

## May 21, 2020 - Okeechobee Airport and the Old Farts of Florida. Now I are one!

A couple of times, in the recent past, I have written about the **OFF's**, a local flying club known as The Old Farts of Florida. Their membership is really open to anyone who can be considered "old" and who owns an airplane or who flies one. It is an informal group which does a fly-in almost every Thursday, throughout the year, although they are most busy during the winter season when a lot of "snow birds" are down with their aircraft for the 3 or 4 months when it is best to avoid the northern climes. Although I have been on their e-mailing list, I have never "formally" accepted an invitation to join them as they typically will draw 2 to 5 dozen airplanes to each event, which tends to make for a very busy arrival pattern. On today's flight to Okeechobee airport for a late breakfast, I was taken aback at the amount of traffic I detected on my I-pad and over the communications radio for that airport. I managed to work my way into the traffic pattern but had an airplane on my immediate left, and one in front and behind me, all at very close intervals. On my turn onto final I actually had an airplane go under me by 200 feet that I never did see or hear from until, literally, the very last second. Despite all of this activity I managed to arrive safely, although a Lake Amphibian was following me on my tail... literally right on my tail. It wasn't until I was parked on the ramp, next to a beautiful 1943 Howard high wing mono-plane that I realized that I had joined a gathering of the OFF's. This plane belongs to a Roger Brown, the voice behind the Old Farts and I took a moment to tell him of my reluctance to do their events, due to the very busy skies encountered. He reassured me that now that we were entering their "quiet season" it would be less so and just come early to enjoy viewing the madness that is their landing sequence from the safety of a ground vantage point.



Upper photo: My Highlander and Roger Brown's 1943 Howard DGA-15P black and cream colored mono-plane  
Lower photo: A small section of the KOBE parking area. The plane in the foreground is similar to my Piper Comanche.

