

fly-in dining

Springtown, Texas

The Wild Onion Restaurant

(from Pilot Getaways, Spring 2003)



Some of the best hotspots in Texas are found in quiet hamlets a few miles outside big cities. One such local place is a country steakhouse known as the Wild Onion. It's not an airport restaurant per se, but it is only a five-minute walk from your tiedown. The Wild Onion's sterling reputation for Texas comfort food draws locals and savvy pilots alike, especially those who relish a hearty plate of chicken-fried steak, a deep-fried wild onion blossom, or a steaming bowl of chili. Other notables include fried or grilled quail, melt-in-your-mouth catfish, and frog legs. For dessert, choose between cream pies, fruit pies, rhubarb pie, or one of the confections piled-high with meringue.

Enjoying a meal at the Wild Onion means first flying to Kezer Air Ranch (61TE), a small, private airport in Parker County farm country [N 32° 59.2' W 97° 37.2' Elevation 830 ft. MSL]. The airport is three miles northeast of Springtown, TX and 29.8 nm northwest of DFW – just inside the Mode C ring and just outside of the Class B airspace with a floor of 6000 feet MSL.



The 2400x20 asphalt strip is in a manicured grass field; however, it may be somewhat difficult to spot at first since it is surrounded by live oak trees. Additional landmarks include 5 houses and several hangars with access to the runway. On landing, you may park for free in the clearly marked spaces in a

mowed area next to the runway. Avgas is available and the airport even has its own on-site Aviation Medical Examiner, Dr. Duane "Doc" Giles – a retired physician and self-proclaimed airport bum!

This is a private airport and the owner, Jack Weiland, appreciates a phone call prior to landing; the telephone number is (817) 677-2222. Jack spent 32 years as a Delta pilot before he and his wife, Sharon, retired to the ranch life. The Weilands welcome flyers welcome flyers from all over, even throwing impromptu get-togethers for pilots who "take-over" their covered picnic area under the shady oak trees.

Sounds like a great place for a \$100 Hamburger trip. Try it out and let us all know how it is!