

February 21, 2015 - The Arcadia, FL. EAA Fly-In Breakfast

Often my flying is kinda like the Jerry Seinfeld TV series... it is really about nothing at all. These are the occasions when I get into my airplane with absolutely nothing in mind. I might not even decide where I want to go until I am airborne at 1,000 feet and I take a look around at the clouds overhead and head toward the clearest skies. Sometimes I will use the winds aloft as my guidance, but, of course, tailwinds on the outbound route will probably be headwinds on the return. Other times it will be the prevailing price of aviation fuel (often with a dollar or more per gallon differential) which will determine my destination. And, of course, there is always the factor as to where I would like to grab a breakfast or lunch. On this Saturday morning, as I arrived at my Indiantown, FL. airstrip, I noticed that all 3 of my mechanics were loading up into their personal airplanes. Since they generally work on Saturdays, I stopped and inquired... "Wassup?" I was told that they were heading to a EAA fly-in at nearby Arcadia field, some 85 miles distant, towards the direction of Sarasota. Well, I surmised, as good a place as any. Since their airplanes were considerably faster (an aerobatic Pitts Special and a Piper Comanche retractable, like the kind that I used to own), when I arrived at the 3700 foot long paved airport, I found my mechanics seated with their food already in front of their faces. These fly-in



breakfasts, of which there are a lot here in south Florida offer a real value for their \$5 or \$6 cost. Generally there is juice, coffee, pancakes and sometimes eggs, as well as bacon or sausage, along with a roll or cake. Most are "all that you can eat" and there is always the camaraderie of fellow pilots. I am constantly amazed that I keep seeing so many of the same people that I have met at other such events, as there is usually an EAA fly-in every weekend around Florida. This was my first time at Arcadia and they were promoting a fly-in Rodeo that was going to be held the following month. I was invited to come back for this



event with the mention that there was going to be camping under the airplane wings for those who wished to stay the entire weekend. Now my idea of camping is what I did for two dozen years when I was traveling with my testing and consulting business. It is in a 36 foot motor home, complete with heat and



A/C, a Queen sized Tempurpedic bed, a full galley, with refrigerator, ice maker, convective microwave, 4 burner stove, and HD Direct TV that can be watched in a recliner chair while sipping on a Piña Colada.