



September 1, 2024	Iosco Flying Club	Since 1962
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On Friday, July 26th, Bill Deckett had a fish fry at the airport pavilion. Even though it was only announced with a couple days notice, we welcomed about 20 guests. The weather that evening couldn't have been better. We had three planes fly in from Greenville, Flint and Mio. It was good to see so much activity at the pavilion. Bill did an amazing job cooking up the fish. Thanks, Bill.

We had some interesting visitors on the field for a couple nights. Michael, Tom and Jenny flew over to our field after attending Oshkosh. After hitting a few busy airports on their way to Oshkosh, they were looking for a quiet field that permitted camping. All three are German nationals and flew their piston powered Piper Malibu in from an airport just northwest of Hamburg, Germany. Michael is an engineer for Airbus, Tom is a captain for Lufthansa Airlines, and Jenny is a journalist by profession. Even though the crew car was offered to them, they were happy use the airport bikes for the duration of their stay. They went as far as Tawas Bay Pizza in Tawas City and Tawas Point with the bikes. I did a little checking in town to arrange for showers. It turns out you can get day passes at the Community Center and use the showers there for just a couple bucks.

They arrived on Thursday and departed Saturday. Michael was kind enough to offer up his password for his Garmin InReach satellite device. He uses the device to create pings along his route, so family members can track their progress. They made it to Goose Bay by Sunday, but had to wait for a front to pass before they could press on to Greenland. They make the trans-Atlantic crossing with wearing exposure suits pulled up to their waist, and also have a 50 lbs. life raft in the plane. Jenny was dropped off in Toronto where she was catching a commercial flight back to Germany.

As I was tracking their progress to Greenland, there was a lapse in forward progress. I grew a little concerned as the hours ticked by. I texted Michael and received no response. A pilot who follows our airport page said he saw a report of an aircraft ditching at sea south of Greenland. I went to the Aviation Safety Network, and I quickly saw pictures of their plane floating in the North Atlantic six miles from shore. They later told me that they lost power descending from FL180 and were unable to make shore.

The Danish Navy picked up their Mayday call and quickly had a Challenger jet orbiting of above them and filming their descent with a FLIR. They made a perfect landing into calm waters with icebergs floating nearby. The Danish Navy dispatched a ship called the Triton, which launched a team of rescuers in a boat, which arrived within 30 minutes. They were transported to the Triton and then transferred to their intended airport. The Piper Malibu sank along with an airport coffee mug, and salvage is unlikely. A search of YouTube will show a video of their rescue.

I have had several calls and texts from Michael and they are doing fine. They'll pick up a commercial flight for the return trip home to Germany.

If that wasn't enough, we had an F-16 jettison two fuel tanks from 12,000 feet, with one dropping into a parking lot, and the other into Tawas Bay, I'm ready for a non-eventful rest of the summer.

“And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.”
--Abraham Lincoln

Jay Samuels, President	Samuelsj@charter.net	989.305.0126
IoscoFlyingClub	Iosco County Airport	www.Ioscoflyingclub.org