

# THE PLANE PAPER

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
RHODE ISLAND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

644 Airport Road, Warwick, RI 02886

<http://www.ripilots.com/>

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## PRESIDENTS CORNER

'Twas the night before Christmas, and out on the ramp,  
Not an airplane was stirring, not even a Champ.  
The aircraft were fastened to tie downs with care,  
In hopes that — come morning — they all would be  
there.

The fuel trucks were nestled, all snug in their spots,  
With gusts from two-forty at 39 knots.  
I slumped at the fuel desk, now finally caught up,  
And settled down comfortably, resting my butt.

When the radio lit up with noise and with chatter,  
I turned up the scanner to see what was the matter.  
A voice clearly heard over static and snow,  
Called for clearance to land at the airport below.

He barked his transmission so lively and quick,  
I'd have sworn that the call sign he used was "St. Nick."  
I ran to the panel to turn up the lights,  
The better to welcome this magical flight.

He called his position, no room for denial,  
"St. Nicholas One, turnin' left onto final."  
And what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a Rutan-built sleigh, with eight Rotax Reindeer!

With vectors to final, down the glideslope he came,  
As he passed all fixes, he called them by name:  
"Now Ringo! Now Tolga! Now Trini and Bacun!  
On Comet! On Cupid!" What pills was he takin'?

While controllers were sittin', and scratchin' their heads,  
They phoned to my office, and I heard it with dread,  
The message they left was both urgent and dour:  
"When Santa pulls in, have him please call the tower."

He landed like silk, with the sled runners sparking,  
Then I heard, "Left at Charlie," and "Taxi to parking."  
He slowed to a taxi, turned off of three-oh,  
And stopped on the ramp with a "Ho, ho-ho-ho..."

He stepped out of the sleigh, but before he could talk,  
I ran out to meet him with my best set of chocks.  
His red helmet and goggles were covered with frost,  
And his beard was all blackened from Reindeer exhaust.

His breath smelled like peppermint, gone slightly stale,  
And he puffed on a pipe, but he didn't inhale.  
His cheeks were all rosy and jiggled like jelly,  
His boots were as black as a cropduster's belly.

He was chubby and plump, in his suit of bright red,  
And he asked me to "fill it, with hundred low-lead."  
He came dashing in from the snow-covered pump,  
I knew he was anxious for drainin' the sump.

I spoke not a word, but went straight to my work,  
And I filled up the sleigh, but I spilled like a jerk.  
He came out of the restroom, and sighed in relief,  
Then he picked up a phone for a Flight Service brief.

And I thought as he silently scribed in his log,  
These reindeer could land in an eighth-mile fog.  
He completed his pre-flight, from the front to the rear,  
Then he put on his headset, and I heard him yell, "Clear!"

And laying a finger on his push-to-talk,  
He called up the tower for clearance and squawk.  
"Take taxiway Charlie, the southbound direction,  
Turn right three-two-zero at pilot's discretion"

He sped down the runway, the best of the best,  
"Your traffic's a Grumman, inbound from the west."  
Then I heard him proclaim, as he climbed thru the night,  
"Merry Christmas to all! I have traffic in sight."

(Anonymus)



Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Holidays and  
a Very Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year to all.

Tom Magnan



## MEETING MINUTES

Dinner Meeting  
November 8, 2011

Tom Magnan, President, called the dinner meeting to order at 7:00 pm at Chelo's in Warwick. After the Pledge of Allegiance a moment of prayer was observed for our veterans overseas. There were 42 members and friends present at the meeting. A dinner recess was called after table introductions.

The Secretary's Report was accepted as written in the Plane Paper.

Treasurer, Beth Tetreault, reports \$717.55 in the general fund and \$6979.46 in the Scholarship Fund. The report was accepted.

### Announcements:

We will need a more accurate attendance count for the December dinner meeting. Members can sign up at the desk tonight or call in their reservations before the meeting.

A vote among the members selected Beth Tetreault as RIPA's Airman of the Year.

Tom thanked the members for their donations to Thanksgiving food basket.

Door prize winners: Maryanne Lamothe, Jan Crouse, Myron Mitchell, Tony Palumbo, Dave LaChapelle, Rick Jacks, Paul Carroll, Barbara Nelson, Bill Williams, Dan Scanlon, Jr., Ryan Farley, John Hayes, Beth Tetreault, Kim Ellin, Chris Porter, Jack Crouse, Jim Terry, Roger Biagetti, Don Pillsbury, Frank Sherman, Jan Sherman, Paul Tocco, Norn Deragon.

Twenty Week Club winners: Hector Girouard, Frank James, Mike Robinson, and Joan Falcone.

Kevin Dillon spoke on the state of the state's airports.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully Submitted

Marilyn Biagetti Acting Secretary

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To join RIPA'S YAHOO Group go to  
[ripa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ripa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE, 1975 Cessna 172M.** at OQU, IFR panel with dual Narco digital radios and much more. Well maintained, sound airplane. Flies beautifully. 7gph. 4375 TT, 1640 SMOH. \$27,000. Call Gene at 401-808-9105 or Fred at 401-295-1927.

**For sale** Exxon 20-50 W oil for sale. \$6 per quart. Have 18-20 quarts of oil due to the changing the type of oil. Call Phil at 524-1697.

### **Comant XM Antenna CI-420-1:**



This is a brand new Comant Industries XM Satellite Antenna Model CI-420-1. It is in its original box and has the 8130 form with it. This item sells for over \$520.00 on every aviation site. It is compatible with Garmin, Avidyne, and others. Asking: \$250.00. Larry 401-714-2220

**Based at SFZ: 1969 Piper Arrow PA 28-200R**, Factory Reman Lycoming, New Hartzell Prop, IFR with Dual Narco Digital Radios & Glideslope CDI's, Panel Mounted GPS, Auto Pilot, Nice Cross Country Aircraft \$13,500 for 1/3 share or \$20,000 for 1/2 share Call Al for details 401-578-4494

### **USED CESSNA PARTS FOR SALE:**

\*Complete **exhaust system** for a Cessna 172M, (O320 engine) in good condition. This system was removed so as to install a Power Flow Exhaust System. Asking \$600

\*One complete set of **McCauley main wheels and brake calipers** from a Cessna 172M. All in good condition. Removed for upgrade with Cleveland wheels. \$150

\***Sigtronics Intercom**, SPA-400, w/ installation manual. Asking \$100.

\***ARC marker beacon receiver R-402A (24V)**. Asking \$75.

\*Cessna 172 **Service Manual**, 1969 - 1976, \$25.

(NEW) **Rapco vacuum instrument filter: #RA 1J10-1**, \$10.

\*Seven Quarts of **Aeroshell W65**, asking \$30 OBO..  
Call Frank...days 401-787-2338

**FOR SALE:** Ocean State Oil is offering current members a discount on AEROSHELL(cases & drums). 123 Ocean State Dr. North Kingstown, RI 02852 1800 554 4557

Free Classified ads of current members for aviation related items.

**Marilyn: 568 3497, Fax: 568 5392, email [biagettim@cox.net](mailto:biagettim@cox.net)**

**Keep posted on our website at [Ripilots.com](http://Ripilots.com).**

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## HANGAR FLYING

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### The Annual

I just finished up the annual on my Cardinal RG. What an invasive chore I abhor doing every year. I do not think I do anything else that invasive to anything I own except for my annual physical. "Dr Wiggly Finger I presume?" Anyway, this whole idea of taking an airplane apart from nose to tail, pulling the battery, all of those little inspection plates, filters, seats, headliner, lifting it up onto stilts to swing the gear is just crazy. I think the annual inspection was invented by some FAA guy who had a brother in-law mechanic who needed work. Then they needed more FAA guys to inspect the guys inspecting the airplanes. Government hard at work, again creating new jobs.

So, there I am on a creeper making believe I am helping the IA mechanic when a light bulb got brighter in my oh so dim head. Eureka! The Flying Annual is born. Here is how it works. I get the mechanic to stand outside the hangar. He, or she, watches me pre flight, taxi to the runway and witnesses me take off. Fly the pattern a couple of times, land, taxi to the hangar and shutdown.

Now, what can the mechanic surmise, presume, assume or whatever? Battery is good. Engine started. Landing gear works, I landed. I made turns, cables and such must still be connected to something. Brakes worked because I stopped. Motor did not seize or quit. There must be oil and gas in it. Seats, seatbelts and doors work because I did not fall out making turns. Hmm, good inspection so far! Tires are good, not flat. Fewer potholes on the runway than RT 95. What else is there really to look at? I put 25K miles a year on my pick up and never look at anything. And believe me, I am a lot tougher on my truck than my airplane.

So there you have it. A quick once over by the IA and he slaps a \$50.00 dollar inspection sticker on it. The state gets \$3.50 for sales tax, \$5.00 filing fee and a convenience \$20.00 fee. I am sure the FAA guys get some fee as well. Hey, it beats ending up with a tuna can full of extra screws and nuts and bolts, which is what happens every time I help with my own annual.

The Hound

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### RIPA's sponsoring businesses

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**"AUTO DOCTOR"** Carlos Vares  
1524 Smith St Rt 44 No. Providence  
401 354 4111

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**Stanley Granite Co.** Dave Czerwonka  
Monument Manufacturers  
91 Pawtucket Ave. Rumford  
434 4064 [www.stanleygranite.co](http://www.stanleygranite.co)

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## NOTAMS

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### HOLIDAY GALA

Our Holiday Gala his being held on the regular Tuesday meeting night. This has been very popular.

The biggest problem is getting a fairly (within +/- 10) accurate count. Please let me know if you will be attending. We are very grateful to Chelo's for their patience, and we would like to have a count that is at least close to what is submitted.

We would like to have door prizes for everyone so if you have a little gift (book, candle, gag, serious etc,) that we could include, it would be welcome.

Come and join us, it's a good time to be had by all.

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### BOARD MEETING

Tom, Dan, Rene, Beth and Marilyn gathered at the office on Tuesday. Uppermost on the agenda was finalizing plans for the Holiday Gala.

Next year we are hoping to have more fly-ins, and some interesting speakers.

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### SAFETY SEMINAR

**First Saturday of the month** At SFZ

Go to the FAA website for the topic of the month and to register or contact Steve Grotta,

<https://faasafety.gov/SPANS/events/EventList.aspx>

STEPHEN W. GROTA

Phone: (781) 357-4935 [stephen.grotta@faa.gov](mailto:stephen.grotta@faa.gov)

Sponsored by Avports Aviation; John H. Sulyma Insurance Agency; & New England Aviation, Inc

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**Join the Fly to Lunch Bunch**, contact Rene Cardon (651-3528) or appear at Landmark at SFZ around 9:30 on Saturday and/or Sunday. They would be happy to have you.

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Realizing that I had not practiced an engine-out approach in too long, I decided to "fail" my Lycoming while doing touch-and-goes at Jacksonville's Herlong airport.

**Me:**

"Cherokee 69T. Simulated engine-out and short approach."

[After a few moments, I saw that I would be **seriously** short.]

**Me:**

"Cherokee 69T again, simulating getting my engine back on!"

(The next try was spot-on.)

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## MEETING NOTICE

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Make your reservations today by calling 568 3497 or via email at [RIPAemail@aol.com](mailto:RIPAemail@aol.com) by December 11, 2011

Date: Tuesday December 13, 2011

Time: 6:30pm Cocktails  
7:00pm Dinner

Place: Chelo's in Warwick  
Airport exit off Rte.95 to Post Rd south,  
500ft on right

Buffet of: Grilled Steak Tips,  
Baked Salmon,  
Meatballs & Penne Marinara,  
Garden Salad w/assorted dressings,  
Garden Vegetables,  
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Rice Pilaf,  
Fresh Bread,  
Assorted Cake Slices  
Coffee and Tea.



Price: \$25 per person  
\$45 per couple  
\$5 just coffee and dessert

**An accurate count is needed**  
**PLEASE CALL TODAY!!!!!!**

Feel free to join us by 8:00pm if you wish to attend just the meeting. There is a \$5.00 charge if you would like just coffee and dessert.

Members wishing to fly into PVD can call any Board Member to arrange transportation to and from the meeting.



104 East Ironstone Road  
Harrisville, RI 02830

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## GUEST SPEAKER

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Coming up - Paul Carroll will give us a presentation on his Aviation Adventure to Greenland.

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## EVENTS SCHEDULE

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**December 13 - Holiday Gala**  
**Air Man of the Year Award**

December 27- Board Meeting

**January 10 - Dinner Meeting**

January 24 -Board Meeting

February 4 - Rhode Island Aviation Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

