



Grass Roots Flyer September 2020



Letter from the Stanton Sport Aviation, Inc. President:

Stanton Sport Aviation was organized in 1990 when a group of aviation enthusiasts purchased the airfield to preserve Stanton Airfield for sport aviation activities. The airport is privately owned by shareholders and open to the public. The runways, surrounding cropland, main building and hangars are assets of the corporation and income is produced from rentals, flight instruction, maintenance and hangar rental. With no government subsidies, the financial challenges have been difficult. (Indeed, the corporation pays taxes which municipal airports do not.) Many generous supporters have volunteered countless hours and made substantial donations for the benefit of Stanton Airfield. Thank you to all of you who have supported Stanton throughout the past 30 years.

My goal is to emphasize the current challenges and to solicit any suggestions that might aid in this particularly difficult time. We currently have a cash flow problem and are working diligently to find good solutions. Adding debt is not a good option in that the corporation is carrying significant debt already. The Board prefers to work through this shortfall without borrowing. Please contact me, any Board members or the airport manager, John Quilling, with any helpful thoughts. I know there are many talented folks who treasure this airfield who may have thoughtful and constructive ideas. We are very grateful for your support.

Dick Andrews, President

Stanton Sport Aviation, Inc.

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Kudos from our Customers:

#1 Dear Stanton, I was reflecting on my glider ride today and just had to send you a note of thanks. It was a great experience and what you didn't see was the smile under my mask, the whole time! Everyone at the airfield was so friendly and welcoming. You even kept my husband entertained as we glided. He had a great time too! Thank you for sharing your passion for aviation. The afternoon was not only a wonderful experience but also a learning opportunity. Who knows, maybe the Stearman ride next! With gratitude.....

#2 Huge shout out to Stanton Airfield SYN in Minnesota. Great people, amazing quality of work. If you have an old Piper Cub, Colt, or Pacer and you need work done, these guys are the best. Their hangars are full of them. The grass runways are great and the fuel is priced right. (...from a Colorado visitor)

**We always appreciate feedback, good or not quite perfect, so feel free to contact us at synairportmanager@gmail.com.

Recent Visitors:



(left) Father/Son flight for fuel on a clear blue sky day.

(below) Coffee and donuts on a Sunday morning.





(Above) The name on the airplane says it all!

Fence of the past....fence in the present:



The picture above hangs in the hallway here at the Airfield and reminds us of the great soaring days of a “few” years ago. You can see in the picture the fence that separated the “flight operations side” of the field from the more “public side”. The fence





was a visual reminder and barrier for safety concerns.

We have temporarily put up a rope fence in approximately the same place as in the picture above to once again provide the safety zone from the picnic area to the flight line. In the future it is anticipated we will construct an actual similar fence.



Did you Know?

In a previous edition of this newsletter we gave you a trivia question regarding our runway cones. You found out we have 49 cones on the field. We've heard from pilots that the visibility of the cones have really helped identify the airfield among the mostly green surroundings this summer. We take extra effort to mow the area around the cones so they are as visible as possible. Thanks to volunteer Dan Wolbert and part-time staff member Braeden Kluzak, two of the people who keep the cones mowed and trimmed.

PS: The amount of mowing and trimming here at SYN is huge. It is mostly done by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to help with this, please send us an email at synairportmanager@gmail.com.

Two New Private Pilots in August:



(left) Trey Turner with CFI Mason Lindenfelser

(right) Cameron Langdon with CFI Mason Lindenfelser – you may recall seeing his name and picture in our last issue. You aren't seeing double. Cameron soloed on July 1 and got his private pilot license on August 5! Talk about fast-tracking.

Ticket to Ride:

No, not the Beatles song of the '60s, a ticket to ride in an airplane or glider here at Stanton Airfield! Very soon we'll be posting a flyer on our website and Facebook page highlighting rides in a glider or airplane or both. "Experience the thrill of rolling down the grass runway and gently lifting off into the air for a tour of the Northfield and/or Cannon Falls area from the viewpoint of a bird!" A "Discovery Flight" will give you an understanding of the airplane/glider and the steps necessary to achieve your pilot's license. Or you can just enjoy the view. Make sure to bring along your camera.

Refurbishment Project of S2-33K:

National Headquarters of Civil Air Patrol contracted with Stanton Sport Aviation to refurbish this glider. This shop project started back in late spring and as you can

see the recovering of the fuselage has been completed. We'll report more later as the wings are added and the first flight occurs.



Airport Manager Report:

With the fall season over-shadowing us now, I'd like to expand just a bit on the President's comments you saw on page 1 regarding our current cash flow situation. As all of us are living this COVID 19 pandemic, our own day-to-day activities were affected due to the shelter-in-place a few months back. Very few of us are back to the normal we knew.

Here at SYN, we only pumped 54 gallons of gas in March, 868 gallons in April and we eased back into flight OPS in May. We've had to try making up for lost fuel & flying revenue in the last three months and are hoping for a strong fall season. The shop has been steady, but with less manpower. The shop carries the current major burden of the entire operation, and has work booked right through the end of year.

A lot of small businesses have closed their doors both short term and for good. A few large FBOs prosper, while many are carving a path simply to stay alive. Please consider your support in getting us through these uncharted times of this pandemic. We have multiple ways for you to contribute, just give us a call. The entire staff here at Stanton stays committed to the general aviation community, providing a grass roots product and service that will be around for generations to come. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any comments or questions.

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CURRENT FUEL PRICES:

100 LOW LEAD - \$3.54

SWIFT UL94 - \$4.35

****SUBJECT TO CHANGE, CALL TO BE SURE**