

December 10, 2024 • ISSUE 63

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Another successful Christmas dinner happened at Popi's Restaurant. This is the second year for the, now annual, FAM (Friends of Airport Manatee) Christmas Dinner. Thirty-five airport friends attended the Friday night event. The dinner was the brain child of Tom Sawyer. Tom and Donna Sue coordinated with Popi's through Teresa, our favorite waitress. They selected the menu, turkey or ham dinners, printed up name tags, and greeted everyone as they arrived.

Chris and Sue Conklin brought a gazillion home-baked assorted cookies for all to enjoy. Almost everyone came with a aviation related *white elephant gift for our exchange game. Some brought extras so everyone started with a gift. I (Lawrence) wrote up a story with the words "left," "right," and "across" in it. As Kathy Brassard read the story at the top of her lungs to overcome the laughter, everyone passed a gift as directed by the story. Some people ended up with great prizes while others found the had traded one white elephant for another.

My thanks to Kathy Brassard for snapping a bunch of pictures. Unfortunately, we were all too busy passing gifts around to take pictures of that frantic event.

A great meal, great friends, and great fun... what could be better.

* *"White Elephant come from a practice in India. When an albino elephant is born it considered sacred and cannot be worked sold or traded. All the owner can do is feed and care for it. No one wants to be saddled with a white elephant. It is useless.*



EAA Chapter 180 Fall Picnic/Cookout



EAA's Chapter 180 Fall Picnic/Cookout Saturday, November 30th had a better turnout that it has had for years. A lot of airplanes flew in for the brats, burgers, hot dogs and more. Even more drove in. The weather was clear but brisk and windy... a bit chilly for Floridians but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm.

Airport Manager, Tom Reeder, and his band of volunteers did a great job of directing air traffic. Everyone had an opportunity to inspect the variety of incoming aircraft from experimental to standard category.

All the proceeds from donations go to support Young Eagles, Teen Aircraft, and Aviation Education programs.



Helene Lingers On

Manatee Airport is slowly recovering from the effects of the hurricane. Some damaged aircraft have been moved out to the eastern tie downs and replaced by new and returning aircraft. Those that

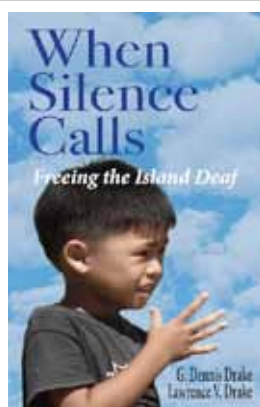


are pinned under collapsed hangars will have to wait to be freed. Sheet metal and destroyed hangar structures still lay where Helene left them but I understand that a contract has been let to a salvage outfit and cleanup should begin soon.

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