



Newsletter – second quarter 2006

Introduction

This is our second quarterly newsletter published in our web site for your information and enjoyment. Your editor is again none other than “ol’ Waldo”, senior aviator for the service, otherwise known as Bob Lock.

Big News

Waldo Wright’s Flying Service has made the cover of the June issue of AIR CLASSICS magazine. Look for it about the third week of May at your local newsstand or shopping place. Kevin Tanner writes the story and we are told that beside the cover feature, we are also the centerfold and the article is 8-pages long. This issue of the magazine should be a very special souvenir for all those who have ridden with us or will ride with us in the future. It is very humbling to be featured on a global magazine and the photo shoot was exciting as always. As you can see I was pretty close to the photo airplane flown by young Waldo, otherwise known as Rob Lock. Kevin spent the entire day with us, and then had many other questions after he left Fantasy of Flight to write the story. Our airplanes are

unique in that they can carry up to 4-passengers and they are two of the only five aircraft of this type in the world that are currently airworthy for flight.



Sun ‘N Fun

We have just completed flying at the big Sun-N-Fun air show and fly-in at Lakeland, Florida. This is our 5th year of

landing on the narrow grass strip and the crosswinds again made it interesting. We thank our many volunteers who helped us during the show. Since our service is a family run operation we were joined by our daughter Cheryl and her son Joshua from Reedley, CA and Sandy's sister Linda and husband George from Victorville, CA.

The air show was big as usual, but with the addition of the first visit to a public show by the new Lockheed F-22 fighter. Now I could show a picture of one of our biplanes lumbering into the air with a load of happy passengers, but take a look at this!



The F-22 just after rotation on runway 27R.



Notice afterburner heat distortion of the Lakeland control tower in background. A great example of "brute" power. It made the ground shake and sounded like a small rocket blasting-off into space from the cape. Once the airplane accelerated it climbed straight up until out-of-sight through a high

cloud deck. It was a spectacular demonstration of the new fighter.



The F-22 was followed on take-off by a current USAF F-15. Note the fire from afterburning engines being deflected by the concrete runway. F-15, F-22 photos courtesy Tommy Tompkins.

Barnstormers' Air Tour



The summer tour is shaping up and promises to be an exciting event for all involved. The tour is a nostalgic salute to the daring young men and women who ventured across America during the 1920's seeking fame and fortune in their biplanes and will journey through the Midwest, stopping in nine cities this July. The American Barnstormers Tour brings as many as 20 vintage aircraft from the 1920s, '30s and '40s in a unique collection of the best in early aviation. Marvel as the "daring flocks of birdmen" take to the skies each afternoon during the parade of flight. For those who want to experience the thrill of open cockpit flight for themselves, biplane rides will be available at each stop for \$45.00 per passenger. Celebrate the Golden Age of aviation and join us on the first ever American Barnstormers Tour. For tour stops and more information visit www.americanbarnstormertour.com.

Of interest to young people

I started this subject in the last issue of the newsletter and want to continue in future issues. We touch the lives of many young people when they take a ride with us and it is important that we pass the torch of aviation to a younger generation. It has been written that, when we are young, older individuals who we admire will influence our path through life. Perhaps no influence is stronger than parental. The grandparents will also play a most important role. With this in mind I'd like to introduce you all to a young lady who has her sights on a future in aviation. Her name is Morgan Araldi and she comes from an aviation-oriented family.

Morgan's grandfather is the late Joe Araldi, a well-known aviator in Florida. Her step-grandmother is Suzanne Araldi who currently flies copilot in Hawker corporate jets. Morgan's father Michael is also a corporate pilot who flew for Bernie Little Beverage distributors in Lakeland, Florida for many years. Now almost 16 years of age, Morgan has written some of her thoughts for me to publish in this column.

Morgan writes, *"My family's participation in aviation has certainly influenced my desire for it. I was raised in a little airport community called the Green Swamp Aerodrome, surrounded by all types of wonderful aircraft and people. I also spent a lot of time around the T-hangars and the big corporate hangars at the Lakeland Linder Airport. A lot of the people that I have been exposed to have left a major impact on my life."*

The Green Swamp Aerodrome was started by grandfather Joe, who with his wife Suzanne lived in a log cabin

home just off the runway. It was my home for a few months in 1989 when I was preparing my 1929 Command-Aire biplane for a long flight to central California.



A young Morgan Araldi sitting in the cockpit of her dad Michael's Supermarine "Spitfire."

Now old enough to reflect on her early childhood days, Morgan writes; *"I was fortunate enough to be born into an aviation-oriented family. My grandfather (Joe) was an excellent pilot and just as wonderful of a man. I love when I go places or meet new people and they hear my last name and have some sort of story to tell about him. I am extremely proud to carry the name Araldi. My father (Michael) is an outstanding aviator as well and my mother (Sharon) also has some time under her belt."*

Like those who came before her, aviation breeds a passion within to become something "special" with the airplane.

Morgan writes, *"Flying is a passion. It's something that takes root inside your heart and it's impossible to get rid of. When I fly I can't help but find myself in awe of everything. It's almost surreal."*

In her spare time Morgan comes to Fantasy of Flight to help load passengers for the service. During a recent visit Morgan had the "chance of a

lifetime” to fly with owner Kermit Weeks in the rear seat of his Curtiss TP-40 ‘Warhawk’ trainer. I rather doubt that any other young pilot in the world has had that opportunity.



Morgan with Fantasy of Flight owner Kermit Weeks after her flight in the rare “Warhawk.”

Only a handful, perhaps 40 total TP-40 aircraft were manufactured and Kermit’s 2-place ‘Warhawk’ is the only one left. The airplane is equipped with dual controls and instrumentation and is powered by the original Allison V-1710 liquid cooled engine. One of the aircraft featured during “flight of the day”, it is a stunning example of a WW2 pursuit airplane, which gained wide acceptance during the war years.



Morgan writes; “I made my final decision to fly aerobatics when I got the opportunity to fly with Kermit Weeks in his TP-40. Aside from being enthralled about even being able to fly in this

wonderful plane, I developed a strong taste for aerobatics when he performed a few rolls with me in it. I have always wanted to fly biplanes as well and after learning about the Red Baron Pizza Squadron, I hope one day I might be able to fly for them. I particularly aspire to fly aerobatics in a Stearman after watching a DVD on John Mohr.”

Morgan spends some of her time with Waldo Wright’s at Fantasy of Flight and writes; “*On some weekends I am given the wonderful opportunity to go out to Fantasy of Flight and help the Lock’s with their ride-hauling business. This has made a huge difference in my life and in my flying. I have learned a lot by being out there and by being around these wonderful people. I have been able to participate in fabric work and other such things. Sometimes I am given the chance to fly the Stearman and I currently have around 17-hours in it.*”

I asked young Morgan how she managed her time. She and her sister Caitlin are taking flying lessons at the Lakeland Linder Airport, although Morgan cannot solo until she is 16 years old.

Morgan writes; “*When it comes to managing my time, I have no problems. I generally take my flight lessons on a Monday or Friday night after school. When I get home there is time left over to do my homework, study my material for flying, and everything else that needs to be done. I haven’t encountered any problems in relation to my schoolwork. I maintain good grades and take all honors classes. I even found time to be on the swim team last season. My weekends are generally very busy. I go out to Fantasy of Flight sometimes to help and when I’m not out there I go out to my barn or compete in a rodeo, if I have one. However, I still*

have time to go out with my friends and do other things. Becoming involved in aviation takes dedication, but it doesn't have to rule out everything in your life."

I believe this interview with our future in aviation demonstrates that we older aviators are indeed passing the torch to a younger generation. The sheer joy of watching a young person develop a burning desire to enter the aviation industry is very rewarding.

Finally, I will leave you with Morgan's thoughts; *"Sitting around listening to the old time aviator stories is something that I would do every day if I could. I find it vitally important to learn about this history and attempt to keep it alive. I hope that I can one day carry the torch that I am being passed, and in turn, pass it on to others in the future. I aim to keep the flame burning as bright as I can."*

Waldo leaves Fantasy of Flight for summer activities

Waldo Wright's Flying Service will be leaving its winter home at Fantasy of Flight during the month of June and will be returning beginning October 1, 2006. We will be available for flights in June on selected week days and weekends. Please call in advance for reservations. We thank all those who took a ride with us or came by just to say "hello." We hope to see many of you on the tour. Look for us at these cities in July:

American Barnstormers Tour

July 15th-16th
Air Zoo - Kalamazoo, MI (KAZO)

July 17th
Smith Field – Ft. Wayne, IN (KSMD)

July 18th
**Monroe County Airport –
Bloomington, IN (KBMG)**

July 19th
**Frasca Field – Champaign/Urbana, IL
(C16)**

July 20th
**Southeast Iowa Regional Airport –
Burlington, IA (KBRL)**

July 21st
**Albertus Airport – Freeport, IL
(KFEP)**

July 22nd
**Baraboo WI Dells Airport – Baraboo,
WI (KDLL)**

July 23rd - 24th
**Wausau Downtown Airport –
Wausau, WI (KAUW)**

July 25th - 30th
Air Venture– Oshkosh, WI (KOSH)