

APRIL - 2011

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President's Message

Sometimes if you wait long enough, good things will happen to you. Such was the case this past Saturday for our fly-in to the Nutmag Soaring Society's first annual open house at Freehold airport on the northeast edge of the Catskill Mountains just southwest of Albany, N.Y. The weather, which started off as sort of overcast, ended as spectacular. It was the first spring weekend that wasn't IFR or had tornadic winds (like our last fly-in to Oxford, Conn.). At bOxford, Melissa Schipul had suggested this event as our April meeting venue. It couldn't have been better.

I flew up from White Plains, N.Y. with Marc Pekowsky in my Tri-Pacer. It turns out that Fabio Schulthess had captained a Lufthansa flight into Boston on Friday with a return to Munich on Saturday night. Mike Hirsch had planned to attend this event and hooked up with Fabio, to fly in from Beverly, Mass. in Mike's Pacer. As I landed, I noticed Rico Cannone's Tri-Pacer parked on the line. He had flown down from Saratoga, N.Y. with Basil De Bush. As Marc & I approached the "stage", we were greeted to music. It was a duet of singers that included Melissa Schipul singing and playing guitar. She had flown over in her pretty Clipper from OXC. Steve & Joyce Sevits drove down from E. Greenbush, N.Y. Flying in from the Saratoga area was Bill Natale in his latest project, a very nice PA-12. Last, but certainly not least, was our V.P. David Adamas. Dave flew over from his home at Windsock Village, New Hampshire. He encountered some scattered showers and questionable weather (localized) that prompted a stop to reconnoiter. It was good to see him after a winter season with some time spent in Florida (some with the

Florida SWPC chapter that both he & I are members of). He told us of his experience with the infamous Sun & Fun tornado. It certainly sounded scary to me!

We all had a good time watching the activity around this country airstrip that included sail planes, helicopters, a Yak, Waco UPF-7, a hot air balloon minus the balloon, a many characters such as ourselves! The food for sale was ok too. Our agenda for the meeting was dealing with hosting a future Short Wing Piper Club convention. Up until a week or so ago, we thought we could possibly host next year's (2012) convention at Saratoga, N.Y. This is not to be, mainly because the woman from the Greater Saratoga Visitor & Convention Bureau has not responded to us with the proposal for hotel/convention accommodations. Without this vital information by this date, and the fact that there is at least one other group that is ready with a proposal (Idaho) for presentation at this year's convention in Spearfish, we agreed to work towards a 2013 convention. This would also be the 20th anniversary of our hosting a SWPC convention (1993 Ellenville).

Besides continuing looking into Saratoga, N.Y., other venues to be investigated will be: Hartford, Conn., Lake Placid, N.Y., New Bedford, Mass., & Basin Harbor, Vt. The week would be the 1st week in July of 2013 starting on Mon. night & departing Friday (5th) morning. We must remember that \$\$\$ is one of the driving/deciding issues with lodging. It is generally high in the northeast. Do any of you have a suggestion?

I'm sure there are some of us that remember the old \$25 hamburger flight. Then came the \$50, \$75, & now (?) \$100 variant of the same. Next month, we'll have the opportunity to try a \$100 pizza flight to Saratoga, N.Y. with Rico Cannone and (probably) his hangar-mate as our hosts. Noon will be the time. The date is Saturday May 28th with Sun. the 29th the alternate. We'll get to experience the Saratoga airport, possibly talk with the management, and maybe even see a possible hotel? The particulars will come later, but that is the date & location for May.

June has 2 events. The first is the EAA spring pancake breakfast at Kliekill, N.Y. (NY1) on Sat. June 4th with the 5th as the alternate. The other is the last day of Sentimental Journey at Lock Haven, Pa. on Sat. June 25th. Fabio Schulthess told us that the Sugarbush, Vt. airshow will be on Sunday July 3rd. We agreed that we will try to get to that popular event as a group. Remember that this is (I believe) a one day only event. More on this later. We'll try again for our "beach party" at Katama airfield on South Beach on Martha's Vineyard, Mass. On Sat. July 16 with the 17th the alternate. We'll end the season with our annual bash at Marcia & Zene Garnsey's on Sat. Aug. 27th with the 28th the alternate.

All too soon, it was time to return to HPN. Westchester County airport is the antithesis of Freehold. The more I fly to fields such as Freehold, the more I miss them. I miss them because they are disappearing from our flying experience. They close up! Freehold was rescued by the Nutmeg Soaring Society, who bought it from the famous Clem Hoovler. I started my flying life at a field smaller than this. Along the way, I have been base at other small "country fields" including Flushing airport in NYC, just east of La Guardia. I am presently based at HPN which is one of the busiest fields in the east with corporate, airline, and ever dwindling private aviation. What is it about those country strips that draws many of us to travel great distances to either base our planes or just hang out at? I am going to

write an article on that subject that I will share with you as well as in the Short Wing Piper News. Until Saratoga, fly safe & I hope to hear from you with convention suggestions. – Andy



L to R: Rico Cannone's Tri-Pacer, Mike Hirsch's Pacer, & Andy Seligson's Tri-Pacer at Freehold.



Bill Natale & his PA-12



Seated L to R: Steve & Joyce Sevits, Melissa Schipul, Mike Hirsch, Fabio Schulthess. Standing L to R: Rico Cannone, Andy Seligson, Bill Natale.



Dave Adams arriving at Freehold.



Glider being towed aloft



A study in balance L. Basil DeBush & Rico Cannone.



A beautiful Fairchild F-24



L to R: Fabio Schulthess, Rico Cannone, & David Adams