

### June 1, 2006

Planning more on the trip, preparing the plane for the final trip. I am leaving in a few days. We have all the charts and required books for the trip.

Thanks Jim for contributing to our flight. Janet's husband has donated the smaller version to carry with us across the country.

### June 2, 2006

Not a lot going on except finalizing everything for the race. All is coming together well except for the weather. I will be departing earlier than anticipated due to weather, I think. It looks like I will leave late Thursday or early Friday morning. All is dependant on weather, so we shall see.

It will take me 2 1/2 hours to get to Janet's place, if we decide to continue then it will be 3 or so to Ashville, NC.

### June 3, 2006

Finishing packing and will check the plane for any leaks in this rain tomorrow. Leaks around the door seal, hopefully they where fixed Friday with the remaining items to be checked by the mechanic. I think I will weigh and load the plane tomorrow after I go to church.

My son has asked his pastor to bless our trip at the Church of Nazarene in Weymouth, MA on Sunday the 4th of June. That is so thoughtful of my son. Pastor Ken is such a wonderful person, we have had the pleasure of meeting previously.

Thanks Pat & Anne Marie for covering the Attleboro High School and Women's Museum on June 13th, I will be rocking my wings somewhere over Texas if all goes well. Thanks for all your support.

### June 4, 2006

Today I went to church, the Church of Nazarene in Weymouth. Rev Ken gave his blessing for our trip across the country.



See Photo of my son, Rev. Ken and I. Another few days and I will be leaving for close to a month. Thanks Rev. Ken and to my son, Keith.

### June 5, 2006

Our new handicap for Dakota PA-28-236 with a constant speed prop - 235 hp is 126 knots. Our plane must exceed the 126 knots on each leg flown.

The final paperwork is being completed.

1. Insurance binder in plane
2. All logs and mechanic check of plane is completed.
3. Handicap confirmed
4. All required equipment is in the plane
5. All required paperwork - ARROW is in the plane, including the FCC license.

Janet & I decided that our passports should be part of our paperwork, since we will be so close to the Mexico and Canadian border at different times during this trip.

St Teresa, NM is right near El Paso, TX within our first leg, and the final leg is somewhat close to Canada. We will be flying to Mackinaw Island that borders close to Canada.

All radio licenses and Canada Pass is in the plane.

Another few days and I will be departing for York, PA to pick Janet up

June 8, 2006

Plane is ready except small stuff. loaded with everything but computer and toothpaste.

Jeff Cabral polished my plane. He did a great job with his partner. Thanks Guys. I recommend

him to do the job, excellent work. To find Jeff: <http://jeffdetails.tripod.com/>



Will be leaving on Saturday @ 12 Noon to head for Janet's.

June 9, 2006

Well, it is almost time for me to depart. Time flies. We have received so many blue skies farewells. Thanks everyone.

Tomorrow... if the weather gives me a window I will be departing for Janet's. We may be able to get out of York Sunday morning, although we will have to change our fly areas. Will keep everyone in touch with the friendly skies of Air Race # 9. June 10, 2006 departure around 12 or so. Maybe.....

RE: Mansfield Air Race Classic 2008. So, much to do and so little time. I think I forgot something. Thanks Kerri the drawings look great for the letterheads, poster and other potential memorabilia. I love the idea of ink and watercolor. Still waiting to see what the high school will come up with for the letterhead logo.

Everyone has been great regarding the planning of the 2008 air race in Mansfield, MA. The early preparations have been great, Thanks everyone.

PS: Not to be left out. June 7, 2006 and **June 8, 2006 was a mile stone. God does answer one's prayers. Thank-you.**

Randy, (Barrows Insurance) Joan and the rest, thanks for signing the scarf. Randy, I will try to fly over the Reading, PA area to get an aerial of the Pagoda. One never knows, if not on the way back from the race. I love all your history there, I never realized that. Someday, I will have to drive there.

Joan, you know who you are... I will have a glass of wine and toast you when I get to Mesa, AZ. Great time at the William O'Connell Golf Museum in Norton, MA. Debbie won the raffle to fly to Nantucket for 2, turns out the girls will be making a weekend of it in September. Let me know the scoop on the place we are staying. Love to hear from everyone.

Janet & I are all excited. Look for our future updates and photos.

June 11, 2006

I was up and out of Mansfield, MA a day later than planned. Weather was not so good on the 10th. So early Sunday morning I departed the airways and made it in to York, PA.

Janet & I caught up with the last minute decisions packing the suitcases and repacking. Finalizing the charts and determining the last minute planning. Weather again once not conducive to us going direct to visit Elvis in Memphis. The storm front was in around the Carolinas and into Memphis area. Along the Mississippi area. So, we decided to go west for awhile and see how it would go. Go west to go south, makes sense doesn't it?

We then went to bed early, or at least I did. 8:00 PM to get up early the next day. Janet was a little nervous, this is her 1st race so it is a little daunting flying close to 2/3rds of the country and back again. I must confess I find it a little daunting on occasion, but like everything one leg at a time helps a lot. We have decided to make executive decisions as we fly each leg to determine the best avenues to take. We are a good team.

June 12, 2006

When we started out this morning it was exciting. All the luggage managed to fit and we managed to make a decision to go to the Cape Gioridiana, MO. we started out to Cape Gioridiana, MO.

We tried to go west for awhile and weather started to clear a little so we landed short in Georgetown, KY. There we determined it would be okay to go direct after waiting an hour or so. We did start out with the intention of landing in Memphis area, but weather again threw us a curve ball. So, we landed shorter still in Glasgow, KY. So, here we are at the Days Inn, and it is the only dry town in the area. No, wine or cheese here.

I love the accents, everyone here thinks we have an accent, can you imagine that.

Janet & I are successfully across a good part of this country. We have made the decision that we will still land in Memphis to see if we can find Elvis tomorrow. We have not come this far to miss Elvis.

June 14, 2006

The Days are flying by; we are currently in Big Springs, TX. Flew out of Memphis TN today, around 9:30 everyone was wonderful. Everyone every where across the country has been signing the traveling scarf.

We did make it to Memphis, TN. Before we did I had the pleasure of meeting Billy & Jean at Shoney's at breakfast in Georgetown, KY. Jean tells me she has a little 4 year old daughter, Katie May, who wants to be a pilot. Katie, I certainly hope to see you flying the friendly skies of the USA someday. Did you know you can fly before you get your license to drive. If you start at a young age you will have been able to enjoy flying in this country and beyond for many years to come.

Katie, right to me and tell me of your aviation progress. One never knows in this world.

Well, Janet and I departed there and we did make it to Memphis, TN. We did make it to Graceland.

What a place that is. We forget how the music during the 60's & 70's were influenced by one man.

For one man, Elvis accomplished quite a bit. Did you know he was always quoted as saying "that I am a dreamer, and everything I dreamed became a reality." I would say that is true.

See photos in photo gallery. Janet did get a neat shot of Memphis on base to Gen Dewitt Spain airport on the Mississippi. Walter, you were a great help at the airport. Thanks.

Our next destination was ADA, OK, which is one of the stops in the race. We stopped there because it would be easier across the US that way. From there we flew to Big Springs, TX. Amarillo, TX was out due to winds gusting around 29kts. I am good, but not that good. So, here we are in Big Springs, TX, and I am very tired. It has been close to 14 hours of flying in 4 days. Wow! We are more than half way across the country in just 4 days.

When I stop to think about this, I am really very fortunate to be able to do this. Enjoy the photos.

Another 4 hours to Mesa, AZ tomorrow and the race starts on the 20th of June.

PS I met a real live singer from Scotland. JJ Gilmore... take a look at his site.. real cute... <http://www.jjgilmour.com> I love the accent.

This sure has been quite an adventure. I am just catching up now.

#### June 14- 16, 2006

We managed to leave Georgetown, KY. What an interesting decision on that flight. We spent the night and woke up to another wonderful day.

The days have been going by so fast, sometimes it seems to fast. That particular morning we met Billy & Jean at Shoney's Restaurant. See I did not forget you guys. Nor did I forget Jean's little girl Katie May. Who I am to understand at 4 yrs old wants to be a pilot. I think that is great Katie May, you will be starting long before I did and if there is one thing I wish I had done is start sooner. There are so many people and places to be and see. It is such a big country and I am still going.

Janet & I both agree our flight has been lucky. We have had a tail wind all the way across the country with excellent weather. It has been fantastic, cruising the friendly skies at 140 + knots.

From Georgetown, we did go into see Elvis. Graceland is beautiful and we forget how much of an influence of the 60's & 70's has left with us. Elvis was quite a guy in so many ways; he accomplished so much in such a short life time. That time frame changed all our lives forever in so many positive ways. It is a must see on the schedule of places to see. Check out the photos.

From there we went to Ada, OK, there we were met by the nicest group of people. This is one of the race stops we will be going to on the way back.

From there we continued to Big Springs, TX. Everyone there was great. They put my plane inside due to winds and blowing dirt & sand. It was wonderful there too. There we did get a curtesy car and spent the night. An early breakfast at the Cracker Barrel and we left around 7 AM.

We continued our flight to Dona Ana, N.M., which is another one of our stops. Dona Ana is near El Paso, so we spent the night there. We decided with the winds starting to blow and gust around us we might not want to continue over the mountains. So, I checked with weather and the people of the general area. It is always nice to ask what is indicative of the area, just to get a feel for the nuances that I might not be familiar with. Some things you know, like the mountains will up and down drafts the more the winds are active. But, how much and how fast they develop with the heat and the heating of air to create thunderstorms that may pop up anywhere is a good thing to know. So, we sat the night out on this one. Now, we are 2 hungry pilots. So, we decided to eat and find a place to stay. Nothing exciting that night, I did laundry and Janet went shopping a bit.

It was so interesting to realize that Mexico was 10 minutes away. We did consider going but there was not enough time.

Janet & I did get up early and they had the plane ready @ 7 AM again. We departed well aware there would be headwinds this time.

I calculated close to 3 hours to Mesa, AZ. I know after flying with a tail wind all the way, until now. Well, we are spoiled. Then we had to divert around the Jackal MOA, it was going to become hot just around the time we wanted to go through. Hot means big birds are flying faster than us 29000 feet and below. Something about practice maneuvers. It is Visual Flight and I would have to look out constantly for anything dashing by at high speeds. No thanks.

All the areas tell us all about this part of the country. The country ranges in so many shades, contrast, and individual flavor it is hard to determine what is not unique. Every area has a clear pattern of it's own personality. The pictures tell it all. From the mountains, desert and terrain of the west, one can attach a strong flavor. Wait until you see the photos.

Well, we finally made it around 9 AM. It is such a good feeling to fly this country and see so much. It is so humbling. Something so big becomes so small and so very magnificent.

#### June 16, 2006

On arrival we are required to sign in with all credentials. License, Medical, and Insurance Binder. As a team we present our information, from there we have the plane evaluated for the requirements. Here, they determine if the plane is stock and there are no speed modifications that would increase the handicap. It seems my landing lights on the wings are not stock and they may add a 1/2 knot to my handicap. It is in for debate now, still waiting for the results.

From there we obtain a rental car and check in at the hotel.

It is great seeing all my friends that I have flown previous air races with. I have always said it is a Summer Camp for the girls, and each year we get together and share in a mutual interest. Flying is such a privilege that we all love to share. Our main goal is to encourage young women to fly and to keep such a wonderful history going for many years to come.

While there I met a few more young ladies that are flying for the first time, we call these girls the baby birds. The old timers, like me are the mother birds and we take them under our wing and teach and learn together in this new air race. Each year brings new challenges and new learning experiences for us all to share. After all we all learn from experience and what better teacher is there than to do it together?

#### June 17, 2006

Janet & I have been finalizing the charts and necessary papers for the Fly-bys. We will be flying over the runways at about 200 feet above.

Fly-bys are approved by the FAA in advance and each airport.

It is really quite interesting because we must level off 1 mile out and announce when we are 10 then 5 miles out. This is so exciting to be able to fly this race.

After doing some research and homework, we decided to take a break and drive to Scottsdale, AZ. It is a lovely area.

The triple AAA travel books that Janet brought helped us find a neat place to visit. We stopped in to see Frank Lloyd Wright's

snow bird home. He was indeed an architect before his time. I was not aware that his was a University and the students build

their own homes on the premise, or even expand on a previous one. Tuition is \$13,000.00 a year whether a resident or not. It is also

set up as a kind of communal living where all have responsibilities for upkeep, cleaning and repairs. Interesting place to visit. Talisan West.

We then came back for our Mandatory meeting discussing the general rules for first timers. I set in because there is always some new tips to learn.

After the meeting we had to get ready for the Mandatory dinner. Janet & I wore our matching outfits and we were sensational.

What a team we make. We look good and work well together.

This is going to be an even better trip in the race.

June 18, 2006

Luggage drop off to be shipped at 7:30, another early morning. Luggage helps bring the weight down in the plane.

Less drag, although my plane does a little better with a little weight in the back.

Had an another Mandatory meeting discussing the waivers, fly-by's and weather. Weather does look interesting but as

Mike Halloren, our guest speaker from the FAA says, "Hey, BE SAFE." Now the real decisions of go and no go will apply.

Especially with the interesting weather conditions sliding in around the different airports. We will see.

Gotta Go. Janet & I have last minute errands and lunch. We are always hungry.....





And Yes Lorraine ... HAPPY BIRTHDAY ... Smile. ;0

June 21 -23, 2006

The days have gone by so fast. I am now in Menominee, MI. Wow! What a trip! The people everywhere have been so good. All the hospitality has been wonderful. I have met many new friends across the country and renewed friendships with some. I am so lucky.

What is today? Only kidding.. It has been a whirlwind traveling across this country and almost back. I left on the 13 of June and flew to Mesa, AZ and now I am in Menominee, MI.... WOW WOW..

Along the way to Ozona, TX Air traffic asked if I was familiar with the area, I said no and asked if there was a problem, they said no but they wondered why I had leveled off at an unusual altitude. I told them I was cooling down my engine due to the heat. My plane started to get too hot. So, I had to cool her down. The heat was 114 degrees over the hills. After that little endeavor we proceeded to our next destination. We did not take as many photos because we were a little more busy. Janet is doing great on radios, charts and flying the plane. Yes, I did let her fly her for parts of the trip.

Our second day of travel when we left Ozona, TX was to Bastrop, LA. There we spent the night, Shannon & her future husband helped out a lot. Thanks Shannon and good luck with the coming nuptials. Thanks to everyone else too. Mrs. Dawson, I expect to see you flying next years Air Race if not the one that ends in Mansfield, MA. You have a lovely little town there. I feel bad I did not get to see more of the town. Thank - you too for the Prayer "Angel in Blue Jeans" from the wonderful Doctor. It was so true.

Well, off into the skies Janet & I went to Ada, OK. There we met our friends when we came through the first time. Thanks for the great job cleaning my windshield. Lots of bug guts, especially with all the flying we have been doing. We kept in line pretty much with Sandy & April in the Bonanza; we started having a friendly competition between locations. My plane is still slower than the Bonanza V-tail.

This country starts becoming so small in so many ways. But, it is also good to start seeing the green, green grass of close to home. The mountains and the desert is so sparse, sharp and unforgiving in the heat sometimes. Even at altitude you feel the heat until you are considerably higher. It would take me awhile to get comfortable with the heat. The departures with density altitude is less on the plane the more North we are heading. Temperatures are more regulated and less is required to cool her down. The heat is so hard on planes and the avionics. I purchased a white towel to cover the dash to protect the avionics; the paper charts were not doing the job.

On the 22 of June, Janet & I pushed through to Albert Lee, MN. We were up and out @ 6:30. We flew into Ada, Ok, Lawrence, Ks, and Albert Lee, MN. Wow, all in one day, it was close to 6 1/2 hours of flying. All the fly - bys went pretty well. One location I had to break away left because someone took off while I was doing the fly-by. I have learned along time ago with my plane, she is a little bit faster than most of the planes; I have to move faster to get out of the way.

I have lost a lot of time flying when I break away from other planes, but I would rather be safe. This race is about flying but flying safely. I always learn so much when I fly these races.

The second time I had to break away was in Albert Lee, MN. I was neck & neck with another plane announcing location and I knew she was close but not sure where she was. So, I broke away from the pattern at the timing line. As it turns out it is a good thing I did. She was 100 feet below me.

Flying is about judgment and learning to apply it. Since I am a faster plane I must remember where I am at all times. I also must know where the other planes are at all times. So, I try to listen especially in a congested area of many planes flying.

One never knows in life, my buddy in the Bonanza had an engine out over Webster International, IA. I did not hear the MAY DAY call. If I did I would have turned back to check things out. Sandy & April are okay. The engine piston blew out and I guess she chugged along until she went out. Sandy \* April are really good pilots, but I am sure even the silence when the engine stops would rattle anyone. Thank- you God for looking out for Sandy & April.

That night I needed sleep so I went to bed early. The next morning I felt better talking to Sandy, she is going to stay with her plane to work things out. I will miss her & April in Menominee. Thinking of you guys and I will have a Appletini for you both.

Well, here we are at our destination. All the numbers are not in yet, because not everyone is in yet. Tomorrow morning is score sheet day.

Janet & I are going out to celebrate soon. Will let you know the results tomorrow when they are official.

Thanks everyone for all your support!

June 23, 2006

The first day of arrival has been so exciting. Everyone had not made it in yet. There are 5 more planes to come in.

Glen & Elaine were there, I met them 2 years ago when I lost my alternator and starter in Eveleth, MN. Elaine was so glad that I made it to the terminus. After much hugging and congratulations for finishing the race, we discussed many good points for the Air Race in Mansfield, MA in 2008. Lots of good ideas for our terminus. I will be coming back with lots of good information for the Mansfield Air Race, I am really looking forward to making this a success for Massachusetts.

Janet & I picked up our rental car and went to the hotel. Menominee, MN is where the plane is and the hotel is in Marionette, WI. We just drive over the bridge and we are in Wisconsin. It is not quite like flying between states, but between driving & flying over them we have covered quite a few.

I spoke with Sandy & April, they are waiting for their mechanic, it looks like the engine had a clogged fuel injection system which inhibited the fuel to the engine. One of the piston's blew. She said the silence was a little scary at first, but something told her to pull the flaps for that extra lift to the runway.

She also told me to tell everyone that " She enjoyed meeting us all and she looks forward to flying with all of us in next year's Air Race." In 2007 we all we be seeing Sandy & April, I am so glad. She also said to tell everyone "to practice power out landings all the time, because you never know when our last flight may be and how important it is to be prepared. God was guiding her to that runway".

When she did the emergency landing in Webster, IA, there was a retired Navy Officer. This gentleman felt since they did such a good job he awarded them with the "Challenge Coin". Historically, this was given to Naval personnel for an exceptional performance at the time of adversity. They were given this with a letter that the promise to always carry it with them and accept the challenge of other persons that may carry this special coin.

Look up the history on the "Challenge Coin", the history goes back to WW1. Congrats guys, you are both great pilot's in my eyes. I look forward to flying with you in the years to come.

The cook out was a success. Everyone shared many of their flying adventures throughout the race. We all met very special people in all the locations we landed in. Everyone was so gracious and warm.

After the cook out I went back to do laundry. Why is it there is only one machine and one dryer. We were all lined up for our turn. I was finally finishing up around 12 AM. I did have a long talk with a few other pilot's while waiting. Again, we shared our many stories and moments we experienced throughout our flight. We all come from all over this country and we are so lucky to be able to do this.

June 24, 2006

We had a quick breakfast and reviewed our scores. The judge let me know my decision to break away on one of the fly-by's for safety reasons had been noted and that they were glad I had made the decision. During the race I had to break away a few times. One was when I was doing the fly -by a plane had taken off and was under me so I broke away right. The second time I was coming in at the same time as another and I could hear her but did not see her, so I broke away again. The third time, I had to break away in the rain, too many planes trying to land and I felt more comfortable farther away when there is that much activity around an airport. Boy did that rain come down fast. I did a really nice landing that time.

I always have to remember that my plane is a little faster and I have learned to break away from lots of activity. I have learned I can always come back when it is less congested. I did loose a little time in our score each time, but I race for the learning experience. Besides I really do not want to beat up my plane.

There are so many times, I even had to slow her down over Texas due to the heat, just to cool her down. She started to overheat a little and I do intend to keep flying after the race with a solid

engine. Plus in this race we must run full throttle which can be hard on an engine and I do not want to beat up on her. I like my plane too much.

Janet had also set me up for a HOT ROCK MASSAGE. WOW .. I recommend them. It was one of the most relaxing experiences I have ever had. I came back to the hotel and took a much needed nap. I am tired. I finally figured out that I have flown 34 1/2 hours since the Sunday before last. That is a lot of flying hours.

It looks like Monday I will be able to make it to Mackinaw Island in Michigan for a few days. From there we will be departing to somewhere in Ohio my Wednesday. Hopefully in York by Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning. We will see. New England has had a lot of interesting weather lately.

As I said, we will see.

Almost home. I will not be able to make the other destinations after all. Oh Well! Maybe next time.

June 26, 2006

Well, the race is over and the awards dinner is over. The race was a definite learning experience. I am tired, but I think we both learned a lot.

Janet was using the radios, charts and equipment more comfortably. That is what I believe the race is about. We learn more than we realize, a few times I was tired and Janet helped out. So I think we both learned a lot about flying. It is a lot easier with two people when they are doing the work together. I did have a little trouble letting go of my yoke, but Janet did fly her pretty well.

We did come in a little less than desired, but I knew that because I did not want to beat on my plane. I do not think even if I did not own it I would abuse the machinery. I have too much respect for my plane. If she is overheating I will not red line her, nor did I run her full throttle. Between you and me I really do not want to buy an engine. Janet & I did what was important in flying we learned more about aviation to be able to apply it at any given point. Flying is a forever changing task, nothing is ever the same. The variables change constantly and the more flexible we are the better.

Well, enough of the philosophical I think everyone that knows me knows I take good care of my baby.

June 27.2006

I am currently in Lansing, Michigan. I did not make it far outside of Mackinaw Island, Mackinaw MacKinaw should be on the list to go places. The island is very small and the runway is in the middle of the island. It is 8 miles around. Wait until you see these pictures, they are beautiful . Mackinaw is a State Park. The land is leased to the hotels, restaurants and business owners. It is renewed with continually within a specific family for 99 years and renewable again. There is land that is specifically owned by the residents that live there all year long. Most people leave by August, because it is cold and the tourist season is over. But the best is there are no cars, just horse drawn carriages everywhere. You are transported back

in time to the street sweepers taxis, carriages drawn by horses. It is truly a beautiful island.

Jeff, Jimmy and Matt were very helpful on the island. The hospitality all around was incredible. I stayed at the Lilac Tree in the center, The Grand Hotel is incredibly expensive. There is 360 rooms and all are not designed the same. 6 are designed by 6 of the first lady presidents. It is also the place of the movie of "Somewhere in Time" and another oldie but goodie.

Downtown is a unique blend of shops, mercantile, and fudge shops. All of which are very tempting. Very tempting.

Finally, I found a good time to depart and I managed to get to Mt Pleasant, MI. Mt Pleasant has a Chippewa Reservation with a casino not far from the airport. What a place that is! I stopped in because the nicest couple, Sheila & Bob, drove me to a nice restaurant for lunch. I hope to hear from you two sometime and thanks for lunch. Sheila I did get to the Casino and bought to Eagle charms for my girls. I collect charms for the bracelets at different places across the country to give my grandchildren when they are older. I also pick up postcards, historical reading books and neat items to try. I have always felt that they identify more with the country by seeing, smelling and touching. So the goodies are of varied varieties of items to try out. Sheila thanks for the idea on the eagles.

At the airport I also met John & Bob. Thanks guys it was a pleasure meeting you two.

I departed there and I was doing fine until approach radioed and told me there was a line of thunderstorms 30 nm in area running across my route. Not only did the route contain storms but hail. I decided to land sooner than anticipated in Lansing, MI.. ..so here I am. Tomorrow looks good so I will try to get to Beaver Falls, PA, closer to Pittsburgh, PA. Pittsburgh is a pretty city surrounded by water.

Time to got to bed, I have another early start.

PS I did try to leave Mt Pleasant and cut across Canada to Buffalo, but weather was no better that way. Tomorrow the weather is heading North so it is better to still try to go to Toledo, Akron, OH then to Beaver Falls, PA until the weather is better on the way out.

I can not knock it, the weather was better going too Mesa, AZ and through the race until Mackinaw Island. Well eventually I will make it through to Massachusetts.

June 28, 2006

A big decision was made yesterday, I decided to fly over Canada from Lansing, MI. Bob in Mt Pleasant presented the idea because that is what they do for the shortest route to New York area. Wow, Bob you were right, I covered that time in 2 1/2 hours to Candiaqua, NY. Now that is traveling. The other route through Toledo, Akron, and Pittsburgh would have been longer. I did take a few photos, Canada is not that different than Michigan

I am currently at my brothers house in Fairport, NY. It is always great to have a place to stop along the way with familiar faces. The flight home will be about 2 hours from here if the weather is good tomorrow. Friday looks real good. I will be home and in my own bed.

By the way, I did acquire a few more passengers. 2 of which are cats. Midnight and Star Light will be returning to Massachusetts with me. Midnight is a 2-year old black cat and Star Light is a slightly hyper 2 month old. Do you believe it I have added to the McDonald clan ? This time all shot are done and there is not contraband across state lines. I bought a cat before at Lollypop Farm up here and she needed her rabies shots. But was too young at the time, so I kidded about her being contraband flying across state lines at 7000 feet. It was a joke, she was not contraband.

The other passenger is my niece Kelley and my nephew's girlfriend Sarah. Maybe. We will see. Kelley wanted a long chat last night, I guess it was to plan the next flight of Aunt Kathy's Airlines.

June 29, 2006

As I reflect on the air race of this year, I feel that I have learned so much. Everyone I have met has contributed to so much of the experience of flying the country. What a feeling flying this country. I can not say enough about the people of this country. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful people we are connected to in so many ways. It is a friendly and patriotic country in such a strong shared goal. Thank- you everyone for being apart of this wonderful experience and I am so blessed to have been touched by all you all. As the saying goes in the south.

Did anyone know that there is a competition of Cowboy Poetry that goes on across the middle of the US? I did not either. Rolf of Arizona has written a book of Cowboy Poetry and travels all over the area, he has actually one the number one award in the country for his expertise.

Did you know that the desert can be green and not friendly to land on, because it is like hitting a brick wall? Neither did I, until the locals told us.

Did you know that them mountain terrain is as sharp and harsh as it is ? Neither did I, we imagine how things are and they are never the way we think they will be.

Did you know that I/we have an accent compared to the rest of the country? We roll are r's, as I am told and it is a clear identifier to were we are from.

Did you know that this vast country has as much land as it does? We do not know that until we see it from the sky and we are not really as over-populated as we seem. When viewed as a vast country. Just more on the East and West coast.

Did you know that every area has specific nuances that distinguish the areas of this country? Mt Pleasant is the Chickasaw Indian area. Lansing, Mi is not really as big an International Airport as Boston is. We assume International and they are smaller. Most of the country is not as congested and populated as we are. There is so much to see and do. Traveling this country you learn so much about the people and cultures that make us so diverse.

No, there is no one special place, because we are all so unique and special in our own way. Thanks everyone for sharing this adventure.

I hopefully will be home soon.

June 30, 2006

Hi Everyone. I just wanted to add an extra special thanks to WARREN (aka Webmaster), because I would not have been able to share this trip without him doing this site.

Please send Warren a warm thank-you for keeping track of me for this site. He did an excellent job.

July 4, 2006

I made it back home about 8 in the morning the other day. I have been trying to catch up on my rest and spend some time with my grandchildren.

They are here until August 3, 2006 on a visit from Florida. It is so good to see them. I have also been catching up with work on Monday.

Mrs. K stopped by the office with a really neat aviation piece. I will be hanging it in my office. Thanks for thinking of me. I appreciate the thought.

Well, the holiday has turned out real good, I spent the day with my two favorite girls Delenn & Courtney. I am so lucky to have these two beautiful little girls as my grandchildren. They are growing so fast, they are 7 & 8 years old now.

The very best part, they both want to be pilots someday and I think that is a really neat thing.

It is good I am home, traveling is fine but home feels so good.

Thank-you everyone for sharing this adventure with me.

Kathy McDonald