



Lakeway Airpark Newsletter

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Lakeway Airpark Inc.
115 Flying Scot
Lakeway, TX 78734
www.3R9.org

President's Letter

Flying West

"I hope there's a place, way up in the sky, Where pilots can go, when they have to die. A place where a guy can go and buy a cold beer, For a friend and comrade, whose memory is dear; A place where no doctor or lawyer can tread, Nor management type would ere be caught dead; Just a quaint little place, kind of dark and full of smoke, Where they like to sing loud, and love a good joke; The kind of place where a lady could go and feel safe and protected, by the men she would know..."



Late in January, Robert White went west and that is a great loss for the Lakeway Airpark community. He was passionate about aviation in Lakeway and made countless contributions to the Airpark and our community. His memorial service and subsequent hangar celebration said it all. He was loved and respected by many and he went out with a celebration of life that had his knack for meticulous details all over it.

Robert was a great wingman to many. During his hanger celebration, I heard several stories about Robert going out of his way to help others. Several years ago, I heard one such story from Robert's IBM days, about him going to a troubled co-worker's home late at night to take his guns out of his house because he was concerned for his well being. Robert cared about the interests of everyone. Not many knew about Robert's strong Christian faith until the eulogy delivered by his children at the funeral. He didn't always wear that badge in plain view but he backed it up in actions. I saw it many times. He was a man of integrity.

Robert was a natural dealmaker. Three weeks before his passing, he called me and wanted to discuss who might be able to take the lead in the new hangar project. It was an important project to him and he didn't want his health challenges to derail progress. It was an act of total selflessness by a man that had come to terms with his mortality. That's just how he rolled.

Robert was a great husband, father and friend. Robert and Sharon had a very special relationship that was evident to all that have known them. Sharon did an incredible job supporting him and was by his side during a courageous battle with cancer. There is no way to fully appreciate the loss Sharon must feel but there is a great community of Lakeway Airpark friends behind her to help with the healing process. Robert's adult children, who spoke at his services, had many revealing stories about the values he taught all of them. The relationship they shared and the type of people that they are today speaks to the type of man Robert was.

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"...And then through the mist, you'd spot an old guy, You had not seen for years, though he taught you how to fly. He'd nod his old head, and grin ear to ear, And say, "Welcome, my son, I'm pleased that you're here. "For this is the place where true flyers come, When the journey is over, and the war has been won. They've come here to at last to be safe and alone, From the government clerk and the management clone, Politicians and lawyers, the Feds and the noise Where the hours are happy, and these good ol'boys, Can relax with a cool one, and a well-deserved rest; "This is Heaven, my son -- you've passed your last test!"

Author: Capt. Michael J. Larkin

Dedicated to: Capt. E. Hamilton Lee

Robert was my friend. Cancer sucks. We are all going to miss him, but I am sure we will walk through the doors of this mythical spot one-day and see Robert White, with a Miller Lite in hand, grinning ear to ear.

- Russ



Photos provided by Sue Knolle and Russ Norwood



Join our Airpark community! To learn more about the Lakeway Airpark, call any of the board members listed below.

From Steve, the Board Member— February was a busy month for the board. On my end we graduated 15 Pinch Hitter Co pilots from our three night course. Hopefully each of these flyers will now feel more comfortable in the cockpit and less helpless at the thought of "What if?" The Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce has contacted us again about flying their 30 member Leadership Lake Travis Class on May 12th. More details to follow but we will need 7 planes and pilots, along with a friendly ground boss and air boss. Usually a two-hour gig with two 20 minute flights per pilot. Lots of fun and great publicity. This year we will be flying the publisher of Community Impact Newspaper. Watch for \$100 hamburger runs as the weather gets better and the time changes to "Flying Later Time " in three weeks.

From Steve the CFI - "Don't Stall the Airplane". While this is common sense to pilots, the phrase has a special meaning to me. Several years ago after a 12 year hiatus from flying, I contacted Taylor White to get current again. He quickly got me back in shape on the pilot ticket and instrument rating, but I had to have an FAA check ride to re-instate my CFI license. Of course he referred me to his dad, Robert White. I had heard stories about Robert and his reputation as a stickler for details on oral exams but I was not afraid. After all, I was a "Flight Instructor" and had to learn way more than the typical pilot. Within the first 10 minutes, Robert found the three things that I was really rusty on. It was a good lesson for me to get, and stay current. I did pass the check ride and while Robert was completing my paperwork, he told me about a recent meeting he attended at Burnet with other FAA designated examiners. Apparently while they were all there a pilot called in an engine out mayday for fuel starvation. He spun in and never made it back to the field. When Robert handed me the CFI ticket he said "Steve, when you teach these people how to fly be sure to teach them how to keep flying. No matter what happens up there 'Don't Stall the Airplane". Today I review that lesson with every pilot I fly with. If the engine quits and your choice is water or tree tops, prepare to make the finest, slowest and most graceful let down of your flying career on either trees or water. Flying through the crash is almost always survivable. Stall spin accidents are almost always not. Guys like Robert White leave a lot behind when they go. For me and the pilots I fly with, I believe that if we are ever faced with an in flight emergency we will live to tell about because of Robert. How do you ever repay that?

Annual Meeting Notice — This year the annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 11, at 9:00 a.m. There will be a social event that evening. More information on both of these events will be communicated at a later date. As a reminder, there were changes made in Texas State law regarding membership requirements in non-profit corporations. Membership dues **must** be paid in full no later than 30 days in advance of the annual meeting in order for a member to be able to vote at the annual meeting. Therefore, your dues must be paid 30 days in advance of the meeting in order for you to vote. If you have any questions, you can contact the Treasurer.

Deadline for publication is the 30th of each month.

I hope you enjoy this issue!

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512.413.9262



Lakeway Airpark Board Members

- Russ Norwood, President.....512.636.5057
- Neil Olufsen, Vice President.....713.542.1875
- Erik Mulloy, Treasurer.....512.261.3480
- Terry Priestap, Secretary.....512.963.7187
- Mike Collier, Maintenance.....512.261.8845
- Steve Zbranek, Public Relations.....512.261.0344
- Phil Thompson.....512.796.8023

Next BOD meeting is Sat, Apr 9, 2016. Café Lago 7:30; workday 8:30; meeting 9:30