Antilles Air Boats Presentation

In November 2018 I moved into Cypress Village, a large retirement community in Jacksonville, Florida. I hated to sell our home but found it too difficult to remain there following Vince's death in 2017. Apartment living was a big adjustment, but I really enjoy the other residents and the activities available to us.

Every month they have a program where a resident tells about a special time or experience they had. For some time they have asked me to do a program about my flying experiences (since flying is a subject that has never been used).

When I mentioned it to Tom Anusewicz, he offered to help me by putting together a PowerPoint presentation with the photos I wanted to use. They set the date for February 21 and I was eager but nervous. How could I plan something about flying that would be interesting to seniors who knew little or nothing about airplanes?

It was fun trying to plan something they would enjoy. To start with, I used the videos Tom had with steel drum music to keep people entertained until program time (many come early to get a good seat). I sat in a back row to watch their reaction until the program planner gave my introduction.

Going through photographs, I tried to think of humorous stories to tell.

Starting with the caricature of the Grumman Goose with the slogan "The Only Airline in the world to be operated by 41 cranks." I also showed photos Tom had of the new Mallard that came with risqué murals and the suggestion that AAB's should charge more for the forward seats. There were many other things, but I ended with the chapter Maureen O'Hara had about Antilles Air Boats in her book, asserting that AAB was a secret fleet for the CIA and that Charlie had been intentionally murdered. I said that after reading that chapter, I never read the rest of the book.

I got a standing ovation at the end and am getting requests to do another program. When I asked what they would like to hear about, one dear little lady said, "We want to know how you met Mr. Sipple."