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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Cleanup following Hurricane Milton is finally underway at Manatee Airport (48X). Crews have been tearing down what is left of a dozen or so destroyed hangars and hauling away the skeletal remains and piles of metal. The fact that so many hangars were lost is possibly due to three things. One, the trees that once surrounded the airport and provided some shelter from surface winds were cleared. That left acres of barren farm fields giving winds a straight-line shot at the hangars. Two, the hangars were initially installed as “temporary” structures and therefore had very shallow footings. Many were wrenched from the ground. And, third, years of ocean air has eaten away at the steel frames, rusting the pipe trusses completely through, compromising the structural integrity.

What the future contains for the remaining hangars or any possibility of new hangars remains unclear as does the future of the airport itself. The once shiny new hangars with canvas roofs provided shelter for many years and became even more permanent when the canvas was exchanged for corrugated aluminum. No doubt there will be questions raised about the fate of the remaining aging hangars and their ability to protect their valuable contents in the next big blow.

We all hope for the best and desire to preserve the uniqueness of Manatee Airport. There are few like it left.

FIRST PLACE TROPHY



Flying around the pattern with Mike Hascall in his new Legend Cub, I spotted a strange structure sitting on the tail of his old squashed Cub. At first, I thought it must be a piece of the departed hangar but as I studied it with each pass it seemed to be in the shape of a trophy. *How could that be*, I thought?

After landing and putting the airplane to bed, we decided we had better take a closer look at that strange object. Sure enough... it was a trophy... a big one. I don't know who put it there, even after asking around, but how apropos. The plate indicated the trophy was awarded as the "People's Choice Static Airplane - 1st Place."

I found that the trophy was originally won by Dana Walker for his Challenger at the 2014 Greater Plant City Planes, Trains & Automobiles show. Unfortunately, Dana's Challenger was a casualty of Milton. A sad ending to an aircraft he had put so much time and effort into. I hope he reclaims his trophy, although it was great fun to find it on the tail of the Cub.



Good Food & Good Friends

Whether it's Friday's lunch at Popi's Restaurant or a Thursday fly-out to another airport with the Old Farts Flying Club, our Manatee Airport friends always have a good time swapping fantastic flying tales and eating good food.

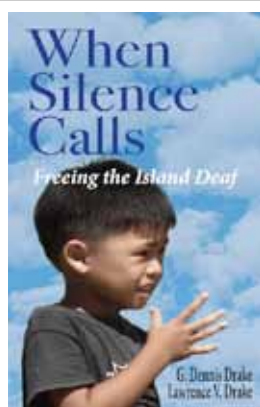


With the Snow Birds back the size of both groups has grown. We have to string together tables at Popi's on Friday. Thursday a group of fliers from Manatee Airport joined the Old Farts at Everglades City for fried seafood. All are welcome to join either or both groups. Bring your best flying stories.

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