



Freeman Flash

**NEWSLETTER of the FREEMAN FIELD
FLYING ASSOCIATION**

Volume XXII, Number 3, **March, 2020**

Larry Bothe, Editor

Website: www.freemanfield.org

Coronavirus!

How is coronavirus affecting our immediate aviation life?

Your Editor: I'm taking a hiatus from flight instruction. As a high-risk person (over 70, mild COPD), I don't want to interact with the public any more than necessary. I intend to fly my airplane, alone, periodically, to keep my skills up.

Cherry Hill Aviation: They are doing business as usual. That makes sense. Other than for an airplane drop-off or pickup (just one person), they don't interact very much with the general public. Low risk.

Airport Office: Also doing business as usual. They don't normally get a lot of visitors, and activity is down since the advent of the virus. They intend to hold the monthly meeting via teleconference this week. They didn't have a quorum on 3/16, due to board members being out of town.

Freeman Army Airfield Museum: Closed at least until 4/18, due to coronavirus.

FFFA Meeting News

The March FFFA meeting was cancelled due to coronavirus, and some other factors as well. Now that is becoming apparent that the pandemic is not going to resolve itself in a few weeks, **the April 9th meeting is cancelled as well.**

Whenever we hold the next meeting, the program will be about ADS-B, and

specifically oriented toward people like me that fly airplanes not yet equipped with the required ADS-B Out. Where can (and can't) we fly? What do we have to watch out for? What if we really need to go into "rule" airspace? How do we stay out of trouble? We'll have a Power Point presentation and a discussion. Note that I mentioned this program to the EAA webinar guy, and he wants me to do it for them, without even seeing the slides.

Cherry Hill Adds Rental Aircraft at North Vernon

Lance Bartels bought and refurbished a 1973 Piper Cherokee, and is basing it at North Vernon. It has a new interior, and a Garmin 375 GPS/Transponder, which is ADS-B compliant and has a color display for traffic, weather and navigation.



Cherry Hill's Cherokee 140, now based at OVO. Note that this is a "before" picture. It's a whole lot nicer after the refurbishment.



This is what the new Garmin GTX 375 looks like.

If you would like to take lessons in this plane, or get checked out for rental, call Lance at 812-322-6762. He will make arrangements for you. He has an instructor available. The rental rate is the same as for Cherry Hill's Cessna 172 at Seymour; \$145 per hour, wet, or \$135 per hour if you buy a block of 10 hours of time up front.

Museum Archives

News of the Freeman Army Airfield Museum



The Freeman Army Airfield Museum is a completely separate entity from the Freeman Field Flying Association. Some of our board members (L. Bothe, K.

James) overlap. The FFFA on occasion supports the museum with gifts of money for worthy projects.

FMI www.freemanarmyairfieldmuseum.org.

The sliding door to the main building storage area is completed. The new dig parts soaking tank finally came in. It is being used to soak the crud off a landing gear strut.

We have decided on a way to get the AT-10 display out of the media room, in order to expand the media room seating capacity. Think musical rooms. We'll move the staff area to the south end of the Library, and put the AT-10 display in what was the staff room. That will get us another 10 seats.

Member Accomplishments

Larry Bothe visited with **Tom Hallow** while vacationing in Florida in late February. Tom took Larry over to the upscale fly-in community at Spruce Creek (near Daytona), where they stopped for a beer at the Downwind Café on the field. It would be difficult to afford to live there, but it is very nice to visit.



They also stopped at New Smyrna Airport, where there is a repair and restoration facility for large WWII aircraft. The EAA's B17, *Aluminum Overcast*, was there for some repair work. A B-24 that Tom had seen being run up (oil all over the place) sat on the ramp. There was a kind of beat-up B-25 with some very original nose art.



Honorary FFFA member **Lew Owens, FAA Aviation Safety Program Manager**, is retiring from the FAA on March 31st. Lew has put on safety seminars, and helped a lot of us personally, for many, many years. We wish him well in his retirement.

LSC Glider Topics

By Bob Walker (UPS Bob)

Bob usually writes a column for us each month, but when I emailed to remind him, he told me he was stuck in a blizzard

somewhere in Kansas. He's headed to the Univ. of Colorado to pick up his son, because the school has closed due to coronavirus. Bob reports that traveling is sort of like a zombie apocalypse movie. Nobody is on the road. Hotels and restaurants are closed. Very weird. No glider article this month.

Bob told your editor that the glider club is doing solo flights. There is 200 feet of rope between the glider pilot and the tow pilot, making for very minimal social interaction associated with glider flying. However, the LSC has cancelled a clean-up event at their hangar, and they will *likely* postpone their annual meeting in April. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for the latest information.

Add'l Coronavirus Cancellations

Sun 'n Fun, which would have started 3/31, has been postponed until May 5th. (Editor's guess: SnF will be cancelled entirely.)

Purdue Aviation Day, which would have been on April 18th, is cancelled.

Editor's Note: Just yesterday, 3/24, two major British aviation events (Farnborough and Royal Tattoo) that were to have been held in late July, were cancelled. I'm really beginning to fear that AirVenture will fall by the wayside as well.

Longest Airline Flight

It was reported by Aero News Network on 3/20/20 that coronavirus has resulted in the world's longest-ever airline flight. An Air Tahiti Nui Dreamliner made the epic flight from Tahiti in French Polynesia, to Paris on March 14th; a distance of 9765 miles. But it wasn't on purpose. US travel restrictions prevented the flight from landing at Los Angeles, as they normally would. Since they were lightly loaded and could carry an enormous amount of fuel, they went non-stop to Paris. The plane was airborne for just under 16 hours. The previous record was held by Singapore Airlines, which offers regular passenger service between Singapore and Newark, NJ, a distance of 9,534 miles.

COVID-19 vs Airline Industry

By Adam Springmeyer, 3/22/20

Hello FFFA Members, and I hope you are experiencing good health in this difficult time. We have all seen the news regarding the spread of COVID-19, and the weird hoarding of the nation's supply of toilet paper (still cannot explain that one.) The spread of this virus has hurt plenty of jobs and businesses. I wish I could say the airline world was unaffected by this virus, but we have, and are continuing to see, a decline.

What does this mean for the Legacy Carriers? They are all parking aircraft and reducing their schedules. The worst case is Delta Airlines, as they are set to park 600 of their fleet of over 900 aircraft. Delta has said they will go from the largest air carrier to one of the smallest after this crisis is over. Both United and American have parked aircraft and reduced their schedules, with an average schedule loss of 35%. American took the largest hit with an international flying loss of 75%.

How about the Low-Cost Carriers, like Southwest, Spirit, and Frontier? The latest information is that Southwest Airlines will be cancelling up to 1000 flights per day. Both Spirit and Frontier have cut their fares by 90% to keep passengers flying on their airline. Unfortunately, Sun Country Airlines will be closing their doors in the next 30 days. This airline is based in Minneapolis, and serves on 50 different destinations. This will cause up to 300 pilots being laid off.

Finally, how are the regional airlines doing? We are the hardest hit! A great deal of Legacy Carrier flying is accomplished by the regionals. Trans States Airlines, a United Express Carrier, will be closing their doors at the end of this month, with over 600 pilots laid off. Their entire fleet of ERJ-145 will be refurbished and transferred to ExpressJet Airlines. Compass Airlines, a Delta Connection and American Eagle carrier, will be closing their doors by April 8th. This will result over 400 pilots being laid off. Their

remaining fleet of Delta Aircraft are being transferred to Republic Airways, and the remaining American Eagle aircraft will be transferred to Envoy Airlines.

There are rumors that layoffs may occur with other regionals, but no firm information has been released. Base structure is being realigned during this time. SkyWest will be closing their Atlanta pilot base and sending the pilots to other bases within their system. Finally, all the regional airlines have stopped hiring for the foreseeable future. I know that at Republic Airways we have sent our next three First Officer classes home, and have stopped the Captain Upgrade classes for the next 2 months.

As of writing this article, we are going to see over 1300 pilots lose their jobs. The entire airline industry is going to see an average reduction of their schedules anywhere between 35% to 70% in the next month. I ask all our members for their continued thoughts and prayers over the next couple of months for my fellow pilots who are looking at some very tough times ahead. I also pray this virus does not cause any health issues for our members.

Thanks for reading this article, which was painful for me to write. If you have any questions you would like answered, email me at adam.springmeyer@gmail.com. Fly Safe, and Blue Skies.

Ed. note: Adam Springmeyer is a Captain for Republic Airways. He and his family are personally well. His seniority number is high enough, and his airline sufficiently robust, that his job is intact, unless things get much, much worse.

On the Light Side

Coronavirus Blues – A 15-minute video by Kermit Weeks. See how Kermit is coping. Check out his storeroom. From reader Floyd Hollandbeck, 3/22/20.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbnQqr9mFnM&feature=youtu.be>

Glider Operation Information

The Louisville Soaring Club would like aircraft flying at SER to know that the gliders almost always operate off runways 14/32. However, that does not mean that the wind favors 14 or 32. The gliders and tow plane use 14/32 because it is convenient to where the gliders are stored. ... All the gliders have radios. When approaching the field, especially on weekends, call addressing *Seymour Glider Operations* and ask where the gliders are; they will tell you. It actually works best, when glider operations are in progress, for power planes to use 5 or 23. FMI www.soarky.org, or call Maggie Hettinger, President, 502-303-3944

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Ask an Instructor/Airline Pilot

Do you have a question about some phase of aviation? It could be about pilot certification, logging flight time, FAR's, how airlines do things, instrument flight, or anything else. Send a message to Adam Springmeyer at adam.springmeyer@gmail.com and receive a personal reply directly in your e-mail.

Association & Meeting Information

Freeman Field Flying Association meets the 2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM, at the Freeman Army Airfield Museum. No meeting in July. Christmas dinner in December. **Join FFFA:** Dues are \$10 per year. Send a check, payable to FFFA, to Larry Bothe, 1082 Governors Ln, Seymour, IN 47274-1135. Include e-mail address and phone number. ½ price after the 4th of July.

Airport Authority meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:15 PM, terminal building conference room.

Freeman Army Airfield Museum board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:15 PM, main museum building, Map Room.

Freeman Flash issues going back to 1999 are available if you contact the editor.

Local Event Calendar at a Glance

---- *The April 9th FFFA meeting has been cancelled*

May 5-10, Sun 'n Fun 2020, Lakeland, FL

May 9, Flap-Jack fly-in, North Vernon, IN OVO

Jun 6*, Columbus Airport Day, BAK

Jun 13, Museum Airplane Ride Day, SER

Jun 18-20, Aeronca Fly-In, Middletown, OH MWO

Jul 14 (Tuesday) Hagerstown Flying Circus I61

Jul 20-26, AirVenture 2020, Oshkosh, WI OSH

Aug 29* Coles Cnty Airshow, Mattoon, IL MTO

Sep 5, Fly-in/Cruise-in, 7-2, Marion, IN MZZ

Sep 5*-7, Labor Day Fly-In, Red Stewart Field, 401
(Airshow Saturday only)

Sep 10-12, Midwst LSA Expo, Mt. Vernon, IL MVN

Sep 11-13, KY Sprt Avn Wknd, Rough River, 2I3

Sep 19*, North Vernon Arpt Awrnss Day, OVO

Sep 26*, Madison Air Show, 1PM, IMS

Oct 3*-4*, Bowman Field, Louisville, KY LOU
(Admission fee for this event)

**An asterisk means Cliff Robinson will be performing an air show at that event. If you want to see world-class aerobatics with no admission charge, attend one or more of these events.*

Larry Bothe, Certified Flight Instructor

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