



## President's Corner - October 2007

Another sad note to start this month's article ... as most of you know, Don Garlick, our past Vice President and current board member has passed away in a tragic boating accident. Many of our chapter members attended Don's funeral on Saturday to send him off on his high flight. I still can't believe he's gone and this year's Christmas party just won't be the same without our Party Chairman but I'm sure Don would have wanted us to carry on the tradition and so we will. Don has been an inspiration to our chapter ever since its inception and the fact that we are still an active chapter is due in part to Don's willingness to always step forward and volunteer his time and talent to insure our success.

Our October fly-out to Land-O-Lakes went off as scheduled with four planes making the trip. Our mission there was less successful however since gusting winds and shear caused us to cancel the Young Eagle flights. The organizers were still happy that we had participated and gave each of us a "free pass" to lunch. It was great to be able to mingle with the local pilots and I spent much of the morning talking with another Comanche driver and inspecting his cherished PA-30. It always amazes me how similarly we all are in our likes and frustrations. The wind never did let up and after departing in the afternoon and climbing out of the turbulence I was pleased to see a ground speed of 158 knots.

The fall colors are all but gone and the best flying weather is behind us for the year but there is still time to plan for an event or two before the snowbirds leave us. Anyone interested in a chili feed? Let's think of ideas to kick around at our Saturday meeting. I would also like to talk a bit about the proposed increase in fuel flowage fees and see if there is something we could do to convince our County leaders to reconsider.

Any chapter members interested in being considered for chapter offices should contact Lynn Sykes by next Saturday as the nominating committee reports their findings to me at that time. As we are now seeing our charter member list diminish, we need to foster new leaders to step up and carry the torch for general aviation.

I spoke last month about the need to grow our chapter website into a more robust, informational oriented site for our members. I don't want to see this idea die because I believe that a strong website will lead to a stronger, more involved membership. I still get an occasional email or call to ask about what our chapter is doing, where we stand on a particular issue or when and where our next monthly meeting will be held. This obviously means that not everyone is aware of and using our main informational tool which should be our website. Please give it some thought and try to submit something that would be of value to our members. You don't necessarily have to author a piece, it could be as simple as a clipped article or item for sale. For that matter, if you have something for sale, it doesn't even need to be aviation related. If you want input or opinions from the other members, what better way than to state your case in a forum column on the website?

Though I have not as yet talked with Scott S. as to room availability, I am hoping to hold our meeting in the Boreal Conference Room. Please plan to attend. The meeting will start at 10am as always.

Ted Kirkpatrick