

WPA-Paine Chapter General Meeting

3 February 2012

Summary Meeting Minutes

President Steve Waterman called the meeting to order at 1945 hrs. at the Sno-Isle Café, Everett WA.

Introductions

Three new members were introduced: Diane McClure, David Vic s/b David Dyck, and Barry VanWest

Officer and Committee Reports

- Treasurer- Greg Bell provided a copy of the financial report to each table (attached).
- Membership - Frank Hummel reported 146 members were paid so far for this year, which is about the same total as last year this time. Those not paid by the end of Feb would not be eligible for fuel discounts.
- Legislative -Les Smith summarized his report (attached).

Unfinished/New Business

President Steve addressed the following subjects:

- The Paine Chapter website is undergoing an update in phases. The first phase is done. More details to come in future months.
- Safety and Education Committee – still need a volunteer to chair this committee
- The NW Aviation Conference is Feb 25-26 at Puyallup. The state WPA meeting will be held Sat. the 25th at 11:45. Steve will be present representing our chapter.
- General Aviation Day- KPAE airport management is taking the lead as the crowd size has grown considerable (est. 10-15,000 attendees), the funding required is larger, and HFF is organizing for five B25's to attend the event. KPAE is considering a fee for attendees. Our WPA chapter agrees to support this event with volunteers to assist the airport management. In addition our booth is expected to be in a predominant location. Frank Hummel will be in charge of coordinating WPA volunteers. Sign-ups encouraged via the website: paine-volunteers@wpaflys.org

Good of the Order: Nothing raised by the members

Program: Four Corners USA Flight by George Futas & Jim Chapman

George provided a commentary with slides and photos of their 10,000 mile, 29 day trip in a C177B Cardinal, emphasizing how they did it safely, having lots of fun and with a minimum of fuss and planning. He also provided navigation and accommodation tips and lessons learned.

Adjourned at 2100 hrs by President Steve.

Respectfully Submitted: George Futas, Chapter Secretary

WPA-Paine Chapter General Meeting
3 February 2012

WPA – Paine Field Chapter
Treasurer's Report
February 2nd, 2012

Last month's balance	<u>\$8,220.57</u>
Deposits	\$4,846.00
Membership renewal dues (14 x \$40)	\$560.00
Donations (2 X \$10)	\$20.00
GA News	\$100.00
January General Meeting Dinner Income	\$416.00
Paine Field - GA Day Reimbursement	\$3,750.00
Withdrawals	\$420.42
Sno-Isle Tech - January General Meeting Dinner	\$420.42
Present Balance	<u>\$12,646.15</u>
Amount we owe State WPA (42 renewals + 12 GA News)	\$1,098.00

WPA-Paine Chapter General Meeting

3 February 2012

Legislative Corner Feb 2012

by Les Smith

In Olympia,

The House Judiciary Committee moved for HB 2244 to go before the House for a vote. You may recall that the bill provides for an edit of the state's Recreational Use Statute that would include aviation in the items private landowners would be afforded liability protections. House leadership has not yet scheduled that vote. A similar bill in the state Senate remains in committee.

House Bill 2089 has been reintroduced in the state's 2012 session. It calls for a one percent excise tax, based on most recent purchase price or an assessment that would be required of the state Department of Revenue. The one percent assessment would be for the value of the aircraft above \$75,000. How the value is arrived at is the subject of a new section 3. You can view the proposed bill, by visiting <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2011-12/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/2089.pdf>

In Congress,

Funding: After five years and 23 short-term funding extensions, Congress now has before it a funding bill that will support the FAA for four years. It is expected to pass. The bill provides for \$63 billion, which includes:

- authorizes \$13.4 billion for airport improvement projects
- funding subsidies for rural airport commercial operations at \$190 million per year
- addresses through-the-fence operations, allowing airport access to adjacent property owners
- outlines an incentive program to help GA pilots equip for NextGen
- a new FAA post - Chief NextGen Officer
- new labor rules that will make it harder for airline employees to unionize, requiring half the workers in a bargaining unit to petition for a vote to certify a union. This is an increase from the current 35 percent.

Congress now needs to vote on the bill before Feb. 17, when the current short-term extension, passed last December, expires.

LightSquared: They have been dealt a serious blow in its dispute over interference with GPS receivers. A letter sent to the USA's Department of Commerce by the National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing Executive Committee (PNT ExComm) has warned that it cannot see any viable solution to the problem. "Based upon this testing and analysis, there appear to be no practical solutions or mitigations that would permit the LightSquared broadband service, as proposed, to operate in the next few months or years without significantly interfering with GPS. As a result, no additional testing is warranted at this time," the memo said.

Responding to the memo, LightSquared's primary financial backer, Harbinger Capital said "We are confident that the tests, when the protocol is disclosed and the details are examined, will be shown to be invalid. The devices chosen by GPS manufacturers to be tested were selected to ensure failure. They included obsolete GPS receivers (some a decade out of production) and niche-market receivers."

[Editor's note: those "niche-market receivers" include the GPS in your iPad and other portable GPS products] The financial firm added that "This is nothing more than a thinly-veiled attempt by

WPA-Paine Chapter General Meeting

3 February 2012

government agencies to protect the interests of the GPS industry who are unauthorized users infringing on spectrum licensed to LightSquared."

Marine Sanctuaries: Feel like flying up the Washinton Coast? Plan above 2,000' msl or you may find yourself facing up to \$100,000 in punitive action. An unprecedented Final Ruling has been issued by NOAA governing overflights of certain West Coast Marine Sanctuaries, including our own Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Monterey Bay, Channel Islands, and Gulf of the Farallones. Flights below 2000 feet are prohibited within one nautical mile of Flattery Rocks, Quillayute Needles, or Copalis National Wildlife Refuge, or within one nautical mile seaward from the coastal boundary of the sanctuary. Furthermore, the enforcement of this ruling has, with the cooperation of the FAA, been granted to NOAA. Particularly troubling in this ruling is the use of a legal term called "rebuttable presumption". This means that any pilot who flies below 2,000 feet msl in any of the West Coast Marine Sanctuaries has disturbed the wildlife there. Once NOAA advises that an operator has violated "their airspace", pilots will be forced to prove wildlife was not disturbed in order to avoid sanction. Penalties will be based on observations from the ground by personnel who do not necessarily have any aviation knowledge, training, or specialized equipment to make accurate calculations of an aircraft's altitude. Fines as high as \$100,000 could be leveled. Only 169 public comments were received nationally during the NPRM in December, 2010 through February, 2011.

You can read the details of the final ruling here:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-01-26/pdf/2012-1593.pdf>