

WISCONSIN NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

Since we had to postpone our convention and we don't know when the next time we will be able to get together, I thought I would try and put out a newsletter, something I'm really not very good at.

I sent out an email asking everyone to send me something about what they have been up to so I could add it to this newsletter. If you got busy and weren't able to get something to me, send it to me when you can and I will add it to another newsletter.

Jeff

What a spring, with being busy on the farm and our son & family next door, the staying at home has not presented to much of a problem. It's been another wet spring, but we were able to get the strawberries planted. Now if the rains hold off we hope to get the pumpkins & sunflowers in the ground by the end of this week. Sunflowers will be a new crop for us this year, we are going to try and sell them pick-your-own, just like the strawberries, pumpkins, & raspberries.

I sure haven't done much flying this year, between all the rain, and not having anywhere to fly, I've only flown the planes once in April, and twice in May. Looking forward when things open up to get out and fly some place. You know things are getting desperate for Marcia, when I helped her color her hair this past weekend, there was some laughter in the process, but it turned out real nice.

Marcia

We hope you and your family are doing well and keeping safe in these crazy times. We have the best situation during this pandemic because we can get outside and work on the farm and yard as usual. Our son and family live across the driveway so we socialize with them and we don't feel so isolated.

I dug out some material I had stashed in a drawer and dusted off my sewing machine and I have been busy making face masks for our workers and ourselves. I think 40 so far. Every time I go to the grocery store I look for more disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer. We are preparing for changes in procedures when Strawberry season starts.

My Dad is "locked down" in an assisted living facility. It's a strange feeling not to be able to visit but he has a good attitude about it all. One Sunday all our kids and grandkids met on the sidewalk outside his window and held up signs and yelled greetings.

Phil Peterson

Greetings, Carol and I have been doing O K. The big deal is going to the grocery store. Carol is dealing with long hair, I told her I would cut it for her and then she would want to stay home. Mark will fill you in on our Airplane. I have been working in my shop to make a frame for the new Farm Sign I am putting up, marking our 100 year of Peterson ownership. We All want our country to open. Here is hoping for a summer filled with BLUE SKIES. Carol and Phil Peterson

Sara Healy

23 May 2020

Hi Jeff.

Here is a synopsis of our Spring so far.

This Spring has been good so far. We have all of our alfalfa, corn and soybeans in. We actually needed this rain to help the alfalfa. Ned noticed yesterday that the soybeans actually emerged in the two hours it took him to do barn chores.

Our son Sam, 24, has been furloughed from his job at a mapping company and has been using this time to aggressively pursue his CFI. He is at about 800 flight hours and just needs to build a few hundred more to be eligible for a fulltime aviation career. He has also been lending a hand around the farm, fixing whatever breaks. We took advantage of the other boys being available and rented a dumpster and did a real Spring cleanup this year. We can see the floor of the sheds again!

Sam and I flew the Socata to Wichita Kansas 2 weeks ago to drop off a friend. We stopped at Stearman Field(K1K1) for lunch. They had just opened the restaurants down there and it felt nice to sit down and enjoy a meal not cooked by me.

Besides the waitress wearing gloves the only thing I noticed that was different was that the condiments were not on the table, they were in individual containers.

I was able to keep working through this pandemic. I work in drug development and we are actively doing studies related to the Covid-19 testing and treatment. I am currently working on my IFR rating and have been taking advantage of Sam's availability as a safety pilot. Plus, he can practice his teaching skills. If you can be patient with you mother you can be patient with anyone, right?

Ned is catching up from all the field work and is getting the haying equipment ready. He is milking around 45 cows at point. Our son Vincent, 16, has been a huge help. He has a natural ability with animals. He loves to lance abscesses! Keagan, 21, is a Botany major at Madison. He has spent the last 2 weekends putting the garden in.

Rod is fully retired. He continues to be active (as much as possible right now) on the Town board as well as the other agriculture organizations he's involved in. All in all we are doing well. It helps that we are a family farm.

Vince Pisha

Great to hear from you. We had our renter plant last week and now are getting plenty of rain. My runway is nice and green and looks like it will need mowing soon. Probably not going to see many airplanes with this virus taking over the world.

Just to let everyone know if you are lucky enough to fly. Do a very good preflight on your airplane, this time of year the birds are nesting, and my Cessna 152 was their choice for a new home. We all have someone looking over our shoulders from time to time and I am giving thanks that someone was there for me about 3 weeks ago. I keep my plane in Dave Seitz beautiful 60x60 heated hanger along with his cirrus, and Cessna 150. I always keep intake plugs in my plane, even when in his hanger. That night I was going to give Dave's grandson, Connor his 100 miles night cross country. I pulled the 152 out of the hanger and went to start it. Now just last sept. I installed a new \$800 battery. It was stone cold dead. So we jumped in Dave's Cessna 150 and flew the trip. The next morning, I had Conner pull the cowling off to charge the battery. Low and behold, there was a bird's nest on the rear cylinder, the size of a soft ball. What a fire that would have made, and sadly at night. The battery took a charge and was like new. So, what good fortune we had. The only time the cowl plugs were out of the engine was probably when I last fueled it and pushed it back the pumps. The whole family must have carried debris into their new found apartment. So do an extra good job of preflights !!!!

The other thing is: I had an email by one of the members that made note about shutting down flying farmers because of our dwindling size. I cannot remember his name, i gave him some ideas that might help if we all send some emails and make phone calls. We all own airplanes, so call the appropriate manufactures of a/c, engines. Radios, and ask for sponsorship. Seems like companies are always sponsoring clubs, race car drivers etc. Maybe someone in F.F. has a friend - relative that is a lobbyist that knows how to ask for money. Make a fly-in dedicated to getting people educated on us and what we do. Maybe give free rides to people that buy a membership and spread the word of mouth method. Anyway, we have been around too long to just vaporize. Think about it. Maybe you know a politician that can find a gov. Grant for us!!!!

I think I said enough. Probably won't be able to have my fly in this summer, so fly safe.

Mark Peterson

Here's the latest info regarding our 182-panel upgrade. We began the work by delivering it to SkyCom in Waukesha on December 19th just before Xmas. We received word it was done in the middle of April, but weather didn't cooperate until May 1st. While it was in the shop, I passed my instrument WRITTEN test and then started going over YouTube videos and online info on some of this new Garmin stuff to "hopefully" be a little familiar with it. On May 1st, dad and I went to Waukesha. WE spent a couple hours going over it with the guys that did the work and then went up for another 1.5 hrs to practice some of the features...the Wing leveler, ads-B traffic, weather, ILS approaches, missed approach, go-around-button, working new Com/Nav, etc. By the way, we did a missed approach at WEST BEND that took us out over LAKE MICHIGAN.... just beautiful blue water with the skyline of Milwaukee in the distance on a clear sunny day. SO...after returning to Waukesha...updating equipment manuals in our iPads... we launch for our Monroe airport (KEFT). So of course, being TOTALLY BRAIN DEAD by now...we luckily had Foreflight maps on the iPad and were flying over familiar terrain . . . we arrived safely in

Monroe. The next time we got up was 5 days later. We decided to do a few touch and goes at Monroe & then fly to Freeport, IL ...25 miles to the South ...then back to Monroe. With this new stuff, we are much slower, making sure we are doing everything correctly. So off to Freeport we goand of course we can't seem to find Freeport with the autopilot!! It's a clear day, we can see it out the window but the plane is going the wrong way....then we make some corrections and the plane turns. Then flies the wrong way the other direction!! So we shut off the autopilot, do a touch and go at Freeport and return to Monroe defeated. Talk about incompetent idiots!! So at this point we have about 15hrs experience and have been pouring over the manuals and more YouTube and online courses; we actually did an RNAV approach into Monroe yesterday..SUCCESSFULLY!! OBVIOUSLY, much to learn yet, but is amazing what this stuff can do. I guess another thing is we had a couple weeks of favorable weather and took the plane to 15WI our home strip which is always nice. But unfortunately, a 2.5-inch rain left it unusable AGAIN, so we are now back in Monroe. Looks like flying on hold for a week or so, as WEATHER FORECAST is AWFUL!! Hope everyone is coping during this crazy time and are healthy.

George & Tommie Suess

Hello Folks and Greetings from George and Tommie Suess in Way Northern Illinois. Hope this finds you well.

The corn and beans are in, coming up and looking good. Apple blossoms are many this year. So, we should have an ample supply of apples. Stop by to pick some! Our garden is planted and the grass is growing fast. We have kept busy working on our yard during this time and are so grateful to live in the wide-open spaces, as we are located in the center of a square mile section.

We had a new metal roof put on in February and April 7th we experienced a hailstorm that destroyed it! Golf ball and tennis ball size hail. George said he has never seen anything quite like it in his 78 years.

George has purchased a DJI Mavic Air drone. And is flying it all over the place. It's amazing what it can do. Great pictures.

We've enjoyed getting to know one of Matt's fellow air traffic controllers who flies a Cessna 310. He and his wife have a you tube channel. "310 Pilot" and have recorded many flying experiences. Very interesting to watch. Tune in and check it out for something fun to do.

We are missing all of you. Looking forward to being able to get together one of these days Be safe George and Tommie

Thanks to all who sent in an article.
Jeff