



## Grass Roots Flyer December 2020



### Airport Manager Report:



I hope you all have had as good a Thanksgiving as possible this year - we still have a lot to be thankful for! And whether we say "safe travels" to our Stanton snowbirds for the winter, or "what are we thinking" for those of us crazy enough to tough it out...here's wishing all of you, a very Happy Holiday Season and a very blessed Merry Christmas in the true spirit of the season!



November is now in the rear view mirror, so let's do a short recap. Overall, there was little flight training and rental activity due to the multiple bad weather days. For those of you out-of-town readers, we've already had to deal with a foot of snow which has now melted. In addition, there have been more out-of-limit windy days than in a normal late fall. The lone highlight was a first solo by our own line service employee, Braeden Kluzak.



The shop has not slowed down one bit, having worked 22 work orders this month (as I'm writing this) and still counting. Our standing sick humor around the office



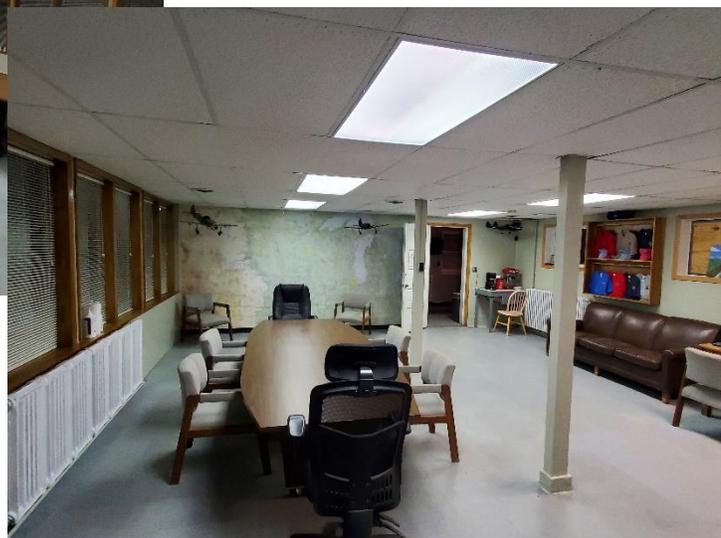
is... "When John gets off the phone, don't tell Toby". We have been very fortunate during this whole COVID year-to-date, to have plenty of shop work. Our customer base is awesome and our maintenance staff continues to provide great service to them.

I follow the activities of many airports and FBOs around the state, both metro and in greater MN. During these abnormal times we are in, I feel we're doing all the right things with our facility to keep it as safe as possible for our employees, students and renters. Our current in-place procedures will remain in effect until further notice. Quick recap...Flight training students and renters "only" can come into the main building – wearing a mask.



Upon entering they will have contactless temperature checks, hand sanitizer used and be directed to one of two areas – pilot/instructor/business office or large meeting room. One unisex restroom is available indoors and the porta-potty remains usable outdoors. The remainder of the facility remains closed.

I need to acknowledge the up and over efforts by Tim Bjork and Jerry Rosendahl for the facelift of the front meeting/classroom. The pictures are great, but there was a lot of behind the scenes work done that goes unnoticed when you look at the end result. We'll be continuing the facelift project throughout the main level over the winter months.



For the first time since I've been here, we recently had some heavy precipitation that didn't end up in the hallways, bathrooms and office. Thanks to the efforts of "The Friends of Historic Carleton Airport", the main level roof has been repaired, reinsulated, upper level access door raised to code height and an all new rubber cover installed.



Weather dependent, a new gutter system will be added in January, to take care of next spring's snow melt.

The Friends are now working on raising additional funds to take care of a couple of upper level roof issues, the replacement of much needed shop windows back to the original design of the building and repairs to some brick and mortar. We're also working with them on some tractor replacement concepts.



As always, feel free to contact me with any questions.

John Quilling  
Airport Manager  
507-645-4030

## **Final Soaring of the Year:**



The final glider tow of the year was an instruction flight in Stanton's S2-32 on Monday, 11/23. Stanton CFI-G Steve Fischer and our S2-32 flew more hours this year than in recent memory. Our S1-26 was also rented this year so think about soaring as another option of flying or learning to fly at Stanton!

## **Winter Storage is upon us:**





Fifteen glider trailers are stored in the barn over winter (picture at end of page 4) and (above) we have 11 trailers stored in one of the hangars. All outside items such as picnic tables and chairs as well as the golf carts, mowers, etc. are moved inside to a safer place for the winter.

### **Recent Visitor:**

Ben Redman from RARE Aircraft stopped in recently to say hi and fill up with fuel. He also normally enjoys items in our food supply when the building is open (bagel hot dogs with cheese if I remember right). Hopefully next summer we'll have our usual supply of food, ice cream and Coke (in the bottle) available for him and YOU!



## **Looking for Winter Storage?**

Looking for storage? Long term? Short term? Give us a call at 507-645-4030 or email us at [synairportmanager@gmail.com](mailto:synairportmanager@gmail.com) to find out more information.

### **From the President....of Stanton Sport Aviation, Inc.**

Thanksgiving – for many of us it is a day of thinking about all we are grateful for and expressing our thanks. As I consider all that I am thankful for I realize that it is people and the difference they have made through their lives that I am most thankful for. A small group of dedicated people who cared about the future of Stanton Airport came together about 30 years ago and committed to purchase the airport and the adjoining land. They, and many others, have given of their time, talent, resources and energy to support Stanton and preserve it as a privately owned airport that welcomes the public. Without the continuing dedication and generosity of many, Stanton would not be what it is today. We can be grateful for the work of those who have gone before us and in gratitude we can each do our part to help keep Stanton viable for future generations. **Thank you** for all you have done and continue to do to support Stanton. Working together we can enjoy Stanton for ourselves and preserve it for the future.



Richard (Dick) Andrews



### **The Historic Carleton Airport (Stanton Airfield) Origin Story, Part I:**

The Friends are often asked; how did the Carleton Airfield (Stanton Airfield) come to exist?

Well, here is an abridged and edited version, Part 1, taken from the 2002 Application for the National Historic Register.

In many ways, the Carleton Airport came about as an act of survival for Carleton College. Picture the arrival of WWII. Carleton was faced with the loss of male students and faculty to the war effort. President Cowling (Cowling Carleton Arboretum) was faced with a stark situation; how do you keep the college viable when faced with those challenges. The US Department of Education made several recommendations. Among them were “modify and adjust their curricular and administrative procedures so as to save time and render the most effective services to students”.

A Carleton staff member, Mr. Robert E. Adam, proposed a path forward that included 300 military students preparing for military service while taking liberal arts courses. Included in the revised course of study was a plan to form the Carleton Aviation Corp. The objective was to teach basic flying skills and prepare students for military aviation assignments. This program was modeled after the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) whose purpose was to develop a base of trained pilots that could be tapped to serve in the armed forces.

In the spring of 1942, Carleton offered a range of course work including aerial navigation, meteorology and many others focused on the war effort. In April 1942, Carleton purchased the 160 acre farm from William Dack in Stanton. Included in the sale were the red barn and house (owned by Marilyn Meline today). By August 1942, a contract was signed for \$31,465 to build the airport infrastructure i.e. runways, hangar, garage.

Carleton grounds keepers began work immediately on runways and airfield service areas. Initially, the hangar and other buildings ran into bureaucratic roadblocks due to rationing of metals. But Carleton had the barn modified and used the house as operations headquarters. President Cowling lobbied Washington. By November 1942, the runways were in use and the



metal rationing issues resolved, so the hangar doors could be hung.

Flight training began with a contract with Elmer and Clarence Hinck to provide flight training. The Hincks stayed and trained pilots at the Carleton Airport until 1944.

More in **Part II**.

Please consider a 2020 gift to Friends of the Historic Carleton Airport. There are several methods available.

- Give MN web-based giving: [www.givemn.org](http://www.givemn.org)
- Write a check: Friends of the Historic Carleton Airport

3925 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

- Donate a “Qualified Charitable Distribution” from an IRA directly to the Friends of the Carleton.

Note: Distributions can be cash or stocks

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