

Happy Landings!!

ROCKY FORK STATE PARK Hillsboro, OH (HOC) May 31, 2021

First, on this Memorial Day 2021, I want to say thank you to all of the veterans who have served to preserve our freedom, and thank you for the families who have sacrificed.

After our May EAA meeting last weekend, Roy Roller made the mistake of mentioning “ice cream” to me. He said he knew of a place not too far away that served ice cream and maybe next weekend if the weather was good, the four of us could fly over. I am kind of like Pavlov’s dogs when someone says ice cream, and I hounded him (pun intended) all week about it.

Mark and Roy did some pilot texting: “ ... the identifier is HOC. There is an MOA around it. Haven’t checked to see when it is hot.” After a bit of googling, I figured out where the airport was- Hillsboro, Ohio; what an MOA is- Military Operations Area; what the name of the MOA is- Buckeye MOA; and had a lead as to where we were heading for the ice cream- Rocky Fork State Park! Not bad for a non-pilot, eh? With more help from Mark, I learned that the Buckeye MOA floor is 5000-18000 feet and we would be flying under 5000 feet to avoid bad things.

We left from Georgetown airport on a gorgeous afternoon while Roy and his wife Lisa left from Cynthiana. We had light winds 5 or 6 knots out of the east and no sooner were we up in the air, it felt like we were landing. Actual time was about 35 minutes.



We couldn’t have timed it better. We landed in our Vans RV9A, and Roy and Lisa were right behind us landing in their Rans S-7. Our lead didn’t last long though because I learned Roy doesn’t need as long of a runway, and he took a shortcut to the ramp arriving first while we had to taxi quite a ways further.

It was fun to see Lisa again! Spouses, ladies in particular, and especially those of you who are a bit timid about flying- meeting a friend for an adventure is so worth the flight! And EAA meetings are a great place for you to meet not just pilots, but other spouses who have overcome their

concerns about flying. For me, it’s a simple risk versus reward formula.



The FBO had a clean bathroom. The person there was friendly. I brought my walking shoes, a fanny pack, and water bottle. Roy and Lisa knew where they were going and led the way. We had to cross a road, and then we entered the woods through a white arch. We walked across two bridges. It was a short walk through the campground to the camp store.





Remember the risk reward thing? I mentioned being with friends. Well there was also a wonderful selection of premium hand-scooped ice creams! We each picked out our flavors, then went outside to a table with an umbrella to enjoy! Man they were delicious! We had turtle praline, red velvet, cinnamon cookie, peanut butter s'mores, chocolate almond and possibly a few others because I admit I had seconds! (1 scoop \$2)

After our ice cream, we walked to the reservoir. A fisherman said the fish were biting. He said he had never seen it like this before. He had caught 24 fish already: blue gills, catfish, striped something, etc. We approached a large flock of Canadian Geese, too. Not my favorite birds but fun to see en masse. We continued walking the loop before heading back the way we came.



Note to campers: I stopped for a quick conversation with the camp hostess who indicated the swimming beach was up the road, and campers had to drive to reach it. I also found out that there are no boat rentals available this year. There were many full hook-up sites with concrete and black top pads in the trees or near the lake. The campground had a playground and a putt putt course. It also looked like it had a small amphitheater for music. There are a couple short hiking trails too.



As we said our goodbyes, I jokingly said, we will have to do this again next week!

Happy Landings!

Jill Baty