

THE ANTIQUE TIMES

A tribute to the old planes and the people who love to fly them.



PRESIDENTS PRE-FLIGHT

It is time for another President's Preflight and I am writing this on Memorial Day early morning thinking that this is a good time to write this as many of us that own airplanes own a warbird era or maybe one that was used as a civil air patrol or some other type of service to our country. And those of that do I am sure have spent many hours while flying these type of planes have thought about all the Men and Women that served out Great Country flying these very same airplanes. I know that when I am flying the Stearman I can't help but to think about how many WW2 aviation cadets sat in the very seat that I am sitting in and how those instructors spent hundreds of hours in the front seat of the very airplane that I am flying and of all the other people that are not with us anymore that have spent time in that very seat including my Dad.

Anyway as far as things going on in my world of flying I have to tell about my most unusual ride that I have ever given in the Stearman. A couple of weeks ago my son Justin's girlfriend

Jesse graduated from college as a registered nurse, and Tabatha and I had a small reception in my hangar for her grilled some steaks and had a great meal but the gusty cross winds kept us from hoping some rides until later that afternoon when the winds died down some and was more favorable for giving some rides.

Anyway after a couple of others went up in the old bi-plane Justin asked me if it would be too weird if I gave Rod a ride, now I will explain who he is. Back in 1997 I flew my J-3 to Blakesburg for the annual fly-in there and on the way home fought weather for three days, in the evenings when I would give up for the day I would call home and tell my then wife that I would not be home and she would tell me that's fine take your time no hurry. Well there was a

reason for that I soon found out after I got home and started spending much time and money with attorneys and Judges as she was in no hurry for me to get home so she could spend more time with you guessed it, Rod. So when Justin asked

me to give Rod a ride I had no problem with doing so as I have forgave and forgotten. But I was told latter that evening that my ex-wife was heard saying "now that's a sight". But I bet he sure wondered If I had forgave and forgotten about all that. Anyway that is my most unusual ride so far. However my second most unusual was my wife Tabatha's ex- husband.

On to more flying things I recently flew the Skylane to Illinois to meet with a customer of mine to look at a duck habitat area (he wants one built on his ranch north of Paxton) he and his associates flew into Peoria in his private jet and met me there and we had a really good time looking at the type of water fall set up that was there along the Illinois river. I departed for the trip on Friday morning planning on making Galesburg but I know that there were some shower and light t storms still there on the back side of a low. So I planned on Ottumwa IA for a break and a check of the weather and the showers were still over the GBG area so what a great time to use the courtesy car and visit Antique Airfield. I had a great time visiting with Brent and Ben Taylor. This was the first time that I have been to Antique Airfield not during the fly-in and it sure seemed strange to be there and no airplane parked all over on the grass, no Hy-vee mess hall, no pilots pub open, no flying going on, no story telling (other than Brent) but I did have a real good time visiting there with them.

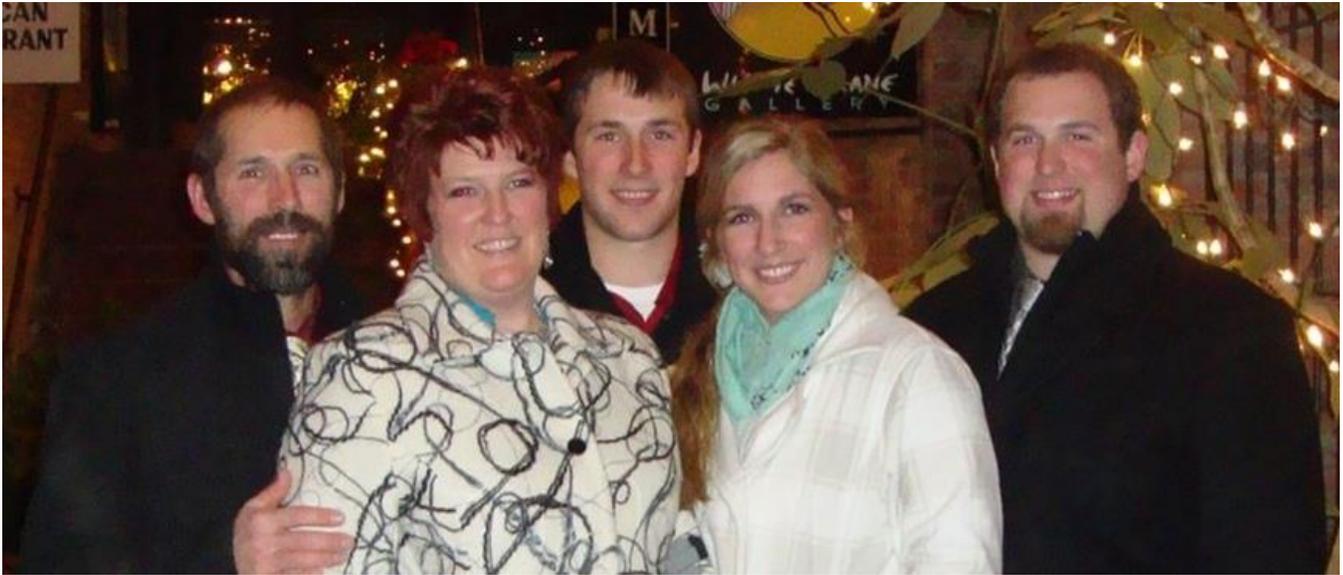
Then after a weather check I headed on to Galesburg for the night. Now I have been to Galesburg many times and I found it difficult this time when using the radio not to start out saying steerman but to instead make myself remember to say skylane. And once again it sure was unusual not to see Stearmans all over the

airport and in the air especially the next morning with the weather. From GBG I flew to Lacon Ill and went to the habitat site and spent a few hours there before departing back west to stop at RedOak to visit with Nick and Dianne Hildreth. After nick greeted me with a cool one he gave me a tour of what should be called Nicks museum of planes and motorcycles and other interesting things. Then they took me to their cabin just a few miles south of town where they made a great meal of bratts and fixens followed by cannon shooting and story telling. After a good night sleep there they gave me a ride back to the airport and a uneventful flight back home and on the ground by 8:30 am. It was a fun little trip which I did in just a couple of days which I usually spend 10 days doing in the Stearman.

That is about all I have for now except there are a lot of fly-ins coming up some are bigger weekend ones and some are breakfast fly-ins so please try to get out to as many of them as possible , remember they also go through a lot of work to put these on as we do for our fly-in. Our next meeting will be June 7 York Ne. airport. This will be during the state fly-in so make sure to plan accordingly as there is an airshow that day and the airport will be closed for a time. Please see enclosed info in this newsletter for more info.

That is it for now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Over and Out for now
Todd H.
(308) 380-5079



THE SCHMITZ'S NORMAL

By Jaimie Schmitz

When someone asks me what my parents do, I say it's complicated. My mother Janet was a massage therapist for twenty some years and then she let her creativity become a career as a multimedia artist creating amazing things on canvas, paper and really anything she can get her hands on. My father Pat is a farmer, robotic/CNC technician, mechanic of everything, and a pilot. Everything that my parents did always seemed like the normal and I thought everyone's parents did all those things. It never occurred to me that other farmers didn't fly their planes over to their other pastures to check cows. The thought never crossed my mind that the other dads weren't into the thrills and joys of flight. It did occur to me that the other moms were the worrying type along with mine.

Dad always kept the door open for us kids if we ever wanted to get our pilot license too. It just hasn't worked out for us yet. My older brother, Michael, thinks planes are cool and enjoys flying, but never had the desire to go out and do something about it. My little brother, Luke, and I have always had the love of the air. We have always talked about getting our license, but it hasn't worked out. Our dad always filled

our need to fly with a simple flight here or there. When we talk about skydiving, Michael would rather watch whereas Luke and I are right up there ready to jump already.

Dad's favorite quote is from Leonardo Da Vinci: "Once you have tasted flight you forever walk the earth with your eyes skyward for there you have been and there you long to return."

Dad has always looked to the sky and watched birds with envy wishing he could fly as they did. His brother Joe and he once had the idea that they could build a giant kite that could carry them up into the sky, but it didn't work out that way. It turned out so big and heavy that it couldn't even fly by itself without self-destruction. In the mid-1970s Dad got his first airplane ride when his brother Joe talked a local pilot friend into taking them up for a research paper and Dad got to ride along. In the early 90s, he took his first flight lessons but it was sporadic and didn't get logged because he had two different instructors and both suddenly moved away. On November 14th 1995, he made his first solo flight followed by extensive solo flying but still sporadic lessons due to scheduling conflicts,

trying to raise a young family, and working two jobs. On 11-30-06, he finally achieved his private pilot certificate.

Dad has owned 6 different planes, 4 tail draggers and 2 tricycle gears. His favorite was the 1941 Aeronca 65CA and now that he only has the 1968 Cherokee and really misses the old tail dragger with its economical simplicity however the Cherokee is a good fit for now with regular trips of over 200 miles to visit his son Luke, his sister Mary, or to transport myself to Omaha or home on occasions.

Dad has experienced several engine power losses with most of them in the Aeronca with after each time he would find an issue that he would explain the cause of the engine power loss just to have it come back again 5 to 25 hours later. Finally the last discovery was a couple chicken feathers in the gas tank (from the previous owner) after which the problem never returned.

The greatest joy for my dad is introducing flight to people.

Aviation has always been a big passion in my family, even if a few family members have no desire to pursue anything with it for themselves. Many times we have taken our family vacations

to Oshkosh, WI for the EAA Fly-in and road trips are our favorite way to bond.

Our lives are currently always changing for the better and constantly surprising us. This year all three of us kids were in college. Michael in his last year, I was in my third year, and Luke in his first year. Michael graduated with a criminal justice degree from Wayne State College and is currently a Deputy Sheriff in Cedar County. Luke just finished his first year at Northwest College majoring in geology and just came back from Scotland and Ireland on Memorial Weekend. I am living in Omaha going to UNO for Broadcast Journalism with the hopes of radio broadcasting and online writing and am actually currently dating a pilot. So not only does aviation run in my family life, but now in my personal life, which I am excited about.

Mom and Dad are always flying somewhere for some reason. On many occasions they will fly to Maryville, Missouri to see Luke or to Colorado for an anniversary getaway.

Wherever we seem to go, our passions are always following us. Whether its art, rocks, writing or flying. It all is just part of our normal lives.

Calendar of Events

June 7 NEAA Chapter Meeting 10:00am at York

June 12 – 16 Lincoln (LNK) B17 Flight & Silverhawk Aviation Tours

June 19 – 21 Wayne (LCG) Ercoupe Owners Club National Fly In

June 22 Elgin (NE44) Fly In breakfast at Koinzan Airfield

June 27 – 28 Kansas City Vintage Aircraft Fly In

July 19 & 20 Defenders of Freedom Open House and Air Show AFB

August 22 – 24 NEAAA Fly In at Minden

August 25 – 27 Husker Hawkeye Tour

August 27 – Sept. 1 Blakesburg National AAA Fly In

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

PAT SCHMITZ

Our meeting at York looks to possibly have some weather challenges, however since we have much to finalize for our fly in, the meeting will happen rain or shine.

Hope to see You Saturday in York!

Fly-In Agenda:

- Friday Lunch: BBQ that Todd brings, and Pat will get chips and buns.
- Friday Evening cream can, Todd will check on sausage.
- Beverages, Club manages & Kent volunteered to take care of getting pop and bottled water: Other beverages to be arranged.
- Restaurant and bar are closed, Todd mentioned to have a presidents reception in the motel basement Friday after cream can supper.
- Saturday Breakfast, biscuits and gravy (Pat will bring), scrambled eggs, and hash browns.
- Saturday Lunch Hamburgers (Kent will bring, club members will patty on Friday afternoon), chips, and baked beans.
- Possible Saturday afternoon wedding.
- Banquet at motel in basement, motel will set up chairs and tables, we must provide a caterer (Todd has talked to Finney's in Gibbon and will confirm, Hand sliced sirloin, baked potato, lettuce, corn, and roles & butter. Alcohol beverages can be brought in but motel sill not serve, Todd will check into other local options.
- Sunday continental breakfast at motel and depart after fog lifts.

Husker Hawkeye tour:

- Sunday evening at Todd's for supper at his hanger, it was suggested that club help defray cost but Todd declined at this time. However we still need to find some way to transport people.
- Monday morning, go to Cabalas & Car museum, still need to find transportation; Todd will check with Kearney on possibility of local trolley.
- Monday afternoon/evening fly to Norfolk (OFK) and have an outdoor BBQ at Barnstormer restaurant with drinks and games then transport to hotel.

Talk around the patch is possibly a few of us getting together to fly down to Kansas for their vintage aircraft fly in on June 27 and/or 28. If anyone has thoughts they may want to join in the caravan or catch a ride, drop me an e-mail at flyingfield320@yahoo.com or call me most evenings at home 402-395-2777; I will be putting a list together to determine interest and get it organized. Let me know if interested!

Kansas City Area Vintage Aircraft

FLY-IN 6-27 & 28

Bring you Vintage aircraft and enjoy our fly-in at the “Greatest Little Airport in Kansas!”

Friday Night: Early arrivals enjoy a potluck dinner (donation) and movies on the field.

Saturday: Breakfast 8-10 (pilots that fly in eat free)

Lunch available on field (donation)

Flying Events (LSA only)- Short Field, Bomb drop

Luscombe maintenance seminar (tail attachment) 1 pm

Garmin Seminar on their Pilot App for Mobile devices 2 pm

Movies, Pizza and refreshments, Saturday night on the field (donation)

Sunday: Breakfast Fly-out to Miami County Airport – Departures

Lodging at the Super 8 motel in Gardner (913)856-8887

Camping available on field

Contact Kevin Pratt (816)985-3248 kpratt@vaa16.com

Jeff Sullens (816)729-3151 skydevil54@gmail.com