



HANGAR TALK



Newsletter of The North Puget Sound Chapter of The Washington Pilot's Association. December 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S HANGAR

December is when we mark the ending of the year for our North Sound chapter. It has been an interesting year for aviation in our area.



Bellingham International Airport is expanding. In addition to the Horizon Airlines, Delta, Allegiant Air and now Western are providing scheduled

flights. The airline parking lot is almost always full, a sharp contrast to even a year ago.

Government aviation has also picked up, with the Border Patrol and other departments within the Transportation Security Agency being based in Bellingham. The Heritage Aviation museum has been an increasing influence with their open houses and it is now not surprising to see a P-51D, a Skyraider or T-6 in the pattern.

General aviation is served by two FBOs, Bellingham Aviation Services and Bellingham Aero, whose updates can be found in our newsletter. Whatcom Aero provides maintenance services and always seem to have planes outside the hangar.

Chuckanut Flying Club also seems busy and I often see or hear their aircraft flying.

In many ways GA was booming in our area this year. There were two issues.

One, fuel costs were a major factor in 2006. Prices peaked in the summer at nearly \$5.00 gallon. In parts of California the prices were even higher. At least the summer weather was great.

"Christmas party December 14th"

The controversy about the future of Blaine Airport will continue. Although there was a City Council vote to keep the airport open in October,

questions about funding airport improvements will probably lead to a new vote. Several members of the chapter attended the council meeting and will monitor the situation. Loss of the Blaine Airport would be a major blow to GA in our region.

The North Sound Chapter has remained about the same in membership. We do need to look for an alternative meeting site. The management of Bellingham Airport has been great in

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Bellingham Aviation Services

November has made us realize just how nice the weather was in October. We have had wind, rain, snow, more

wind and now as I write this more snow is forecast. I guess no one can say that it has not been interesting weather.

Speaking of the wind, Bellingham Aviation

Services (BAS) fuelers were out securing airplanes during the gusts of November 15th. Many tiedown ropes had loosened in the winds and we spent a good majority of the day securing airplanes that were in danger of flying away of their own accord. If you have your airplane tied down outside be sure to check the ropes and remember that they will tend to loosen over time, especially when they are being buffeted by the gusts. If you are not able to make it to the airport yourself please feel free to call BAS and we will be happy to check on your airplane for you.

As Christmas approaches keep in mind that BAS has gift certificates. They make a great gift for any pilot you know. They can be purchased for either a dollar amount or for an item, for example an intro flight makes a great gift.

And.... a special note from Management.

All of us, hardy natives of the Pacific Northwest, have experienced a November to remember for all times. Rain, and more rain, wind and more wind, snow and more snow with the extremely cold temperatures to boot. Throughout these extremes, Bellingham Aviation Services has been operating at full speed. All fuel trucks have been fully operational (even in the worst of times) and we have been on the ready for all aircraft at BLI.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a personal **Thank You** to our Line Manager, JASON HART.

**"BAS gift
certificates
make great
gifts"**

Jason has been available at all times of day and night, he has braved the elements, he has weathered each and every storm and he has provided everybody

with the best possible service. Even though the commercial aircraft were not able to land in Bellingham, we were very busy with general aviation aircraft that were brave enough to land in the snow. Jason was here to welcome all of the brave soles to Bellingham and to make sure that all services were available. Jason has performed well above the call of duty to make sure that Bellingham Aviation Services has been able to

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Bellingham Aero

Bellingham Aero Inc. had a challenging month of November, as with everyone else in Washington State. But even through all the difficult weather systems, our Bellingham Fuel Service was full of pilots chattering away in front of the coffee pot, eating hot cookies, and trying to weather all the storms. Our BLI aviation community came together and fellow aviators helped other fellow aviators shovel snow, brush snow off all the aircraft on the field, and wrench on anything having mechanical difficulties due to freezing.

Business was slow for Bellingham Aero Flight School. Our Texaco fuel office stayed bustling with our regular clients, Delta Airlines, and the Government aircraft that were coming and going even in severe weather. We want our Coast Guard clients to know they are truly appreciated. I'm in awe of their rescue work and we want them to know we love taking care of them.

Next month, Bellingham Aero Flight School will be leasing a 1997 Cessna 182. She's a real beauty and she is in mint condition. This will be a great airplane for pilots to rent for long distance outings. We also have a 2006 Cessna 172 SP with

Garmin Gear that we are renting for \$159.00 an hour wet. She is also an incredible aircraft. Stop by and check them out....You will be pleased!

If you know anyone interested in becoming a pilot, buy them an "Introductory Flight" gift certificate for Christmas. Come visit our flight school to

learn the advantages of taking our Cessna Pilot Training Course. There are many perks and opportunities involved with a Cessna Pilot Center, and we

want to see all new pilots share in the benefits. We've sold many packages to aspiring students, who are just waiting for the weather to improve.

Before I sign off here, Fred Knutzen and I want to thank all our airport friends for their support and encouragement in our latest fiasco. We truly appreciate every single one of you. Make sure you stop in our Texaco office during this holiday season for some good food and good cheer. We'd love to see you!

Bellingham Aero



"Introductory Flight gift certificates"

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Chip LaPlante

By Chip LaPlante

Well what can I say. I didn't get a hold of anyone else in time so I'll do myself.

Blue Skies, Happy Landings and a Merry Christmas to all.

Age: 54

Height and Weight: 68" 185lbs.

Birthplace: Baltimore, Maryland

Marital Status: Married to Rashelle who is also a flight instructor.

Children: 1 son, Shawn

Occupation: Corporate Pilot/ Flight Instructor

Education: Bellingham High School Grad with two years of Tech School in Engineering Technology and many years of flight school training.

Hobbies: Skydiving and backpacking the North Cascades

Pet Peeves: Only one controller to man three frequencies, Clearance, Ground and Local.

Year of First Solo: May 2, 1973

Where: BLI under the watchful eye of instructor Craig S. Foltz.

Own or Rent: C-172 N9196H

Home Airport: Bellingham (BLI)

Licenses and Ratings: ATP SEL & MEL, CFII, MEI, ASE and Instrument Airplane.

Total Time: as of this writing 17,598 hrs.

Breif Flying History: The thought of learning to fly kept banging me in the head since I was very young. One day when I was 21 it banged me hard enough to send me clear to the airport and take my first flight lesson. Well, I became a full fledged wing nut in no time



flying whenever I could however I could. My first flying job was hauling skydivers in a C-170B. Now you know how I got involved. I earned my CFI in 78 and found that I really do enjoy instructing. Since then I've enjoyed charter, corporate and commuter work.

Flying Philosophy: Relax, have fun and stay current.

Most people don't know this about me: I love ice cream and Chocolate.

What safety item do you think is most important or most often neglected? Recency of experience or currency.

Any suggestions for students? Fly as often as possible especially pre-solo.

What's the toughest thing to do in flying? Making that Go No Go decision.

What are your flying goals? To someday get helicopter rated.

Explain myself in five words or less. Friendly, fun, sincere and a bit crazy.

I fly because...

of the beautiful scenery, the freedom, the fun, the speed and all the wonderful people I meet.

STEWARD

by Chip LaPlante

The word describes individuals involved in an organization and tasked with the responsibility of its maintenance and financial stability.

WPA stewards are your elected board of directors of the state and local chapters as well as the general membership at large. What, you ask? How can we the general members, be stewards of our organization.

Look at the example of a few weeks ago, when the Blaine airport was facing imminent danger of being closed permanently. You the membership rose to the occasion by sending letters to the city council and by making personal appearances at council meetings. You practically eliminated the competition for the airport by providing forthought for the airport master plan, airport management and increased revenue for the city. WPA made a difference. In any case the results were quite impressive. But there is more that each of us can do to assist our organization.

As a membership organization, our greatest strength is our membership numbers, which for the past few years has slipped slightly. We as steward/members can help turn that trend around. We can assist our organization in several ways to help reverse this trend.

First, bring people to flying. Whether a family member, friend or acquaintance, they've all heard you try to describe the new-found freedom you have discovered in the air.

Many have said they would like to learn to fly someday. Pave their way by encouraging and accompanying them. Tell them "someday" happens next Saturday. Then line up an instructor and go with them.

Second, interact with those students you see at the airport and encourage them to continue with their training programs. Don't you remember how it felt to be the newbie, trying hard to figure out this whole flying thing? Remember how it felt to hear a word of encouragement from another licensed pilot. Leave the training to the instructors, but you don't have to hold a rating to be a mentor.

Third, keep your membership current, even during periods of inactivity. The jobs WPA performs every day affect all pilots in small, often unannounced ways to make it easier for you to open your flight bag each time you fly and use what's inside.

Our relatively small but necessary association relies on larger numbers when speaking to government, insurance companies, suppliers, *WINGS* and *Hanger Talk* advertisers from outside the industry (whose support of the newsletters translates into money for WPA programs).

Finally, let's each do our part to not lose members through mistakes and misjudgment. Let's encourage each other to be better prepared to handle the unforeseen complications of any

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Steward

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flight. While they may be unforeseen, they shouldn't be unanticipated.

And you can mentor by example, passing on your hard-won experience. Perhaps you will play a part in keeping the incident and accident numbers down and the membership numbers up.

And along the way, encourage those who aren't, to become full-fledged WPA members. In that way, you are serving as a steward of WPA, ensuring that your association has the numbers and the resources it needs to continue serving pilots and the aviation industry. If each of us sets a goal of recruiting ten new members over the next 12 months, imagine the possibilities...



From the President's Hangar

Continued from page 1

supporting our WPA chapter, but we need a place with more of a welcoming air. Hopefully with the expansion of the airport we can find a better home for our organization.

Be sure to vote (ballot in your email) and to come to the Christmas Party on December 14th. Please bring a toy for Toys for Tots.

Fly safely

Wayne Landis

Bellingham Aviation Services

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continue operations without interruption. Jason, thank you.

Behind the scenes, Martyn Harris was here at BLI to manage the office and keep everyone smiling during the recent snowstorms. A hardy "thank you" to Martyn as well.

As the holiday season is upon us, I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Holiday Season and Happy Flying for the New Year. Thank you for allowing Bellingham Aviation Services to provide you with the best possible service at BLI. We look forward to servicing you again in the New Year!

With much appreciation to all of our valued employees and customers,

Vanessa Oliver-Nielsen
President
Bellingham Aviation Services



Bellingham Aero

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From the entire staff at Bellingham Aero; have a wonderful cozy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year!

Linda Marrom
Marketing Director
Bellingham Aero Inc.

Washington Pilots Association North Sound Chapter



December Meeting

WPA CHRISTMAS DINNER

Come join us for an evening of hangar talk & good friends. Don't miss it! Meet the new Officers & Board of Directors for 2007

December 14th 6:30-9:00 pm (dinner served at 7:00pm)

It will be in the Old Port Administration Building.....First building on the right after the round-about. Parking is anywhere but in the car rental lot.

Dinner provided by "Catering A'La King"

Black Forest Ham w/Brown Sugar Sauce and Roast Turkey Slices w/Gravy

Scalloped Potatoes w/Cheddar & Bacon

Carrot Coins and Petite Peas

Variety Rolls w/Butter

Chocolate & White Frosted Layer Cakes

WPA Member Dinner price \$10.00 per person

Non Member \$18.00 (Membership will be available at the door)

Please RSVP to Mike Holl by Dec. 8th. Call 961-4721

TOYS FOR TOTS

The North Sound Chapter is participating in the Annual Toys for Tots campaign which is run by the U.S.M.C. Reserve. At our annual Christmas Party, on the 14th, a large box will be placed by the entrance. In the Christmas spirit of giving anyone coming to the party who would like to donate a toy to this worthy cause may do so.

Toys For Tots presents are to be in the original packaging, unwrapped, and new.

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*Deadline for the next issue is
Monday December 31th.*

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Articles for submission can be either e-mailed to:
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Or sent c/o:
HANGAR TALK
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JOIN NOW

Join your fellow pilots and aviation enthusiasts. Become a member of the North Sound Chapter of the Washington Pilots' Association. The North Sound Chapter represents members from Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan Counties. To be a member, you need not be a pilot but only have an interest in and promote general aviation.

name (last, first, middle initial)

spouse if applicable (last, first, middle initial)

address (street, apartment number)

city

state

zip

phone number

email address

The \$31 Chapter dues are comprised of \$19 State and \$12 Local dues. Active CFIs are charged \$1 for State dues. Soloed student pilots receive first year State dues at no charge. Also offered, on a voluntary basis, is a year subscription to the GA News for \$25.

STATE DUES

_____ \$19 STANDARD
_____ \$1 ACTIVE CFI
_____ n/a SOLOED STUDENT

LOCAL DUES

_____ \$12 ALL

GA NEWS

_____ \$25 VOLUNTARY

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Please mail completed form and check (payable to North Sound WPA) to Mike Holl, North Sound Chapter WPA Treasurer, 259 Friday Creek Road, Bellingham, WA, 98226.



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The Hangar Talk Newsletter Mails out 100 Plus copies each month. Most of these copies, of course, go to members of the North Sound Chapter of the Washington Pilots Association. However there are numerous copies mailed to interested persons and companies outside the membership. Some copies go to the State entities such as the State WPA President and editor of the Wings publication. We believe the Hangar Talk reaches a surprising number of people.

We wish to offer to all interested persons and businesses to advertise their services in Hangar Talk. A sum of \$50 will purchase a year (10 issues) of business card advertising. Please send a check payable to North Sound WPA and a business card to Mike Holl, North Sound Chapter Treasurer, 259 Friday Creek Road, Bellingham, WA 98226

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