

Palm Beach in Jan.

Jan. 2010 - "I like ~~New York~~ in June. How about you?"

With daytime temperatures hanging in the low 40's and well below freezing at night, it was time to leave Hilton Head, on the coastline of South Carolina, and head even further south, to hopefully find some warmth. I generally spend a month or so at my fiancée's home in West Palm Beach each winter and now seemed like the ideal time to make that move. Besides, I wanted to again attend the Sebring Light Sport Aircraft Expo that was to be held over the Jan. 22-24th weekend. This is something that I have done for the past four years, and I am always interested in seeing the progress that continues to be made with this category of aircraft. Of course, when there, I spend a good bit of time at the Just Aircraft Company exhibit since that is where my loyalty lies, as I fly their Highlander tail dragger model.

While Miriam is at work each day, it is my responsibility to care for her two Yorkies, making sure that they are walked, fed, and rewarded with a game of catch. Now if I could only make money at this job!! One of our favorite pastimes on Saturday's is to take Ms. Scarlet and puppy Lexee to the Green Market in downtown WPB. There we stroll with the dogs, among the various booths and vendor displays, and will usually purchase coffee and pastries while listening to the Calypso music being played. This year we met the Mayor at Green Market, and she posed with Miriam and little 2 1/2 pound Lexee.

I also had the opportunity to go aboard Miriam's boss' 127 foot long motor sailer, **Parley**, which was in port for some maintenance before leaving for its winter run down to Saint Barts and St. Martin, in the Eastern Caribbean. It is quite a boat, and has a 6 person full time crew. The family also used to have their own private jet, but recently sold it, and now travel by air charter. No Jet Blue for them.

Since Miriam's mom, who had a home right there in Sebring, recently died at age 92, this year's expo saw us stay at the Sebring Golf Resort and Tea Room bed and breakfast. This is where the remainder of the Just Aircraft staff, crew and pilots also stayed. It was quite a blast having a half dozen of their planes at this year's Light Sport Aviation Expo, and all of their pilots together at one venue. Little sleep was gotten by any, but we all had a great time.

One of the things that I enjoy doing while there in central Florida is to make the 30 mile trip to the north of the Sebring Airport to the Chalet Suzanne's quaint gourmet restaurant, for lunch. They specialize in some delightful meal presentations, and have won a number of the Golden Spoon awards for their creative dishes and tasty soups.

And speaking of creative geniuses, it is always enjoyable seeing the designer of my airplane, Troy Woodland, at this show. Troy, at 35, is quite a few years younger than my son, and is responsible for the Highlander and Escapade airplanes that have also won so many awards in this Light Sport plane industry. He has been in the aviation business since a teenager, and was instrumental in helping me build my plane and then trained me in again learning to fly a tail dragger.

And should one get tired of airplanes, it is just a short walk over to the Sebring Raceway (there on the airport grounds) for a chance to watch one of the many sports car racing events that takes place each weekend. It is always great sharing this experience each January



Miriam, Me and the dogs at Green Market



Miriam with the Mayor of West Palm Beach



Miriam's boss' 127 foot Motor Sailer, Parley



Me, on the boat's main deck at Palm Beach Marina



At the Sebring Golf Resort's bed & breakfast



Chalet Suzanne's quaint dining room for lunch



The Just Aircraft both at the Sebring LSA Expo



JA's creative designer Troy Woodward and me



Looking at airplanes. That's why we are here!



A jet black highlander, lifting off for a demo ride



A two seater Trike, coming in for a landing



Sebring race track offers a break from planes

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