

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

I was recently talking with a part time Moose Lake resident Mike Williams when he shared with me the story about the Float Plane trip he and his friend Anne Fleagle took to Artic North. They visited Nunavut, Manitoba and Northern Ontario. As most of you know Mike fly's his own Float Plane into Moose Lake all summer.

After clearing Canadian Customs at Sand Point Island, Ontario, they spent the night in Red Lake Ontario, then Thompson Ontario & Churchill Manitoba. They had to adjust their destinations throughout the trip to avoid, or to take advantage of weather systems and wind that moved along Hudson Bay.

At each stop they refueled because finding fuel for an airplane can sometimes be difficult in northern Ontario. In Churchill Ontario they took on auto gas in lieu of Avgas 100 low lead. Avgas is made for airplanes. Mike can burn auto gas in "cruise" or low power settings.

Their stay in Churchill was highlighted by a great tour offered by chance with a local fellow named John. John was 6' 7", about 380lbs, and informed us that his dad had been from Finland, and his mom was a "swampy" Cree native. Mike & Anne came to understand that the word "swampy" meant natives that lived in coastal areas and survived on the sustenance that lowlands would offer.

Around Churchill, they along with Big John toured a plane crash from the 60's, a shipwreck, the polar bear jail and much of the bear habitat locally. They also witnessed many towns people on high shorelines at sunset observing the first grain container ship that had entered the port in 2 years. There are no roads to Churchill. The rails that had brought grain in from Western Canada for about 80 years, had been washed out, and just a few days before they arrived. Repairs on the rails had been completed. Besides the pleasure of the view mentioned above they also enjoyed the dozens of Beluga whales cruising just a few yards away.

They left Churchill ahead of a persistent weather system, which began in a drizzle, for a remarkable 140-mile flight to the native village (station) of Arviat. Moose, a polar bear, thousands of Snow and Canadian geese and scores more of Belugas were observed along the coast, as well as two "Eco" camps and a few native hunting cabins.

Mike and Anne learned at Arviat that the friendly and articulate fellow that provided them with more fuel was also the Premier (Governor) of the entire Nunavut province. They plan to stay in touch with this seaplane/owner pilot in the future.

They turned northwest for another 100-mile leg of their trip to Mackenzie Lake for 2 nights. Caribou walking near camp, musk ox were observed while flying, and great trout fishing were all taken in, along with a Northern Lights show covering most of the sky the first evening.

With tough weather ahead they had light rain at takeoff the next day but had great tail winds which gave them a good push for good fuel economy. They headed southwest to Lynn Lake Manitoba for fuel and an overnight stay. They then flew back to Red Lake for the same.

They then continued to Rainy Lake (Canadian side) for 2 more nights at a friend's lodge and then back to Moose Lake for the last 2 evenings after clearing US Customs at Crane Lake. They flew along part of the Minnesota North Shore for this part of the flight & had a great view.

All in all, they flew 26 hours, more than 2500 miles, and some local sightseeing flying, with only a relatively small amount of time spent "white knuckling" while flying due to low ceilings, low visibility, rain and fog. For most of the trip they had sunny skies, and about 90% tail winds. To quote Mike's partner, "it was an exotic trip"

Musky fishing has been great this past week on Moose Lake. Mike Hoover who was staying at Mystic Moose caught a 39 inch 40 and a 41 ½ inch musky. I have received several other reports on good musky action on Moose Lake. The walleyes and panfish have been a little slow.

Joel Miller owner of Mystic Moose told me about a fisherman that was fishing in front of the resort that caught a 40 ½ inch fish on a sucker. The man reeled in the fish with no fight. He got him into the net, the fish opened his mouth and spit out the sucker. The musky was not hooked he was just holding onto the sucker without a hook in his mouth. The fish then let the man pick him up for a quick photo and was released unharmed. I think the musky knew the routine, the quicker I can get this over with the quicker I can get back into the water. He must have been caught before.

The results of September 26th Pinochle held at Louie's are as follows. Carlene Delesandro won first, Dottie Stassen took second and Muriel Janitschke took the dimes.

Happy Birthday this week to Michelle Koehler on the 3rd of October, Dan Ogren on the 4th, George Duewerth on the 5th, Jim Martin the 6th, Ed Metcalf & Rick Schiffer both on the 8th and young Gaitlin Gunn on October 9th. Happy Birthday to all.

Happy Anniversary to Dan and Marge McCormick who will be celebrating on Oct 7th.

Well that is all we have for this week. Remember if you have any news items please give me a call or send it to me by e-mail so I can include it in the column. 715-462-4448 or jonarheim@centurytel.net Have a great week & Stay safe!

For information on the Town of Round Lake Government go to their website at <http://www.townofroundlakewi.org>. For Moose Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) information, view their website at <https://mliahaywardwi.org>.