



---FUN DESTINATIONS---

NRI Flying Club Inc.

Shelter Cove -- 0Q6 December 2016
by Griffin Schwarz

A week before the trip was scheduled, John Pericich and I were trying to decide where to take our next trip. It wasn't long before both of us decided on Shelter Cove -- a destination which was on both of our "pilot bucket lists!" We quickly reserved the airplane and began watching our weather, hoping for a good VFR day! A week out, the weather kept switching from cloudy to sunny to rainy, so neither John or I was able to determine if the trip was going to happen. All we could do at this point was say a little prayer to the weather gods and hope for the best! And believe it or not, our prayers were heard and we were fortunate with a clear, crisp, and sunny day! Perfect for our Shelter Cove outing. In addition to John, I decided to bring Justin, a high school friend and student pilot at Sterling. As a side note, Justin commented about how well-maintained the NRI aircraft are compared to Sterling...apparently it is night and day! Justin is also a prospective NRI member and hopes to join after completion of his private.



The flight up was fairly uneventful -- we decided to fly direct, right over Lampson Airport. There were practically no winds aloft, and the Archer performed well at 4,500 feet.



Total travel time from Concord to Shelter Cove totaled around 1.5 hours -- sure beats driving! The approach into Shelter Cove was spectacular. Hands down was the most scenic approach I have ever done.





After unloading the airplane, all three of us were starving and walked into town (maybe a 5 minute walk) and ordered burgers and fries. For such a hole-in-the-wall place, our food was descent. However, if I were to do it over again, I would probably pack a lunch and eat it at the picnic tables. Sure beats the \$15 we had to pay for our food. After filling our bellies, it was time to play golf. Shelter Cove has an 18-hole golf course that surrounds the airport.



We had brought our golf clubs in the airplane and had hoped to get in a few holes to say we "did it" and check that box. I must say, this is no PGA golf course... it is basically long grass cut once a week. In the end, I had more fun watching the airplanes land than playing the golf.

After five or six holes, we were finished and it was time to head home. On our planning home, we decided to stop at Garberville Airport, about 25 miles east of Shelter Cove to get 10 gallons of fuel. Although on-paper we could have made it back to Concord, it was going to be close keeping our 30 minute day VFR reserve. We felt much safer with the extra fuel on board. Our flight home was just as uneventful as coming up -- John and I decided to quiz Justin, almost like a mock oral exam -- needless to say, we both had fun acting like DPE's!

Overall, we had a blast and highly recommend the trip to all members. Just make sure you double check your weather, as it can change very quickly, especially in the summertime. As a side note, here is some history about the town of Shelter Cove. Justin, our passenger, previously lived in Humboldt County. We also talked to the manager of one of the small liquor stores. The consensus was that individuals who live in Shelter Cove are either fishermen or they grow and sell marijuana. Shelter Cove is also a very isolated town. The only way to get to it is either flying or driving on a 25 mile dirt road from Garberville. The store manager said it takes an average of 4 hours to go into town and shop for food and clothing and return home. Yikes! Also -- on the flight home, Justin pointed out that the greenhouses hidden in the forests were filled with marijuana plants. It was very interesting to see how many of these greenhouses were spread out over the forest. I'd say we saw more than a hundred of them on the way home!

