

Hanger Talk – North Sound

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Member Profile: Jeff Lustick

To say Jeff has a passion for aviation may be an understatement. Growing up in Skagit County, Jeff was a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol, BVS squadron, at the age of 11. He rose to the rank of Cadet Colonel and earned a flight scholarship from the Air Force. His dream of solo flight was realized in the summer of 1987 in the skies over Toledo, Washington, while participating in a CAP Flight Encampment. The aircraft was a 1967 Cessna 150 on loan to the CAP from Galvin, and Jeff recounts that they had trained all week, and when the magical moment came, the wind was blowing at 12 knots with a 40 degree crosswind. Fortunately,



Jeff with daughter Amelia

by afternoon, the wind calmed down a bit, and Jeff's shirt tails were skillfully cut by his instructor. He's been hooked on flying ever since.

But thereafter, like so many of us, Jeff's pursuit of his certificate was a journey

marked by fits and starts, including some fallow periods on non-flying during his College and law school, and while serving in the Air Force as a JAG officer. Jeff dabbled, rented and took more lessons, but he rarely had as much time as he would have liked to devote to aviation.



WPA/EAA Holiday Dinner

NORTH SOUND/EAA 404 HOLIDAY DINNER - OUTSTANDING!

Astronaut Wendy Lawrence packed the house at the 2014 North Sound/EAA 404 Combined Holiday Dinner at Nicki's Bella Marina restaurant. If you didn't attend the dinner, you missed a very special event. Captain Lawrence delivered an informative and entertaining presentation about her orbital missions aboard the US Space Shuttle. The dinner drew pilots and friends from near and far, including a contingent of pilots from the British Columbia Chapter of the Ninety-Nines. Aside from the speaker, honored guests included WPA President Les Smith and WPA Web Manager Kevin Kelley.

Lustick, cont'd



Jeff's newly acquired 182

It wasn't until Jeff left the service, returned to Bellingham, and served a stint as the Bellingham City Prosecutor, that he really reached his current level of flying. In fact, since earning his ticket in 2008, he's been able to accumulate over 2,500 hours. That tally includes one year in which he flew nearly every day. Jeff has been known to say, "If I don't fly every day, I will notice. And if I don't fly once a week, you'll likely notice."

Jeff has two hangers at BLI, so as logic would dictate, he has two planes: a Piper Tomahawk (PA-38) and a newly acquired 2007 Cessna 182 (yes, with the G1000 panel). He has owned a 172M and a turbo 182T in the past.

Whatever aircraft he may be flying, Jeff loves flying to new places to explore. He has made some cross country flights across the Rockies in his 172 and flown through the picturesque Monument Valley in his previously owned 182. In one such trip he challenged himself by visiting small and obscure airstrips along his route, even landing on the dry lake bed in the remote Alvord Desert in southeastern Oregon.

Jeff has also combines his hobby of photography with his flying and has a very active *Instagram* page where a lot of his beautiful shots are posted. If you want to see where Jeff has been and how his artistic eye views his travels, tune into *HawkPilot9AL* on *Instagram*.

I didn't ask him, but I am willing to bet that Jeff has already landed in nearly every public use airstrip in Washington State, as he has often just flown out from BLI to some field in the state simply because he hadn't landed there yet. When Jeff goes on a vacation, if he hasn't flown there himself, he'll rent a plane to get a feel for the area. He enjoys the challenge of safely piloting a plane in busy airspace. So far, he's logged over 100 hours in Los Angeles Class B airspace, and has flown in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco areas too. As his law practice takes him into Federal Court in Seattle, Jeff can add his business flights into SeaTac to that Class B challenge list.

He doesn't fly alone. Chief amongst his flying buddies is his 12 year old daughter Amelia. She's a 7th grader at Saint Paul's Academy, and she loves flying with her dad. As her namesake implies, she loves flying, and particularly enjoys flying alongside her dad in their Piper Tomahawk (the PA-38). In fact, the tail number of the plane was changed to bear her initials. She not only earned that honor by helping out in the right seat of the plane, but she helped her dad pay for the change herself from money she earned doing childcare. Her "co-pilot" duties include working the radios, and like her dad, she thoroughly enjoys visiting her friends in the BLI control tower. If you are wondering where our next generation pilots are coming from, our hope is in kids like Amelia. Good work "Dad."



Jeff with his 172M on the Alvord Desert in Oregon



A sunset photo by Jeff

Lustick, concluded

Jeff is a community-minded guy, and he includes his love of flying when reaching out to help others. In addition to his role as a managing partner in a well-respected local law firm, Jeff is an area AOPA legal services plan panel attorney. If needed, his combined knowledge of aviation and the law is always at the ready for us in the aviation community.

Jeff also steps up to help out non-pilots too. Last July, a local deputy prosecutor reached to the North Sound WPA to find a local pilot who could give a relative of his a flight in a "small airplane." The relative was suffering from terminal cancer and had always wanted to fly around the Skagit Valley in a small plane to see the area where he grew up. Jeff volunteered and flew the fellow and a couple of family members around the valley in his 182. It was a different kind of mercy mission, but one that was absolutely appreciated by the patient, so much so, the joy he felt from the flight was mentioned by the priest at his funeral. While the outcome was sad, the flight itself was a joy for the patient and his family. A joy delivered through General Aviation by a man passionate about his flying. Again, good work Jeff. ■



Jeff with cancer patient before his scenic flight

North Sound Rep. Attends WPA Events

The Washington Pilots Association board of directors met on January 17th at Paine Field and February 21st at the Northwest Aviation Conference in Puyallup. Our new North Sound Chapter President, Robert Powell, attended these WPA meetings. Among the many issues discussed was this year's state legislative actions.

Companion bills HB 1256 and SB 5324 are a follow-up to last year's SB 5430 and are being promoted and supported by many of the state's aviation organizations including the WPA. WPA President Les Smith has stated for the press, "That additional 90 percent would mean \$637,000 biannually going toward the repair and upkeep of Washington's airports. With current grant formulas, the \$637,000 could be used to obtain \$9.3 million in federal funds. That's leveraging \$18 federal dollars for every state dollar."

In February, North Sound members supporting HB 1526 contacted local state representatives on the Committee on Appropriations Vincent Buys, Luanne Van Werven and Kristine Lytton. WPA President Les Smith recently stated that, "he was cautiously optimistic that legislation to reallocate the aircraft excise tax would be successful this year."

One result of these legislative efforts is a new Washington State Aviation Alliance (WSAA). See: wpaflys.org and NBAA.org for additional information. ■



Olympia

NORTH SOUND CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP, FINANCES and ISSUES

North Sound Chapter membership currently stands at 59. With past membership totals in the 70s and anticipating additional renewals, your assistance is needed. If you haven't renewed this calendar year, please consider doing so. If you have renewed, bring a pilot friend to the next NS meeting and asked them to join or renew.

NS Program Chair Maureen Griggs continues to line up terrific presentations such as January's Convergence Zone speaker with Seattle NOAA meteorologist Allan Kam, and February's WW II B-25 pilot Dr. Grant Nelson as well as a BLI airport update with Airside Operations Manager Dennis Partlow. You don't want to miss the April 9th "Single Pilot Resource Management" with Gordon Alvord (another FAAST program). Our state and chapter organization as well as these terrific local programs are not possible without your membership support.

A goal of 80 NS members for 2015 is reasonable – with your help! Go to the WPA web site at wpaflys.org and click on the red banner to join or renew area. Dues are \$31 shared with WPA and the NS Chapter. Be sure to note your affiliation with the North Sound Chapter.

Your NS board held a financial review and board meeting February 11th. NS Treasurer Dave Grant distributed the NS 2014 bank statements, income and expense statements, and a financial status report comparing previous years. The board acting as an Audit Committee deemed the NS on a solid financial standing and the NS books "in order". The Treasurer was commended for an outstanding effort. Current balances are \$3,452 in checking and \$4,098 in savings.

NS members are encouraged to visit the WPA web site and the NS web page. Board member Leslee Probasco is constantly updating our web page with new information including meeting information and archiving of Hanger Talk newsletters, minutes, etc.

The Washington State Department of Transportation in communications with NS Chapter have agreed that their web camera fund would grant BLI \$5,000 toward a BLI web cam. At the February NS board meeting, Dennis Partlow as the BLI Airside Operations Manager discussed the current slowdown in commercial air traffic at BLI and the negative impact it was having on BLI operating budget for 2015. With that caveat, Dennis indicated that he would actively pursue support for a BLI webcam.

Paine field has a new airport director, Arif Ghouse. Arif was formerly with SEATAC. At a WPA Paine Field Dinner attended by the NS President, Arif mentioned that Boeing has plans to remove stored aircraft currently on the cross runway 11-29 by May. Runway 11-29 will then be shortened and resurfaced. Additionally, Paine Field has a new high resolution web cam. See, paineairport.com. Perhaps BLI will have one in the future too.



SEAFAIR SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Seafair is seeking volunteers to serve as Air Show Safety Monitors between July 27 and August 3, 2014 in support of the Seafair Air Show. While they have a volunteer corps responsible for managing airshow operations, they need another group to make sure the operations are conducted safely. As pilots they believe you may have the experience, knowledge, and skills that would be useful in performing these critical duties. You can contact Jim Combs – EMG Deputy Commander at airsafety@seafairemg.org if you are interested in helping out or learning more.

Upcoming Meetings

APRIL 9th: CHAPTER MEETING at WECU Bldg.

Doors open at 6pm, Meeting starts at 7pm

Gordon Alvord on Single Pilot Resource Management

APRIL 29th: Community Airport Master Plan Update Meeting

Port staff and consultants will present updated information about the Airport Master Plan. Everyone is welcome.

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Squalicum Boat House

2600 Harbor Loop, Bellingham

see: Port of Bellingham website at:

www.portofbellingham.com/index.aspx?NID=470

MAY 14th: CHAPTER MEETING at WECU Bldg.

Doors open at 6pm, Meeting starts at 7pm

*Here's what's
coming up.*

"A look ahead."

We're on the Web!
www.wpafllys.org

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Visit your WPA cabin on Stuart Island

As a member of the Washington Pilots Association, you are entitled to use our Stuart Island "rustic" cabin for weekend and weekday outings. This is a wonderful opportunity to get away from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives.

To reserve the cabin, please contact Tom Jensen at c180tom@skynetbb.com or call (360) 825-6777 .

See: <http://www.wpafllys.org/stuartisland.html>

