

The Flight Line



JUNE 2002

EXCURSIONS & FLY-OUTS

The mild weather of May has been ideal for fly-outs, making the best out of the last of our Spring weather. The weekend of the 11th and 12th John Brewer hosted the FSAACA get-together at his airport in Pomona Park. This field has smooth turf kept well groomed and has first class facilities. John's reputation as a generous host was evident by the wide turn-out with some planes staying Friday through Sunday.

The weekend of the 26th was perfect for a flight up the coast to St. Mary's to visit the FBO, open and doing well now with restrictions lifted. The downtown area is a short drive in the courtesy pick-up and has a scenic waterfront area with restaurants and

outdoor activity shops as well as access by boat to Cumberland Island. This is a beautiful area and still quiet. There are also three good restaurants a short walk from the airport.

Last weekend was again good flying and a number of us headed over to Jumbolair just this side of Ocala. Now this is a great private airport! The North-South is big enough to bring in 707's and there's a turf East-West on the North end. They had the first 1500 feet displaced to handle all the taxiing traffic but there was plenty of room left to land on (even the Grumman Albatross had enough room.) This operation is well organized from approach in the pattern clear through dessert. The food is really

excellent and the staff is professional. They now have a B&B and various outdoor activities, mostly horse related. This is a popular spot on the first Sunday of each month with often over 100 planes coming in between 10 and 2. The return flight reminded us that SUMMER IS HERE and the thermals made us grateful we missed sampling ALL the food available.

The next Excursion is scheduled to be to the mountains of the Carolinas to get us out of this heat. The date has yet to be determined but July appears to be a good time to plan for a break. Anyone interested just come to the second Saturday meeting on the 8th or please call 829-9733.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE FLIGHT SURGEON'S DESK

By N. Patrick Hale, M.D., Senior FAA Medical Examiner

When should I be concerned about hypoxia?

Hypoxia is the result of insufficient oxygen reaching the brain and other organs. The symptoms include headache, inability to think clearly, to see clearly, inability to perform tasks correctly, and may result in unconsciousness. You should be concerned about it when you fly at higher altitudes, especially at night. Smokers are affected at lower altitudes due to carbon monoxide in their red blood cells. It may have an effect on your ability to fly safely without you being aware of it.

What are the FAA requirements for having Oxygen available in my unpressurized aircraft?

For private pilots (Part 91), the FAA permits you to fly for 30 minutes at pressure altitudes above 12,500 feet up to and including 14,000 feet without oxygen. After 30 minutes you must use supplemental oxygen. At cabin pressure altitudes above 14,000 feet, the flight crew must use supplemental oxygen continuously. You must make oxygen available to passengers above 15,000

feet. For Part 135 operations and for pressurized aircraft, the regulations are different. Many pilots find that using oxygen above 10,000 feet during the day, and above 5,000 feet at night and for the last 30 minutes prior to landing at night, improves their performance significantly.

What is the rule for flying after drinking alcohol?

The FAA regulations prohibit pilots from performing cockpit duties within 8 hours after drinking any alcoholic beverage or while under the influence of alcohol. Even after your body has metabolized the alcohol, the hangover effects can significantly impair you. Alcohol makes you much more susceptible to spatial disorientation and hypoxia. An excellent rule is to allow at least 12 to 24 hours

from "bottle to throttle" depending on how much you drank and the severity of the residual effects.

May I take diet pills or appetite suppressants and fly?

The safe answer is to take no medications unless approved by the FAA. Diet pills may cause excessive stimulation, palpitations, and headaches and may interfere with blood pressure medications. You should ask your physician for advice if unsure. The AOPA website has a list of FAA approved medications.

If you have any questions you would like answered in future newsletters you may send them to me by e-mail at phale175@aol.com. Best wishes and fly safely!



NEXT SAAPA DINNER • TUESDAY JUNE 25, 2002

In keeping with our "couples speak" format for our SAAPA dinners, we have retired American Airlines Captain Warren RauHofer and his flight attendant wife Abigail who will talk to us about airport and airline security. They will give us a short

history of aviation security describing where it was, where it is today and a wag on where it is going.

They will also talk about some events of 9-11. We will see you all on June 25th at the St. Augustine Rod and Gun Club.

CONTROL TOWER DEDICATION

Today, June 3, 2002 the St. Augustine-St. Johns Airport Authority had a dedication of the new control tower. Local dignitaries and the general public were invited. Funding for the control tower project was received from the Florida Department of Transportation. The tower construction design and construction were completed by the Fannin-Davis Company 30 days ahead of schedule.

At this time not all equipment has been installed and training of the tower staff is to begin in the next month.

All controllers will be certified. The visual view of the field from the control tower is very good.

Bill Rose, Chairman of Airport Authority open the dedication ceremonies followed by comments from State Representative Doug Wiles. County Commissioner James Bryant spoke of the vision of the past Board authority in realizing the need and pursuing it. Comm. Bryant acts as a liaison between the Airport Authority and the County Commission.

A luncheon was served and ceramic Airport Authority mugs were provide to the public to recognize this occasion.

This Saturday Ed Wuellner will be our guest speaker concerning the initial operation of the Control tower... so don't miss this important meeting.

SAAPA CALENDAR

In the next few months these flying events maybe of interest to SAAPA pilots & members:

June 15

New Bern, SC Carolina Aero Club
(919) 779-1504 www.cibres.com/cac

July 6

Gainesville, GA EAA 611
34 th Annual Cracker Fly-In at (GVL)
for more information, call Mick
(770) 531-0291 www.eaa611.com.org

Sept 25-29

Newnan, GA
27th Annual International Cessna
120/140 Association. Charlie (770) 927-6179

Meetings

Our meetings are always on the
second (2nd) Saturday
of each month at 9:00 a.m.
at the airport.

Join us for our next meeting

JUNE 8TH

To send an email to ALL SAAPA members that have signed up for the email service just send an email to:

SAAPA@yahoogroups.com

- to be added to that list, go to our web site: **www.SAAPA.org** and follow instructions at bottom right of the St. Augustine picture.

www.SAAPA.org



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St. Augustine
Airport



Pilots Association

c/o Robert Fleming, Newsletter Editor

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