

Oct. 3, 2008 - The Windwood Resort & my \$100 Hamburger

Back in the '60's, when I used to fly my Cessna 172 out of NJ's Essex County Airport, we would routinely take \$25 hamburger flights. This involved 100 to 250 mile weekend trips to nearby airports that had restaurants on site, or close by. We would land, make the run over for a brunch or a light lunch, and then return to our home field. Now for you non-pilots out there, the "hamburger" didn't cost that \$25...the fuel for the airplane did. Back then avgas was around 50 cents per gallon, so it really didn't cost the full \$25, but that was what that flying meal was called. By the time I was flying the Single Comanche out of Teterboro in the late 70's, fuel was around \$2.00 per gallon, and it was known as the \$50 hamburger. Now with avgas in the \$5.00 per gallon range, we are dealing with a \$100 hamburger. Can you imagine the cost if it were from Japanese Kobe Beef?

After work today I made a lunch run to the nearby [Windwood Resort](#) and its 3,000 foot paved runway located in the Canaan Valley of West Virginia. This is an area that has a WV State Resort Park and several ski slopes within a short drive of the airport and an excellent restaurant and motel right on the grounds. Since the current Governor, Joe Manchin has a home nearby, the State's Cessna 208B Grand Caravan or King Air 350 occasionally uses the VFR only strip. The Governor is a licensed pilot and has his own Piper Seneca. Windwood was originally designed as a "fly in community" and the runway lies between private homes located on both sides. My 25 mile flight over some very pretty rolling hills with 4,000 high mountain peaks and a meandering river took about 20 minutes from the Elkins airport.

Amelia's Restaurant is a 3 minute walk from the parking ramp. Since my arrival was after 2 pm, I had the place to myself. While my meal was being prepared I had a chance to wander around the premises looking at all of the photos, pictures, posters and other flying memorabilia located on the walls in both the restaurant and the motel lobby. It is obvious that the place is owned by a fellow pilot, who flies a Cessna (but the server wasn't sure which model), and the decor revolves around aviatrix Amelia Earhart. My lunch was good, but the homemade pumpkin cheesecake was fantastic. My meal, tax and tip was \$18.00 I burnt approximately 3 1/2 gallons of avgas on the 40 minute flight, so at \$4.85 per, fuel cost was about 17.00. Bottom line, my \$100 hamburger only cost me \$35. **I love that Highlander!**



Mountain scenery & River that I flew over today



Canaan Valley and the Timberline Ski Resort



Sign points the way to Amelia's Restaurant



\$100 hamburger arrives at this aviation themed restaurant



Windwood Resort's ramp w/ ski slopes beyond