made multiple passes and left a trail of bil-

lowing white smoke in a farewell salute as it climbed out to the east. Tony Bennett's Dakota Hawk with Jack Nichols at the controls completed several circuits around the patch in a test flight as he works out some control issues. And, of course, lunch at Popi's after a morning of donuts and cookies at the airport was a must. All-in-all, the meeting of FAMFAM (Friday AM Friends of Airport Manatee) continues as a remarkable weekly event despite the efforts of Mother Nature to thwart it.

EAA Chapter 180 Fall Picnic/Cookout



If all goes well, Airport Manatee will again be the location of the EAA Chapter 180 Fall Picnic and Cookout. Here are the details:

Saturday, November 30, 2024
from 11 am – 2 pm
Airport Manatee (48X)
14108 US-41 Palmetto, FL 34221

Fly-in or Drive-in - Open to the Public

Brats, burgers, hot dogs, side dishes and desserts. \$15.00 per person.
Airplanes, Displays, Hanging out with fellow pilots, family and friends.
All proceeds support Young Eagles, Teen Aircraft, and Aviation Education Programs.

Hosted by EAA Chapter 180- EAA180.org

Christmas Dinner at Popi's



Popi's
Place
Family Restaurants



Mark your calendars **Friday, December 6th**, for the **Airport Manatee Annual Christmas Dinner**.

Once again we will gather at Popi's Place for food and fun. 6:00 - 8:00 pm

— WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR RSVP INSTRUCTIONS —

Dinner Choices: - \$20 each (or order from the menu)

- Fruit-glazed ham with two sides
Salad, rice pudding, and a drink
- Turkey and stuffing with two sides
Salad, rice pudding, and a drink

GIFT EXCHANGE GAME:

We had so much fun last year, we are doing it again -
Bring an **aviation related** gift from your collection of unwanted, unneeded, or just plain goofy airplane stuff.

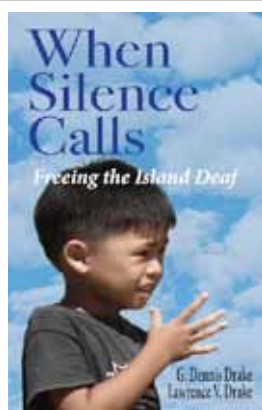


*No... we are not praying...
We are playing the gift-exchange game*

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