

Feelings of Flight

I flew with Steve Krueger to Mankato, Mn. to deliver son Brian's beautiful C-152. Wow, what a sweet little bird. I could describe all the neat things about a little cross-country flight, but you pilots already know that stuff. So, let me talk just a little bit about the feelings involved.

Oh, how they can capture your day. And, what a day it was. Learning more about the GPS made me feel alert. Being taught some about flying VOR made me feel, hey, this is cool. Contacting flight following and squawking an assigned transponder code made me feel that I am contributing something to the safety element of aviation. And feeling the smooth floating sensation of 3 dimensional awareness at 4500 MSL altitude. And landing approaches, how I relish the feeling of those control inputs and the banks

and descends going through down wind, base, and final. One of the big happenings of the day was when we got a call from flight following to stay at our 4500 msl and "Airbus-umpty-umpty maintain your 5000". Followed quickly by, Cessna 6111Q, traffic at your 10 o'clock, 5000. Both our heads swung to the approximate 10 o'clock position and there it was, a big Airbus heading right at us. I should not say right at us, after all, there was 500 feet separation. As the closure increased we were able to start noticing the altitude difference. As each of our headings intersected, and the excitement and goose bumps and adrenaline surge of the happening subsided, I realized the feelings! Yes, the feelings of accomplishment and confidence. The accomplishment of two aircraft avoiding a collision due to cooperation and, working together of ATC and each

individual pilot. And, the feeling of confidence knowing the system works.

Ha, after just reliving all this again in my mind, I have to get my feet back on the ground and say – Beautiful, I am a kid again. Thanks, Steve, for making this ol' geezer feel like a kid again.

God bless you!

Ron Detert

