

From: Lawrence Drake ldrake@drakeip.com
Subject: FAMFAM (Manatee Airport) Feb. Newsletter
Date: February 5, 2025 at 12:24 PM
To: ldrake@drakeip.com



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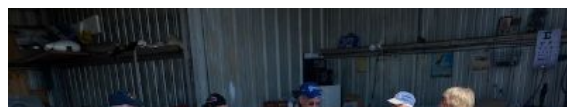
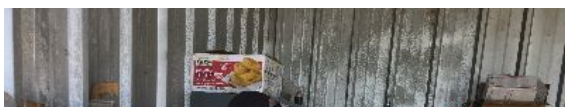
FAMFAM [Friday AM Friends of Airport Manatee]

February 4, 2025 • Issue 65



COLD MORNINGS IN JANUARY

January was a cold month at Airport Manatee. We spent several Fridays with donuts, cookies, coffee, and good conversation in the Pilot Lounge. For Florida birds, temperatures in the 30's and 40's were too chilly to fly in except for a few brave souls. Ah... but things warmed up slightly by the end of the month and the sun came out. Rich Hueber, Winn Ross, and Kathy Brassard hosted a chili cook-off in Rich's hangar that enticed everyone out into the crisp winter air. The winner was not determined. After all had sampled the goods and had their fill, a tie was declared.





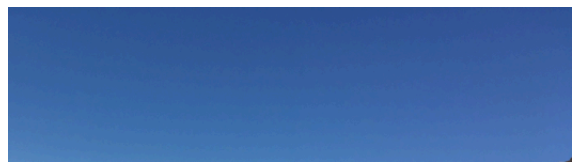
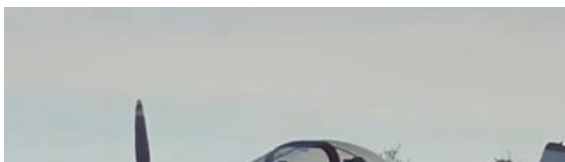
CANOPY DILEMMA

The pretty little red and white Mustang II took off last week with Ron Norfleet at the controls. I believe it was his second flight after months of he and John Santonocito spent sweating through the summer rebuilding the canopy. The mini tornado that tore through Manatee Airport last spring ripped the canopy off and destroyed it. The flight went well until, on down wind, the newly rebuilt canopy suddenly departed the aircraft. Ron is blessed with multiple lives because the canopy missed the tail section on its departure and Ron landed without further incident. Not a single scratch was found on the airplane.

Ron is not the first to have experienced a canopy loss in a Mustang II. Years ago the same thing happened to another Mustang II that resulted in the loss of the pilot and his 13-year-old passenger. Ron discovered there is a Service Letter from Mustang Aeronautics, Inc. addressing this issue but the modifications had not been made to his canopy. Luck was with him that day.

THE SEARCH -

Several searches have been conducted for the missing canopy. Rich and Ron flew circles over the area in Rich's C-150 and I did the same in the Legend Cub with the doors open. Ron and others even walked the area. With all the ponds and scrub brush on the downwind leg, the chances of finding the canopy have dwindled. Luke Yonge, a professional drone videographer, brought his drone to the airport and impressed and entertained everyone with its range and detailed images. Luke flew the drone all over the search area and came up empty handed as well. So... keep your eyes peeled while flying the downwind to 07. Its out there somewhere.





Stars at Night

Enjoy the music of Pam and Jeff McNabb

The image shows Pam and Jeff McNabb performing music on a stage. Pam is on the left, wearing a blue shirt, and Jeff is on the right, wearing a white shirt and a cap. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. Pam is playing a keyboard, and Jeff is playing a guitar. The background is a dark, starry night sky. The text "Stars at Night" is written in a white, cursive font at the top of the image. Below the image, the text "Enjoy the music of Pam and Jeff McNabb" is written in a white, sans-serif font.

Pam and Jeff are inviting FAMFAM to join them for an evening of music.

Saturday, February 22, 2025

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Riverside Bar and Grill (not far from the airport)

2035 Pier Drive, Ruskin, FL 33570

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

To get through the gate, enter #0000 in the call box.

to get through the gate, enter #8888 in the call box.

RSVP: pamszim@yahoo.com

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