



## Grass Roots Flyer

October 2019



### Airport Manager Report:

1. This month's newsletter has some reflections from the busiest flying months of the year here at SYN. June, July and August have been record flight training months for us. Each of those months exceeded the flying hours of their month's historical record. Although September did not also break the all-time record, it was above the 10 year average. Thanks to Mason, Jay and Hank for all their continued efforts with the flight school. Tail wheel training and endorsements, private pilot flight training and reviews, first solos and successful check rides all occurred during those months. Of the seven students that completed our Private Pilot ground school, three have now received their Private Pilot license and three will begin flight training as soon as we get their personal aircraft's Annual Inspection completed. We intend to hold another ground school this fall and will have more information and a start date on that in a later newsletter.



(Left – Aaron Mika, tail wheel)  
(Right – Roger Southwick, tail wheel)  
Jay Biggs, CFI on both



2. This summer there have been multiple days with very busy glider operations going on. MN Soaring Club, Civil Air Patrol, Stanton Sport Aviation and privately owned gliders were all operating at the same time with 2 or 3 tow planes. It is important to understand that these various entities

have some different protocols/procedures for their own specific reasons. This does not make any one operation better or worse than the next, and it doesn't make any of them unsafe. JOINT COMMUNICATION by the respective groups prior to starting the flight operations of the day will make clear the intentions of everyone in the joint operation. As always, be prepared with a swivel head for any miscues or emergencies. **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS!!!**



3. Whether or not you like this transition from summer to fall and beyond, it is upon us now. We all need to take a few minutes to understand the changing weather patterns as part of our pre-flight/pre-travel planning. Make sure your aircraft/automobile has had any necessary preventative maintenance performed before it's too late.

4. Some of you may have noticed a new sign out front as you enter the airport from Hwy 19. Stanton Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol has officially adopted the airport through the Minnesota DOT, Office of Aeronautics "Adopt an Airport" program. Any public-use airport in MN is eligible to participate in this program. Adopt an Airport volunteers work with airport managers by assisting with planting flowers, landscaping, helping to keep airport areas clean, painting and maintaining airport buildings, or by doing any activities that are agreed upon between the airport manager and the volunteers. CAP cadets and seniors (adult members) have walked the runways collecting debris and will be helping with some of the other duties mentioned above.



5. We are in the process of revamping our Stanton web site and will be going live with the update in mid-October. We plan to post timely pictures and stories, current and back issues of *Grass Roots Flyer*, a new section on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as well as keeping all the past and historical information on the site. Our plan is to have weekly updates for all of our current and future customers so it becomes a "go to" place for news on Historic Stanton Airfield!

6. After my last 3 1/2 years of battling the drainage problems of the main building and barn, we broke ground recently with the fixes. In the picture at left is the



regrading of the driveway and grassy area to produce a swale for water runoff – away from in front of the barn door. The next project is to regrade the main building horseshoe driveway and provide 2 more swales for water runoff away from the front entrance. Next month, you'll see the finished product along with new

parking arrangements for our customers and service vehicles.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about Stanton Airfield, please contact me.

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### **Camping at Stanton!**

Yes, we occasionally host travelers passing through the area. Recently this pilot from California stopped by with his Tri-Pacer, tent and bicycle for a couple nights. From here his cross-the-country trip was taking him to Florida.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> State Senator flies at Stanton:**

MN Civil Air Patrol once again flew a State Legislator on an orientation flight in their glider here at Stanton. State Senator Carla Nelson, District 25 (Rochester) flew with Capt. Bill Pagel in their Blanik L23.



### **Ag Seeding near Stanton:**

Two Air Tractors from Midwest Ag-Air in Adams MN recently based their operations here while seeding in the Stanton area. Original plans were to be here for one day but weather conditions kept them here a little longer.



### **Plane Identification Contest:**

We recently had visits from the 3 airplanes shown below. The first person to identify them properly via email back to [synairportmanager@gmail.com](mailto:synairportmanager@gmail.com) will win an all-expenses paid trip to either our ice cream freezer or our Coca-Cola machine for one free item of their choice! Yup – here at Stanton we go all out for our readers...



**In our next issue.....**

Find out why Tom Kuhfeld and Pat Watson are pulling out all the fence posts around the driveway (with a mower) and why Tom and Pat (and John and Toby and Mason) are removing the entry sign (again, with a mower?).



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**CURRENT FUEL PRICES:**

**100 LOW LEAD - \$4.50**

**SWIFT UL94 - \$4.35**

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