

February 25, 2021 - Old Farts of Florida (OFF) Aero Acres Fly-In Lunch

So, what do you do when your plane is in the shop for its annual maintenance and there is an OFF fly-in lunch scheduled at a nearby airport. You take your alternate means of transportation, of course. In my case it is a VW *Aero-mobile* "Flying Car" (photo 😊 right)

Actually I made the 20 minute drive over from my house in time to enjoy the arrival of most of the 50 or more airplanes that attended this event of the Old Farts of Florida.



To the left is a formation flight of 4 who flew over the field in an echelon right before peeling off for a close in approach and landing to Runway 28 at the private aviation community of Aero Acres. This particular field is literally less than 10 miles to the northwest of my house in Tradition and if I ever wished to join such a group of homeowners, this is where I would love to live.



During the several hours in which this event took place, there was a constant flow of aircraft arrivals and departures. Here we have a touching down Mooney along with a Boeing Stearman Bi-plane as it taxis out for take-off. I was so occupied with my picture taking that I almost missed lunch!



The parked aircraft flight-line ran the entire 3,100 feet of the east/west runway and encompassed almost every type of aircraft that you could imagine. These ranged from two engine amphibies and small light-sport homebuilts to a 4 place single engine personal jet that required less than half of the available strip in which to land.



Following are a couple of my "artistic" photo attempts.

To the left is a view through the cockpit glass of an AirCam. This is an interesting airplane in that it looks more like a canoe with wings and its original design was completely open-aired. Newer versions have a high visibility enclosed canopy for its pilot and single passenger. It is through that canopy that I captured this view of the flight line. This is a twin engine airplane, with those pusher type 100 HP Rotax engines mounted high atop the wings, that cruises at 85-90 MPH, or just about the same speed as my single engine Highlander.



To the left is a beautiful aqua blue bi-plane, that I did not get the make or model of. It seems like all of the planes which arrived today were freshly polished and waxed. I am not unhappy that my Highlander was not available as I would have been a bit embarrassed by its dirty condition. Before a maintenance I generally do not try to clean the splattered bug debris and undercarriage oil accumulation as it generally will leave the service shop dirtier than it goes in. So I save all of my cleaning effort until after I have it back in my hangar. Just behind the wing we can see the tents that had been set up for the lunch participants.



It looked like seating could accommodate up to 100 people at a time and here I am with a classic "hot rod" auto and my favorite light aircraft, an Ercoupe (like my first airplane), just behind. For \$15 per person you had a choice of a hamburger, pulled chicken or barbeque pork along with baked beans, coleslaw, potato salad, a roll or bun and cookies for desert, as well as a soft drink and/or coffee. This is an annual money making event for the Aero Acres Airstrip community and it is always very well attended. This is my second time at this venue, but whether you fly or drive in, it is always a great time with interesting people, beautiful airplanes, and good food.