

I flew over to the Philip fly-in this morning and with the help of a nice tailwind it took me 45 to 50 minutes. The Black Hills area was well represented with 6 to 8 members of our EAA chapter there besides myself, and Ernie Clark with his Flightstar (from Spearfish). There were some others from this area there but I didn't recognize them. There was also a friend of mine Chan Shippy from Colome, SD (near Winner) who flew up in his single place Challenger. I suppose there were around 20 planes there, maybe more. The CAP did the breakfast for us and the FAA had their seminar. Chan and I departed about a half-hour after the seminar concluded.

I caused a bit of a stir at the truck stop near Kadoka when I landed on an old gravel missile silo road that ran parallel to the I-90 interstate and taxied in for gas. I'd been planning this for some time and had even done some measurements with the pump hose and locations relative to my Challenger. It had looked like it just might work for me and it did. So instead of \$2.73/gal for avgas it was \$1.89 for premium car gas. One of the station staff came out to BS with me and had no problem with my being there. Out of the six 4 pump islands, only 3 cars were around so I had lots of space. I wasn't quite sure how I would nestle the plane in there to get the gas but it worked out fine. After taxiing in and stopping near a pump island, I shut down and got out. I pulled it over to a pump island such that the end pump nestled in by the rear of a wing and the fuselage. The hose just did reach the tank behind the rear seat.

One fellow, who turned out to be a pilot, came over saying he'd never seen a plane at a car gas station before and I mentioned how it was quite common in certain parts of Alaska. I also pointed out their fine windsock (large American flag). He smiled wistfully and went inside. A few tourists were pointing the plane out to their kids and smiling. Another fellow motioned for me to wait as I was getting in and ready to leave. He was an A&P mechanic and wondered where I was from/going. I told him about the Philip fly-in and he thought it was pretty neat to be able to stop here like that. We chatted a bit then I moved the plane away from the pump island, got in and cleared everyone away, cranked up, and taxied out to the road. A car was coming under the Exit 152 overpass so I waited to see what they were gonna do. As I taxied past, they just pulled in and watched, smiling and waving a bit. I got back out to the service road, taxied up the hill and took off. I got home about 55 minutes later. All in all, it was a nice day!