

East Hill Flying Club

“The Frequent Flier”

September 2008 1953-2008

www.ehfc.net

Hey, It's Breakfast Time!



It's time to grease up those grills and get cooking! Some may be enamored by that automatic pancake cooker at the Dundee breakfast but we don't need no stinking automatic grill...we have live smiling "grillmeisters" slinging eggs and pancakes! (Maybe we can have a "cook-off?") **Please sign-up now by calling Betsy, "QueenBee" Grigoriu at 607-227-7203 (leave a message if no answer) or e-mail at ecg5@cornell.edu** This is a great opportunity to meet your fellow club members and welcome the community into our facility. We also make money that keeps the cost of flying reasonable. You will receive in this mailing four tickets to sell and a poster to hang up in a prominent place. Please entice your friends to come and eat and see the fun of flying here in Ithaca!

Some Thoughts on "Cheap Flying"

by David St. George

It's axiomatic that nobody wants to pay more than necessary to go flying safely. Choosing the right level of equipment and

maintenance is always difficult, especially when personal safety may be compromised by parsimonious policies. Unfortunately, for years we erred on the side of "too cheap." We ran bald tires and had lousy radios and many things were on the edge of failure. Two engine failures were a direct result of "too cheap" maintenance. Subsequently, the club has invested heavily to provide nicer, better-performing planes both to enhance safety but also to be welcoming to newcomers and family members who might not understand "that is ugly but OK for now." Four WAAS certified GPS units and new paint are a sign of the direction we have chosen. Part of this initiative was driven by (and paid for with) the affiliation with TC3 and providing the Aviation Science Degree here. This program demands us to provide some state-of-the-art equipment to be competitive. Keeping our prices reasonable while accomplishing improvements is a difficult balance. The board decided several years ago we could not afford to purchase of a "G-1000" plane and our membership would not support the necessary rental cost. We are now happy to be able to offer a more reasonable version with the new Aspen Avionics EFIS. This is an amazingly capable and ingenious unit that provides the same functionality in a compact, affordable package.



Please consult the webpage for some hints for using this tool effectively. No specific check-out is required for VFR though I would advise bringing another pilot if you are heads-down playing with the box. For IFR I would advise a couple hours of study and dual to get comfortable and figure out all the amazing features/functionality.



The Flight Design CT-LSA. This plane allows us to do Sport Pilot Training and also cruises at 120K on 5GPH.

The Flight Design CT LSA is just a stroke of luck. We discovered an owner willing to lease us this beautiful plane at a reasonable cost. Hopefully this plane will be on line before the breakfast and available for \$90 an hour.

Peeking Under the Hood

By: Doug Cross

Working on an instrument rating, can be fun, challenging, frustrating, and exhausting. So once in a while a pilot needs to do what a pilot needs to do – fly around the friendly skies with friends taking in the scenery and exploring new locations. So after about fifteen hours with my head in the clouds I knew it was time to grab fellow pilots Tim Fallon and Mario Tomei and head to somewhere fun, Saratoga, NY.

What a great trip! We started out early Friday morning, August 22nd with a quick phone call to the Saratoga County airport reserving a courtesy car where we received a welcoming “No problem, come on over” response from the folks at the FBO. I flew the leg east under beautiful blue skies and high ceilings. The 1 hour 15 minutes flight went quickly with Mario, the seasoned traveler, pointing out the many great spots in NY to explore along the way. Landing at Saratoga was easy and the folks at the Saratoga FBO were great. Clearly, they expect and welcome visitors. We were met by welcoming smiles from everyone as they parked the plane and handed over a map of Saratoga and the keys to a new silver SUV for our driving pleasure. Best FBO I've been to yet!

Again being the seasoned traveler we handed the keys over to Mario and he drove Tim and I around pointing out the sights of Saratoga, just a few minutes ride from the airport. If you haven't been to Saratoga you're in for a great adventure. It's a beautiful town filled with shops, restaurants, history and a beautiful main street lined with trees, flowers and some kind of strange “horse art”. After a walk around town Mario led us to an absolutely wonderful restaurant the Olde Bryan's Inn, for lunch. Built in 1845 on the site of an historical waypoint for travelers in the colonial days it exudes a warming and welcoming atmosphere, the kind of place where you could spend a long relaxing afternoon or evening. The food and service were excellent and reasonably priced achieving 10

rating on the fly-in eatery meter. No doubt the kind of place to return to and recommend to future travelers.



After lunch we explored the famous Putnam Hotel at Saratoga State Park. A beautiful facility that was originally built in the 1930's as a spa resort for the rich and famous. It maintains that same atmosphere today with exquisite grounds, a spa and pool – all surrounded by a professional level public golf course.

Back at the FBO we ran into former EHFC instructor and good friend Jeff Maggard. We had just missed Jeff as he had landed his Citation at Saratoga with a plane full of horse race type folks just 30 minutes after we did. But it was still good to catch up and get the good word that Sonia is doing well (probably better than Jeff) and is due to deliver their daughter on September 21. Tim loaded us back into the plane and flew a relaxing leg back to Ithaca.

No doubt Saratoga is an absolute must for a day or overnight cross country trip. Tim has already been back with his wife Betsy and friends. This is what being a pilot and member of the East Hill Flying Club is all about.

Now, back under the hood!!

Dates to Remember:

September 14th: Fly down for glider flying ride day in Elmira

September 18th: FAA Safety Seminar 7PM (Weather)

September 21st: Fall Harvest Breakfast

Future dates: October 11th: Fly-Out to East Hampton, Long Island for a BBQ and tour.