

Airport Advisor

June 2004

CLARE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT - 48D

Volume 48

Edited by Richard Acker

“New” Bird in the Clare Tree



A couple of weeks ago, Gary Todd became the proud new owner of a 1974 Grumman American airplane. He picked it up at the Hastings airport in southern Michigan and flew it back to its new home at the Clare Municipal Airport.

This is the first Grumman on the field, but it may not be the last. With its Lycoming O-320, 150 horse power engine it can carry a useful load of 730 pounds at 120 knots (138 m.p.h.). It is quite roomy inside and comfortably seats four people.

Gary considers this an upgrade from his Piper Tri-Pacer that he has owned for the last five years. The Tri-Pacer is the airplane Gary learned to fly in, so it is sort of his “first love.” His hangar is pretty crowded with two airplanes in it, so he is hoping to sell the Tri-Pacer as soon as he can.

You can see N1600R out at the airport in the evening practicing take offs and landings. When you do, stop and say “Hi” to Gary and look at his new bird.

Best Fireworks View in Town

Again this year, Bill and Chris Burns are extending an invitation to use their back yard as a place to watch the Clare fireworks display. For several years, the Burnses have used their property, located at 345 Witbeck Drive, as a gathering place to relax and enjoy the excitement of the event.

If you can stop by, bring a lawn chair or blanket and your own refreshments. Snacks and goodies (Chris might even make you a ‘Smore if you are lucky) will be provided.

The fireworks start at dusk, but come early and enjoy the fireside conversation and quiet camaraderie.

Clare Annual Breakfast Fly-In

Don't forget !!



This Saturday, July 3, 2004 is the Clare Area Pilots Association annual breakfast. Serving starts at 7:30 a.m. Generous helpings of pancakes, baked ham, cheesy-potatoes, juice and coffee.

If you are a pilot association member, please stop by and help out. Primary duties have been assigned, but there is always a need for another hand. If there is a specific area in which you would like to participate, please contact Mike Smith (989-588-4598) and let him know your preference.

The local pilots have again been asked to fly over the downtown parade route. If you own an airplane and want to join the fly-over, let us know. As part of the festivities, we will organize as many aircraft as we can for a very loose single file pass over the parade route. A mandatory pilot briefing will be held at the terminal building at 11:45 a.m. where assignments will be made as to runway, route and order of departure.

In the past this has been a lot of fun and gives us a chance to display our airplanes.

Clare Summerfest Celebration

This is the first time the fly-in breakfast will be held in conjunction with the Clare Summerfest Celebration. There are many events scheduled to provide fun and entertainment for all.

Friday, July 2nd from noon to 3:00 p.m. there will be \$10.00 airplane rides at the airport. At 5:00 p.m. enjoy Witbeck's Free Family Picnic in Shamrock Park. At dusk the fireworks begin. The fireworks at Clare are getting bigger and better each year. Don't miss it.

Saturday, July 3rd from 7:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. is the fly-in breakfast. Everyone is welcome. The Summerfest Parade begins at noon with marching bands, floats and a fly over by the pilots and airplanes from Clare, Midland and Mt. Pleasant.

There will be fun and entertainment for children and adults of all ages, so come on out this weekend and relax and enjoy the Clare Summerfest days.

When flying an airplane, it is better to have a two hour bladder and three hours of fuel than vice versa.

Ice Cream Social

It is not too early to start thinking about the Clare Ice Cream Social and Band Concert. This year it will be held on Monday, August 9, 2004.

This annual event has become more popular each year. The music, played by the Central Michigan Area Concert Band, is great family entertainment.

We will invite the Twenty Lakes Antique Tractor Club to bring out their John Deere powered homemade ice cream machine. The ice cream this machine makes is wonderful and adds class to the social gathering.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.

New Face at the Airport

As part of a state-funded program called Michigan Works, Rodney Huntoon will be at the airport this summer. The program is designed to help handicapped people find jobs and be part of the workforce of Michigan.

Rodney has already been a great help doing some landscaping, lawn mowing, fixing up and painting things around the airport grounds.

It is a great opportunity to have Rodney around this summer and be a part of the Michigan Works program.



Wendy Dore, one of the Clare Area Pilots Association members, is in charge of promoting a huge air show. AirFest 2004 will be at the James Clements Airport (3CM), in Bay City, July 23, 24, 25.

Many of the performers are right out of the big air show at Oshkosh. You will have the opportunity to see Susan Dacy flying aerobatics in "Big Red," a 450 horsepower Stearman. More aerobatics performed by Frank Ryder in his Super Chipmonk. There will be a "Herritage Flight" demonstration of selected warbirds including jet aircraft and a P-51. Gene Soucy with Teresa Stokes will do their wing walking act. The kids will enjoy Otto the helicopter as he dances in the sky. You don't want to miss the jet truck racing down the runway in an effort to beat the jet powered outhouse to the finish line.

There are many more events and acts lined up. For more information, please contact Wendy at: wldore@yahoo.com

Kalamazoo Air Zoo Trip

On Saturday, June 5, 2004 a group of four airplanes flew down to Kalamazoo to visit the Air Zoo located on the airport.

Jim Cordes organized the trip and said everyone had a wonderful time. The museum was completely updated this past winter and was well worth the trip. The group had lunch in the museum cafeteria and spent the rest of the day experiencing the full motion simulator and looking at the many static displays of aircraft.

The trip report was so positive that we are looking forward to planning another trip yet this summer.

Airport Construction Update

The bidding phase of the construction has been completed. Central Asphalt of Mt. Pleasant submitted the lowest bid.

The next step is to complete the contracts necessary to define the responsibilities of everyone involved. Once they are completed and signed, we will be ready to begin construction. The current schedule calls for a construction start date of August 2, 2004.

Where's the Farming?

"What is happening with the farming that was supposed to take place at the airport?" That question has been asked several times in the last few weeks.

Rawson Farms has been contracted to farm the land at the airport that is not being used for aviation purposes. They, like many farmers in this area, are way behind in their spring planting schedule. At a time when they would normally have several thousand acres planted they only had two hundred acres completed. The spring rain is making it very difficult to schedule anything related to farming. Ray Rawson still plans to work up the ground this summer and will plant wheat for next year's crop.

As it turns out, this won't be all bad for the airport. It will be better not to have farming equipment and construction equipment operating on the airport grounds at the same time.

Editorial

The opinions expressed in this publication are the opinion and sole responsibility of the editor.

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