



*The Leader In Recreational Aviation*

## Chapter 736 Newsletter for February 2006

### Letter from Mike Watson

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, a severe windstorm destroyed my hangar and Challenger II. Winds were estimated at 70 mph, and it was raining heavily. The hangar was anchored to the ground using 1" steel rods with 8" discs welded to the bottom of them. These rods were 5 – 6 feet deep, and normally would have been frozen in the ground at this time of year.

The combination of high winds and the wet, soft ground caused my hangar to rip free from its anchors at approximately 3:30 p.m. Wind carried the hangar debris and airplane approximately 50 feet from its original location.

It appeared that the plane cart wheeled more than once and came to rest upside down. There wasn't much I could do that afternoon, so I came home and dried off.

Word spread quickly, and I was amazed at the phone calls, e-mails and people stopping in over the next couple of days. I got so many offers of manpower and equipment, as well as many "I'm sorrys".

I decided to start to clean up the wreckage on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, and figured the process would take several days. However, the good weather and the good people who showed up to help worked in my favor and the entire mess was cleaned up in one day.

Thank you to everyone for your support and help.

Mike Watson

P.S. As of this writing, I'm still waiting to hear from my insurance company regarding the salvage value of the wreckage. Then I can decide if I want to buy it back or start from the beginning again.

NOTE: See photos following.



### **Upcoming FAA Safety Seminars**

<b>Title</b>	<b>"Accident Review"</b>
<b>Topic</b>	Accident Review
<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Thursday, March 9, 2006, starting at 6:00 pm</b>
<b>Speaker(s)</b>	Paul McKeown, Mark Rolfe
<b>Brief Description</b>	Learn from the JFK Jr. and John Denver accidents
<b>Location of Event</b>	<b>Maine Instrument Flight</b> Augusta State Airport 215 Winthrop Street Augusta, ME 04330

**Directions to Venue** I-95 to Exit 109. East on Rte 202. At 4th light go left to Airport Follow signs.

**Seating** 40 seats at the facility, **34 remaining for online registration.**

**Sponsoring Division** Portland FSDO

**Contact Information** Paul McKeown  
Phone: (207\_ 622-1211  
[pmckeown@mif.aero](mailto:pmckeown@mif.aero)

**Full Description** Join Certified Flight Instructor Mark Rolfe and Aviation SafetyCounselor Paul McKeown for an evening of reflection on two high-profile general aviation accidents. Mark and Paul will lead a discussion on the events that preceded the John Denver and John F. Kennedy Jr accidents. Learn what went wrong and how you can avoid the same fate.

Sponsored by Maine Instrument Flight.

**Title**

**"Cockpit Automation - Chili Cookoff"**

**Topic** Cockpit Automation - Chili Cookoff

**Date and Time** **Saturday, March 18, 2006, starting at 10:00 am**

**Speaker(s)** Scott Smith, Ann Walko, John Goode

**Brief Description** Learn how cockpit automation is changing the way we fly.

**Location of Event** **Wicked Good Aviation**  
96 Chewonki Neck Road  
Wiscasset, ME 04578

**Directions to Venue** U.S. Rte 1 in Wiscasset to Rte 144. On Rte 144, turn right after RR tracks. Follow signs to airport. Go to the tan admin bldg/hangar on ramp.

**Seating** 100 seats at the facility, **85 remaining for online registration.**

**Sponsoring Division** Portland FSDO

**Contact Information** Ann Walko  
Phone: 207-882-5475  
[frogmore@e-mart.tv](mailto:frogmore@e-mart.tv)

**Full Description** Garmin is an innovator in automation for general aviation cockpits. Representatives from the company will be on hand to explain and demonstrate the ways that cockpit automation can enhance pilot situational awareness and reduce pilot workload. Come see how technology is revolutionizing the general aviation cockpit while learning how to become a safer, more aware pilot. After the seminar, join Aviation Safety Counselors Ann-Marie

Walko and Mike Muchmore for a chili-lovers feast.

Sponsored by Wicked Good Aviation.

**Next Meeting:**

Our next meeting will be held at 7:30 on Tuesday, Feb 21 at Jeff Young's workshop in Albion. Jeff is building a Pietenpol.

Directions and map to Jeff's shop follow.

From Augusta – Take Route 202 all the way to the head of China Lake. The Landing ice cream stand and Lakeside Country Store will be on your left. Turn right onto Pleasant View Ridge Road and go approximately 1/2 mile. At the Y, turn left onto Danforth Road and go approximately 9/10 mile. Jeff's house will be on the left, Box # 177.

From Winslow – Take Route 137 to the blinking light in China. Continue straight through light (don't turn left), heading toward China Lake, now on Route 202. At the head of China Lake, Lakeside Country Store and The Landing ice cream stand will be on your right. Turn left onto Pleasant View Ridge Road and go approximately 1/2 mile. At the Y, turn left onto Danforth Road and go approximately 9/10 mile. Jeff's house will be on the left, Box # 177.

If you still get lost, Mike Watson's cell phone number is 557-1306.

