



President's Corner – February 2009

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As I'm writing this I'm looking out into the frozen tundra of my front yard and recalling the many warm summer days spent basking in the sunshine and dangling my feet in the lake. It seems as though spring will never get here as we endure the slow crawl of February days. It is just then that I notice an email in my inbox from Steve Taylor, facilities manager at the AirVenture grounds inviting me to check out his latest blog entry at the EAA website. For those of you who attend the yearly convention you might want to visit Steve's blog* as it is a play by play of what's happening on the Whitman field site. Amazing! They're in full swing with their construction and site renovation activities. I guess summer is not that far off after all!

As a special activity this month we will be holding our yearly Chili Feed in Boreal Aviation's maintenance hangar at Sawyer. We encourage all spouses and guests to attend and the cost of admission is a pot full of your own special prepared chili which we will combine together to create a culinary delight. If you would prefer, you may bring a go-with dish (chips, slaw, crackers, cake, etc) instead. Please call Lynn Kirkpatrick at 346-3036 and let her know what you will bring so she can help coordinate the menu. I promise to keep the business meeting to an absolute minimum so as not to bore the spouses. We will begin at 10:00am and eat as close to noon as possible.

I recently returned from Daytona Beach Florida where I had a very unique opportunity to participate with Spruce Creek Airpark residents in a weekly event they term as a "gaggle". Every Saturday, weather permitting, residents and guests gather under the "Big Tree"; a very old live oak located adjacent to the runway to participate in a flyout. This weeks flyout was to Dunn field (X21) in Titusville, Fl . Titusville is located just a few miles from the Kennedy Space Center. What made this a unique flyout is that the 35 or so aircraft that participated did so in waves of formation flights. I was privileged to fly with the airport manager, Sal DeVincenzo in a twin Comanche with the call sign of "White Flight Lead". There

were three other aircraft in our formation, among them a vintage Straight Tail Beech Bonanza and a V-tailed A-35.

While we were the “White Flight”, another “go-fast” formation was even more unique; that of “Yellow Flight”, which consisted of two Swearingen SX-300 aircraft, a Lancair and of all things a Beech King Air ... that’s right I said a King Air who, by the way, was a wingman, not a leader! Now that was a strange looking formation. As we approached our destination each leader called for the “break” directly over the runway as we transitioned into echelon formation for the final approach and landing, all together as a formation. Breakfast was on-field at the local establishment called the Outer Marker Café. I have to thank Chapter 288 president, Keith Phillips for making this experience possible. I will write an article with more detail in the near future.

Hope to see you and your spouse this Saturday ... come hungry!

Ted Kirkpatrick
aerokirk@miuplink.com

*go to Steve Taylor’s blog at
<http://airventuresiteupdate.blogspot.com/>