

March 2019

# GRASSHOPPER FLYER

March 23, 2019

Join the Grasshoppers at  
DeLand Municipal Airport  
KDED



Runways 12/30 and 5/23

Elevation 79'

AWOS 119.575

CTAF 123.075



Lunch at Airport Restaurant & Gin Mill  
1120 Airport Terminal Drive, DeLand, FL 32724  
(386) 734-9755

Hosted by Kathy Koshan and Will Weatherbee

**Lunch is at the Airport Restaurant & Gin Mill on the airport. Those flying can park near DeLand Aviation (386-740-1955) in open spots without tiedown ropes. Spots with tiedowns are for the based customers keeping their airplanes on the ramp. Will will be there to direct aircraft to parking locations. Please let us know your tail number when calling to RSVP. From the ramp you can walk directly through the gate into the back of the restaurant.**

Please RSVP by Thursday, March 21

Call, text or e-mail:

Kathy (407) 766-1433    [kekprh@mindspring.com](mailto:kekprh@mindspring.com)



February 23, 2019  
Flying W Air Ranch



Bill Sharpe, Karen Sharpe, \*Debbie Beach, Steve Flynn, \*April Mackin, Vince Minnillo, Donna Minnillo, Barbara Flynn, \*Stephanie Bensinger, Judie Betz, Jim Kuntz, Sharon Green, Steve Baetzner, Carolyn Myers, Becky Smith, Paul Smith, Rex Myers, \*Curt Morehouse and Kelly Prince. Missing: \*Jim and \*Pat Connell (\*new members)

**By Barbara Flynn**

The Grasshoppers's 57<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration was held at Flying W Air Ranch (9FL1) on Saturday February 23. The event was hosted by Barbara & Steve Flynn and EAA Chapter 1489 at the Flynn's residence. As you can see from the pictures, the event was held poolside overlooking the runway. Food was catered by Oakwood Smokehouse Express in Wildwood and was picked up by Pat Connell a new member. In fact, there were several new members from this event including Jim (Cricket) and Pat Connell (Nymph), Debbie Beach (Grasshopper) & Curt Morehouse (Locust), Stephanie Bensinger (Grasshopper and new web-mistress), and April Mackin (Grasshopper).

The food was great with chopped pork, smoked chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, and rolls. A little different this year from the usual cake, Debbie Beach made very special cupcakes for the event.

We talked to newest Grasshopper, April Mackin about hang gliding. April flew in with her Bailey - Moyes Dragonfly, an airplane specifically designed to tow other non-powered light aircraft (such as hang gliders) into the air. This was probably the most unique of the aircraft that flew in. Yes, there are some of us that started out in aviation as hang glider pilots. April is an entertainment animal trainer. But when she is not working on a movie, television or commercial set, she is also a tug pilot at Paradise Airsports (Sheets Airport) in Groveland. April invited all those interested in taking a tandem flight in a hang glider to come to Paradise Airsports for a special rate. April could very well be your tug pilot.

Also new member, Stephanie (Steph) Bensinger talked about her experiences as an aircraft builder and longtime ultralight and light sport pilot. Steph lives at Flying W and has



Our hosts Barbara and Steve Flynn

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Debbie Beach made birthday cupcakes.

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Steve Flynn and April Mackin with her Bailey-Moyes Dragonfly.

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Judie Betz flew in from Love's Landing with her Luscombe.

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been awarded many accolades for the aircraft she has built. Currently, Steph does not have a flyable aircraft but is looking forward to flying to the next Grasshoppers' event in March. Steph has some expertise in building websites and agreed to take on building a Grasshoppers' webpage. While at the event, a domain name was chosen and Steph will begin working on the site very soon.

New members, Debbie Beach and husband Curt Morehouse, also live at Flying W. In addition to being an accomplished pilot with over 300 hours in a Christen Eagle, Debbie is a retired U.S. Airways Flight Attendant and Curt Morehouse a retired B-757 Captain. These pilots connected and found they had many experiences and colleagues in common. Debbie also made and decorated the amazing cupcakes for the event. Debbie is extremely creative and artistic making jewelry, building little libraries, and painting rocks (you have to see them!).

Last but not least, new member Pat Connell is known by her friends as our very own comedian and salesperson extraordinaire. In addition to keeping us in stitches, Pat could sell ice to an Eskimo and is one of those people that almost always wins any raffle that she enters. Pat's husband, Jim, is the pilot in the family and former Captain for Continental Airlines. Jim was unable to be with us for the celebration.

We had great food, great conversation, a beautiful day, and made some new friends!

## Welcome New Members By Judie Betz

We have lots of good news to report this month. New Cricket, Patrick O'Brien joined us at our January gathering at Flagler. He came in his Cessna 400 Columbia from St. Petersburg as a guest of Laura Gao, hostess of the event. Patrick's Nymph, Sharon Mahoney, also became a member. More recruiting that day, as Mary Jane Law encouraged early member and 99, Shirley Davis to rejoin us.

Then at the February gathering hostess Barbara Flynn really outdid herself...not only did invite a number of great neighbors to come for lunch, but four super gals joined the Grasshoppers. Please welcome Debbie Beach and her Locust Curt Morehouse, Stephanie Bensinger from Flying W, Cricket Jim Connell and Nymph Pat Connell from nearby Flying Wahoo, and April Mackin who arrived in her Dragonfly tug straight from Sheets Airport. Pat Connell did the honors with photos of the goings-on, Debbie Beach baked and decorated our amazing birthday cupcakes and Stephanie Bensinger jumped right in to get a website going for us. Hostess Barbara Flynn will get our Facebook page up to speed.

The contact info for all these wonderful new and returning members follows for updating your Directories:

Debbie Beach, Grasshopper and Curt Morehouse, Locust  
5252 CR 316A. Bushnell, FL 33513  
727-452-7375 iflyakro3@gmail.com

Stephanie Bensinger, Grasshopper  
3522 SW 52nd Avenue. Bushnell, FL. 33513  
863-370-8877. sbensinger@mac.com  
Gropo Trail N94166. Flying W Air Ranch 9FL1  
Stephanie builds and services experimental aircraft at Flying W. She is developing a Grasshopper website.

Jim Connell, Cricket and Pat Connell, Nymph  
8400 CR614A. Bushnell, FL. 33513  
352-457-1808. patconnell8400@gmail.com  
Cessna172. N739QZ. Connells' Wahoo Airport  
The Connells' private strip is across 301. Until very recently they had a herd of cows. They are now ready to stop ranching and enjoy flying more often.

Shirley Davis, Grasshopper and Russell Davis, Locust  
10661 Denoeu Road. Boynton Beach, FL 33472  
561-733-3714  
Beech Debonair N5499U Willis Glideport Airpark (FA44)

April Mackin, Grasshopper  
17921 Phil C. Peters Road. WinterGarden, FL 34787  
321-229-0458. thatmackin@gmail.com  
Dragonfly N575KH and Cessna 178 N2422L. Sheets Airport (FA42)

Patrick O'Brien, Cricket and Sharon Mahoney, Nymph  
175 2nd Street S, Unit 1004, St. Petersburg, FL. 33701  
727-641-6344 paddobie@gmail.com  
Cessna 400. N774BW. Albert Whitted Airport (SPG)