

Flying 2020



September 17, 2020.

The day would be stamping trip #11. Flyers were Brandon Buss, Paul Buss, Larry Gordon, Lyle Banser, and Dan Marlenga. Shortly after sunrise we all left our home bases and flew to Baraboo-Wisconsin Dells Regional Airport. Arriving within minutes of each other, we went inside for our first stamps of the day. Brandon Buss had arrived a little before the rest and was taking on some fuel. Brandon was flying his Cessna 172, as he was going to lead us into some active airspace and airports that require transponders. We gathered around to discuss the procedures for our next stop in Madison Truax Field. We called Truax Tower from the ramp at the Dells to tell them of our intentions. Armed with a printout from Brandon, we were off to Madison.

All of our trips would usually go something like this; The lead plane in our group would do most of the communications, while the trailing planes would

monitor the radio and follow in trail. Brandon contacted Approach and was given a "squawk code" for his transponder. We flew direct to Truax, about 8 miles out, we were given directions to enter left base and cleared to land on runway 04. Like the good little pilots that we are, Mother Goose (Brandon) led us into Truax with



Madison Truax Field. Paul Buss, Dan Marlenga, Brandon Buss, Larry Gordon, Lyle Banser.

very little fuss. We were greeted by a couple of line guys who parked us on the ramp. We were all very excited to be on the ground in Madison. We got our stamps and stood out on the ramp to watch a group of F-16's take off on runway 36.

When we soaked in the accomplishment of being there, we still had more fun to come. Brandon led us out and we were off to Milwaukee. Without transponders and prior permission, landing at Billy Mitchell Field in Milwaukee was an unknown. Brandon contacted

Mitchell Airport about 25 miles out. He announced we were a group of 5 planes inbound for landing. Brandon was given a "squawk code" and the rest of us were to turn our transponders to stand-by. This was perfect, as most of us had no transponder. We had a straight in approach into General Mitchell International Airport, landing on runway 07L. A short taxi to Signature Flight Support and we then had another stamp in our passport books! Lots of smiles and pats on the back, as most of us thought we might never fly our own planes into Mitchell Field in Milwaukee!

We left Mitchell on runway 07L and traveled north along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Turning west, Brandon led us next to Milwaukee's Lawrence

J. Timmerman Airport. There were 3 airplanes doing pattern work at Timmerman, so the Controller asked them all do full stop landings until the 5 of us were on the ground. We borrowed a car from Spring City Aviation and drove to El Greco restaurant. After lunch and a stamp, we were off to Waukesha County Airport. The airspace from Timmerman to Waukesha was fairly busy so we had our heads on a swivel watching for traffic. Brandon's ADSB was a handy tool for knowing where the traffic was even when we still hadn't seen the planes. We

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

got our stamps at Atlantic Aviation and looked around at a local display of Waukesha Airport history.

After departing, Brandon headed for home and the 4 of us went to Capitol Airport for gas and our next stamps. Paul then called the owner of Valhalla Field and got permission to land and get a stamp. We weaved between air-spaces on our way south to Valhalla. The airport directory warned us of the rough runway. It also warned that elevations varied 30 feet.

Approach there to runway 09 is right traffic. Clearing the trees, the runway fell away from us and carried us farther down the runway than expected. The owner was out watching us land and had the stamp. He told us he wanted to develop some fly-ins there soon, but he must work on his rough grass strip! We next returned to Sylvania for a stamp that wasn't available on our last stop. The airport manager was there and showed us around the very nice office building that served as FBO and lounge.

We departed Sylvania, skirting west of the Milwaukee and Waukesha airspace for a long ride home. My GPS said home was 181 miles. It was a nice ride as I reflected on this great day of flying. Our little band of aviators had a very memorable day; 8 airports and 7.7 on the hobbs. Stay tuned, as we have one more memorable adventure to tell.

Humbly Submitted,

Dan Marlenga



Brandon Buss along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Milwaukee



Mitchell Field Milwaukee. Dan Marlenga, Lyle Banser, Larry Gordon, Brandon Buss.

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