

## August 16, 2016 - It's a Zoo out there - the Zoo Bar & Cafe, that is....

Every once and a while I am pleased to discover a local airport that I have not previously flown to, and which has a compelling reason to visit. This was the case with Sebastian Municipal, a small city owned, paved airport, located just 8 miles north of Vero Beach. This two runway air field has an interesting restaurant located directly next door to its fairly active sky diving operation. The restaurant, named the **Zoo Bar & Cafe**, is reminiscent of some of the more rustic Bahamian out-island eateries that we used to fly to when I had my twin-Comanche and Atlantic overwater flights at almost 200 MPH were normal weekend outings. However I am now limited to a single engine airplane with a 92 MPH



cruise speed, and my lunchtime selections have to be a lot closer... and directly along a route of terra firma.

It was a beautiful puffy cloud, sun filled sky that I lifted off into for the short flight due north. My route took me directly over the small Indian River Estates grass strip that I had, unexpectedly, dropped into just a few weeks previously



when my oil pressure suddenly dropped due to a line leakage. Today everything functioned as it should have and 45 minutes later I was on the ground at Sebastian. After parking on their roomy ramp I walked over to **The Zoo Cafe** which featured indoor/outdoor dining, with the two sections opened to the wooden deck that overlooks the skydiving landing zone. While the menu selection on weekends, when the place becomes very, very active, is extensive, the week day fare is a bit more limited. I chose the Ahai-Ahai Tuna plate on soft tacos and covered with a spicy/sweet salsa bean compote and a side salad, which was absolutely delicious and, at only \$8, quite a bargain. And there was entertainment with the meal, to boot. I had an excellent view of the sky-diving activities as the jump plane ascended to its 13,000 foot altitude, only to discharge the dozen or so skydivers, who would return to the aforementioned terra-firma seemingly none the worse for wear. I will be back.



Jumpers descending, with jump plane already landed



One of the jumpers at the moment of his touchdown