

Sept. 28, 2008 - Parkersburg, WV Air Show

During the past dozen years, even when I was no longer flying, I would never miss the opportunity to attend an air show when one was being held anywhere near where I was working. I have been able to see a lot of good shows during my flying hiatus. This weekend there was an air show in Parkersburg, which is almost 100 air miles, or approximately a one hour Highlander flight from my Elkins base. However weather was not very nice at Elkins this morning, so I decided to make the 3 hour drive over to Mid-Ohio Valley Regional airport instead. Since Monday's job is just 35 miles south of Parkersburg, I figured that would kill two birds with one trip. I went over to the Elkins airport to get my hand held radio so that I could hear some of the air to air chatter while at the show. When I got to the Randolph Co. airport, I saw an unusual home built tied down right next to my plane. While I was photographing this slick bird, I noticed some activity at the terminal building just beyond...including a State Police vehicle and its officer. It turned out that the West Virginia's Governor, Joe Manchin, had just flown in on one of the State planes. I spoke to his Chief Pilot, and the Governor agreed on a photo op in front of my aircraft, and seemed genuinely interested in learning about the Highlander's short field capabilities. So Troy, of Just Aircraft, might have the opportunity to provide one to the State as the Governor's personal plane...but it would have to be in their official **Blue** and **Yellow** colors.

For a free airshow (parking fee only), it was enjoyable, especially since the weather had finally cleared up by the time that the flying began. There was the usual compliment of military, aerobatics and jet flyovers as well as the Army's Golden Knights Parachute Team. There were plenty of static displays, both military, civilian and general aviation, and even some flying of radio controlled aircraft. It was a typical small town airshow, something that has become a staple in the United States, and something that I hope will never be phased out by the myriad of government regulations and restrictions that now seems to be slowly engulfing every phase of our lives.

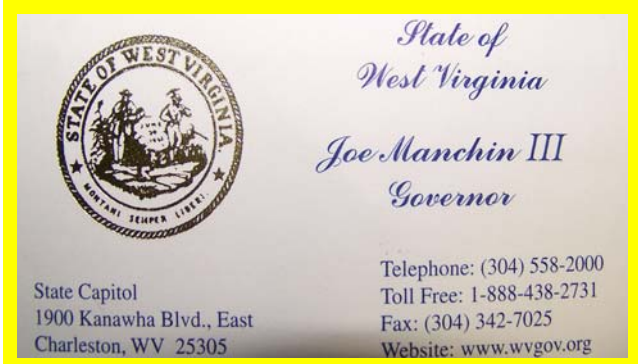
PS- I never did find out the name of that small sleek 2 place retractable home built. If anyone knows, please e-mail me at: HighlanderFlyer@aol.com



When I got to Elkins airport this small, sleek homebuilt was parked next to me. It looks really FAST!!



Me with my "new friend", the Governor of West Virginia



This is Governor's business card. He was a nice guy!



Army Golden Knights Parachute Team



Hercules C-130 cargo/troop carrier



F-18A Super Hornet flying slow



WW-2 P-51 Mustang landing



1949 Stinson Reliant monoplane



Adved Flyer homebuilt 2 seater