

Stop Press – Delbert Trophy taken hostage
by Alan Benfell

It was reported by the Osceola Newsagency, that on Sunday July 29th, a daring and premeditated plan was executed to recover the “Delbert” Trophy from the Red Wing Soaring Association at Osceola Airport. The Delbert had been rightfully held by the RWSA since its repatriation two or three years ago.

The attack (headed by Dick “Doc” Andrews of MSC) which was executed in a DG1000 heavy and supported by a light chase PW-5 sailplane, occurred out of the blue (there were only a few cumulus around), at about 2.00 p.m. on Sunday. Lulled into a false sense of security by their calm and procedurally correct radio messages of their intention to land, the RWSA crew (an exhausted Northwest Captain and a 14 year old boy, supported by an elderly Blanik L13, which was parked UNUSED at the time) were no match for this powerful fleet. The only other RWSA member around was airborne at the time - an aged person of dubious origins with bad eyesight and hemorrhoids, flying a PIK20B on a reconnaissance mission over Taylors Falls.

The Tow Pilot on duty, although a member of the RWSA, in his status of being a neutral and independent contractor was only able to act as an observer to the event.

On landing, the invading DG1000 party with honeyed words of fraternal soaring friendship, brotherhood, and a gift equivalent to a tow fee to 3,000 ft, persuaded the RWSA crew to release the Delbert Trophy to them, promising to return it if at some future date should the occasion arise. The trophy however will be permanently marked and inscribed by this event. The DG1000 shortly left under tow with the trophy intending to return to their base by air, the PW-5 was recovered by road.

It is believed this is not the first time that such an event has been perpetrated by Dick “Doc” Andrews or other cohorts from MSC. In retrospect a RWSA member commented that it should have been expected with a southerly wind, in spite of the fact that diversions around controlled airspace were required.