



# HANGAR TALK



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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S HANGAR

Barry Schiff's Proficient Pilot column in the January AOPA Pilot magazine asked the question about who was the world's greatest pilot. Second in his poll was James "Jimmy" Doolittle. He has always

gotten my vote for greatest pilot because the things he did are part of everyday flying and affect all of us in the North Puget Sound Chapter.



Most pilots know of Jimmy Doolittle for his leading the bombing attack on Japan from the aircraft carrier Hornet in 1942. His place in aviation history was already secured even before this dramatic event. Dr. James Doolittle received one of the first Masters and Ph.D.s in aeronautical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for his research on aircraft structures and aeronautics. The methodical approach to flight test is one of the legacies that is a foundation of aviation to this day. Perhaps Doolittle's greatest contribution was the invention of instrument flying with the newly invented gyroscopic instruments invented by Sperry.

The basic techniques of instrument flight discovered by Doolittle are among the first things an instrument pilot learns. Imagine Doolittle with a GPS.

Satellite navigation has made instrument flying and especially instrument approaches safer and more straightforward. The positive side to this is that there are additional instrument

approaches being created without the need for ground based radio aids. Bellingham now has two GPS approaches, as does Skagit County.

The minimums are

very reasonable, allowing a properly trained pilot to shoot an approach into the wind and land. The negative side to this is that there are now a variety of directions that airplanes can approach an airport, break out of the clouds, and proceed to the runway while sharing the pattern with VFR traffic. This is especially true for the North Puget Sound area, where we often have low, but VFR ceilings, for much of the winter. At BLI there is the control tower to assist by alerting pilots in the

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We will be a part of it.!

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## FBO News

### Bellingham Aero

I will always remember January 2006 as the rainiest January in my life. Apparently that's a true statement, as it beat the record rainfall in 1953. And believe it or not, I wasn't born yet. I'm sure everyone feels as water logged as I do, so I'll stop complaining. After all, Spring is just

around the corner.....

Bellingham Aero Flight School has continued to stay busy, and our next Private Pilot Ground School begins February 8<sup>th</sup>. Unless there are any cancellations, we are at maximum capacity for this session. You can contact April Phillips, to see if there are any openings. Our next session will begin sometime in late April. Call (360) 671-2250 if you're interested in our Spring session.

Bellingham Air Taxi has been steady even with the lousy weather. We now have many regular clients who purchase commuter packages for unbeatable prices. Our affordable prices to the San Juan Islands, surpass all other Air Taxi prices in Skagit or Whatcom County, so spread the word!

Bellingham Fuel Service is excited to expand our office space. We now have the entire office in the GA building. We are in the process of remodeling and we're extremely grateful to have more room for ourselves and our customers.

Stop in for some fresh warm cookies and coffee and a nice comfortable place to relax.

Kevin Kegin's American Warbirds will be in Arlington during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of September. He was at BLI, 2 years ago, selling many rides in his Texan (Navy SNJ / Air Force T6).

Just like the aces of the 40s, he tailors each flight to you. You have the opportunity to fly the plane yourself!!! I witnessed many people, including veterans, fly with him, and it was heart warming to see how much they enjoyed themselves. I was fortunate enough to get

my first ride in a warbird with Kevin, and I can honestly say I'm absolutely addicted.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month from noon to 4pm, Heritage Flight Museum has an open house. It is so exciting to watch the Anders family and Craig Nelson perform their formation flying and fly-bys. Watching the Sky Raider and the P-51 in action is guaranteed to give you goose bumps.

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Bellingham Aero



### Bellingham Aviation Services

With the winter weather upon us the flight training at Bellingham Aviation Services (BAS) has dropped off a bit. We have been enjoying the new Garmin 430 in our Cessna 172, and with the higher freezing levels we have had lately it has been fun doing IFR training with it. I am beginning to wonder why I ever flew without one! If you have not used the 430 it is definitely a pleasure that makes both IFR and VFR flying easier. The airspace depiction is great for VFR pilots and the situational awareness that you get is fantastic for either IFR or VFR flying.

Although the weather has slowed down flight training somewhat, the fueling side of the FBO has been keeping remarkably busy during the winter months. To show how much we value you, our customers, BAS has decided to make February "Customer Appreciation Month". We are slashing prices on 100LL both from the truck and at the self-serve pumps for the entire month of February. **Self-serve fuel is \$3.47 and full-service fuel from the truck is only \$3.60!** Please look for the ad in this edition of Hangar Talk for more details.

Jeff Eriksen has just finished a private pilot ground school and has already begun his next one. We have been seeing a lot of demand

for our ground schools, especially for this time of year. If you know anyone who may be interested in attending the next ground school please tell him or her to drop by or call us at 676-7624.

Another busy part of our FBO are the avionics and maintenance shops. They have been going non-stop getting airplanes out the door with new radios or fresh annual inspections. Those of you in the Chuckanut Flying Club will already be enjoying the Garmin 430 that was recently installed in your 182. I am sure that you will be as happy with it as we are with the one in our 172.

Have a happy February, enjoy the fuel discounts, and feel free to drop by to visit. The coffee is always ready.

Martyn Harris  
Chief Flight Instructor



# Jim Laird

By Chip LaPlante

*As a long time active member of the local Civil Air Patrol and a desire to be helpful, Jim is ready and willing to do whatever he can to promote aviation and the goals of our chapter as our new vice president of the NSC.*

**Age:** 53

**Height and Weight:** 6'3" 325lbs.

**Birthplace:** Bellingham, WA

**Marital Status:** Married.

Geanette

**Children:** 1 of each & 5 Grandchildren.

**Occupation:** Dirt Contractor - Site Prep Inc.

**Education:** 1 partial year of College partying then I went to work.

**Hobbies:** Flying and fishing.

**First Solo:** 1977

**Where:** Bellingham (BLI).

**Own or Rent:** Own a Skymaster.

**Home Airport:** Bellingham (BLI).

**Licenses and Ratings:** Private - Single & Multi-Engine Land, Instrument & Single Engine Sea.

**Total Time:** 1200+.

**Most significant life**

**achievement:** Raising my kids.

**Life Philosophy:** Everyday is an opportunity to start fresh.

**How did you become**

**interested in flying?** I've always had an interest and when my wife told me that I could do it, I did.

**Flying Philosophy:** Your personal limits are more important than the legal limits. as per FAR's.

**What do you like most or least about flying?** Most - My Skymaster. Least - The expense financially.



**Brief Flying History:** I started taking lessons here at BLI with Hap Watkinson. I flew whenever I could to build time. I took a break to raise my kids then the desire to fly continued.

**Who has been your pilot**

**mentor:** Hap Watkinson, Steve Bird and all the instructors I've had over the years.

**Explain Jim in five words or less:** Quiet, helpful gentle giant.

**What makes Jim tick?:** Always having lots of irons in the fire. I like a lot of things going on at the same time.

**What safety item do you think is most important or most often neglected?** Checking the fuel.

**What are your flying goals?:** To fly as many different aircraft as I can.

**Most people don't know this**

**about me:** I was voted "Pilot of the Year" of the Civil Air Patrol and I also hold a Canadian pilot certificate.

**I fly because...**I can.





*From the President's Hanger  
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traffic pattern of aircraft approaching on instrument approaches. At airports such as BVS (Skagit County) we are on our own to see and avoid. Now there are instrument approaches to both runways 10 and 28 at BVS, so aircraft can be emerging from the clouds in both directions. It is important that the instrument pilot call his position and intentions, and for the VFR pilot to have a mental picture of the approaching traffic. The waypoints for the GPS approaches are portrayed on approach plates and it would be great if every pilot were aware of their general location. Equally important for the instrument pilot is to recognize his responsibility to see and avoid once VMC is reached. Did you know that Doolittle could not have seen and avoided during his first instrument flight? He not only took off under the hood, he landed as well. Lt. Ben Kelsey was Doolittle's safety pilot during these experiments and kept his hands visible outside the cockpit during the first flight totally by instruments. There was a bond of trust.

Talk to you all next month.  
Wayne Landis  
President  
North Sound Chapter WPA



## **Bellingham Aero** *Continued from Page 2*

Remember Bellingham Aero has its open house the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month. There is always good food and company and a load of pilot chatter. The hours are from 11 - 3.

We want to thank the entire Aviation Community at BLI for your continued support. We appreciate all of you!

Sincerely,  
Linda Marrom  
Customer Sales & Service  
Bellingham Aero Inc.



**Newsletter editor Chip  
LaPlante and North Sound  
Chapter President Wayne  
Landis**

It was an honor receiving an award and plaque from Wayne on behalf of all the members for my work on this newsletter at our last meeting.

Thank You.  
Chip LaPlante  
Editor

## OTHER NEWS

### "anyAWOS"

#### FAA SAFETY PROGRAM FAA SAFETY.GOV

Register for Aviation Safety  
Information

The FAA sends you e-mail  
of the latest safety related  
information based on your  
profile.



#### NSC Thanks Don Lunt and Paul Zozel.

If you missed our last  
meeting, Don Lunt and Paul  
Zozel gave us an excellent  
and very educational  
presentation on the Garman  
430 & 530 GPS navigation  
systems. Good Work guys.



There's a FANTASTIC new service  
that's FREE. The service called  
"anyAWOS"  
lets pilots call a toll-free number  
and listen to any AWOS/ASOS or  
ATIS in the continental United  
States that has a public phone  
number. After dialing the number,  
you're asked to input the three  
digit airport identifier using your  
telephone keypad. A list of airports  
will be presented, and you  
select the appropriate one. Your  
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that airport's weather service.  
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advertisement of one of the  
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## February is Customer Appreciation Month

**We've Slashed our prices for the month of February only!**

**100LL Only \$3.47** Self Serve \*

**100LL Only \$3.60** Full Serve \*

\* Prices based on AirBP prices 2/1/06 - subject to change.

**Call Bellingham Aviation Services or AirBP Fuel  
on Unicom 122.95**



**Bellingham Aviation Services**  
4201 Mitchell Way  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
**Unicom 122.95**  
(360)676-7624

# Washington Pilots Association North Sound Chapter



## **February Meeting Speaker**

Master Instructor  
and  
Pilot Examiner

Rick Luke

Will be here to present:

“Operations at Towered Airports”

Find out what's new at towered airports.  
Review Lost Comm Procedures.  
And as always Rick will be open to  
discuss and answer any questions.

When: Thursday February 9th. Doors open at 6:30pm  
Time: 7:00pm

Where: in the old Port Administration building.





## North Sound Chapter WPA Control Tower

Hangar Talk Newsletter is the official publication of the North Sound Chapter of the W.P.A.

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and just about anyone willing to help!

*Deadline for the next issue is  
Tuesday February 28th.*

### WEBSITE

STATE <http://www.wpaflys.org>

LOCAL [http://www.wpaflys.org/Chapters/  
North\\_Sound.htm](http://www.wpaflys.org/Chapters/North_Sound.htm)

Articles for submission can be either e-mailed to:  
kidkomet@msn.com  
Or sent c/o:  
HANGAR TALK  
3128 Alderwood Ave.  
Bellingham, WA 98225

## 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.



## **SPONSORS**

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 Rick Miller, North Sound Chapter Treasurer, 1015 W. 54<sup>th</sup> Lane, Bellingham, WA 98226

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