

## Free Pie in July

July 9, 2010

All week long a ceiling hung over Ukiah. The ASOS reported 300 feet agl in the early hours, lifting to 500 by mid morning, and 800 just before noon. The afternoons were probably clear, but I never checked. We were looking for VFR conditions by 11:00 AM. On Friday the marine layer retreated leaving UKI clear. We launched from



Sacramento Executive in a Cessna 182 at 10:00 AM, climbed up to 6500, across the Sacramento valley, skirted the north end of Lake Berryessa, stayed well off the southwest shoreline of Clear Lake, crossed the last ridge and made a fast decent into the valley of the Redwood Highway (101) reaching the traffic pattern about the time we leveled-off at pattern altitude.

Others of our fly-for-food tribe, some from Eureka others from Placerville had already arrived. Our destination was a small café across State Street, just a five minute walk from the terminal building at Ukiah Municipal Airport. The Blue Bird Café advertises Free Pie in July, apple, two kinds of berry, chocolate something or other, and a few more choices. But wait, that's not all.

Where else can you lunch on buffalo burgers? Oh! Lots of places serve buffalo burgers, you say. Ok, what about elk burgers, or wild boar burger, or ostrich burger or salmon burgers? You can order them all at the Blue Bird Café.



Ukiah Airport looking northwest  
Photo by H. Hudson

Flying for food is a ritual done once a month to indulge our appetite for flying (food is secondary). Unless recreational (read retired) pilots are perfectly happy boring holes in the sky, they need a destination. What better destination is there than a small airport with a nearby restaurant. The places we find on or off

the small town airports of Northern California are the difference between night and day when compared to those Napa Valley bistros with their fancy French menus. You won't find any San Francisco restaurant critics eating at the Blue Bird Café, but the food satisfies and so does the service. That's typical of small town airport eating places everywhere.

Fly for food, share it with a friend.