



SPOKANE FLYER

APRIL 2011

Thunderbird pilot headlines April chapter meeting program



Please join us on Wednesday, April 20th as we welcome USAF Thunderbird team pilot, Ron Catton for a special presentation.

Ron will tell a few stories about flying with the famed Thunderbirds exhibition team in the mid 1960's as he piloted the F-105 in some spectacular formation flying.

Ron also promised that he'd have a number of other stories that are sure to be of interest.

Join us at 6 p.m. at Marie Callendars in the Spokane Valley for dinner at around 6 p.m. with the program getting underway at about 6:45.

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING:

April Monthly Meeting

USAF Thunderbirds and other aviation adventures

Ron Catton
Former USAF Thunderbird pilot

Wednesday, April 20, 2011
Marie Callendars Restaurant
2111 N. Argonne-Spokane Valley
6:00 p.m.

General Aviation Day on tap for Felts Field

Public invited to visit and find out more about aviation in Spokane

A special day is being planned for Felts Field this summer. Felts Field General Aviation Day will be held on Saturday, June 4th.



It's an event designed to open Felts Field up to the community, especially the surrounding neighborhoods, so local residents can see first-hand what happens at a general aviation airport and why Felts Field is important to our area.

A special attraction that weekend is the appearance of "Aluminum Overcast"—One of the few Boeing B-17's still flying today. The aircraft is operated by the Experimental Aircraft Association and is in Spokane through the efforts of EAA Chapter 79 at Felts Field.

Planning for the event is still underway but folks can expect to see a wide variety of aircraft on display, including the Boeing 40C—the first passenger aircraft model Boeing built. It's based right here at Felts Field. In addition, there will be numerous aircraft on display including biplanes, aerobatic aircraft, and helicopters. Also on the lineup will be formation flyovers from some of the antique aircraft based at Felts Field.

Food and beverages will be available. For the latest information, check the WPA Spokane Chapter website on the www.wpaflys.org website.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, June 4th.



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SPOKANE FLYER

is published 12 times per year by the Washington Pilots Association, Spokane Chapter. We welcome articles and photo contributions that may be of interest to pilots in the Spokane area and the Inland Northwest.

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Chapter general meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month except February August and December. Board meeting are held on the 1st Wednesday of every month.

Join or Renew On-line, Today!

Go to: wpaflys.org

President's Message: Tom Morris

We look forward to April to start the spring flying season. The temps are finally getting warmer, and the winds begin to blow. On May 7th there will be a poker run put on by the combined local WPA Chapters



from Spokane, Deer Park, and Colville. As the details get finalized they will be posted on the WPAFLYS.ORG website, click on the Spokane Chapter. I would like to thank Marian Heale for coordinating the Spokane Chapter details.

Our speaker for the April 20th general meeting will be former U.S. Air Force Thunderbird pilot, Ron Catton. He'll share some of his adventures flying for that elite group and other stories. I also plan to share some of the occurrences we encountered flying in and out of Japan since the earthquake/tsunami disaster. Please plan to attend.

On Saturday, May 21st, we have our annual Lower Granite State Airport workday. For those who may want to make it a camping event or use the marina hotel rooms for either Friday or Saturday night, be sure and call ahead to make reservations at Boyer Park Marina at 509-397-3208. If you plan to attend the workday, bring liquids and sun protection, it can be hot. We start at 10am on Saturday and are usually done by early afternoon. You can bring a lunch, or buy lunch at the Marina store. We hope to see you there.

On June 4th plan to come to the Felts Field General Aviation Day. There will be displays, and many activities to see.

As a final note for this month's message I would like to thank Dave Lucke for taking on the WPA State President position and Al Gilson for temporarily assisting with the "Wings" publication. All of these positions are volunteered, take time, and sometimes cost a little money paid by the volunteers. Many have asked, "why should I join the WPA?" My response is that they need to pay more attention to what is happening at the State and Federal levels. The Aviation Organizations, including WPA are the reasons why we are still able to fly without overwhelming restrictions.

Tom

CHICKEN WINGS

BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



Through special arrangements with Michael and Stefan Strasser, we are pleased to have the Chicken Wings comic strip in Spokane Flyer. For more strips, products, and offers, check out their website at: www.chickenwingscomics.com



Runway work now underway at Spokane International Airport

Airlines move over to 7/25

The Runway 3-21 Line of Sight (LOS) Project is now underway at Spokane International Airport (KGEK). Aircraft take-offs and



landings will be shifted to the alternate 8,199 foot long runway 7/25, while the northeast end of the airfield is prepared for construction, navigational aids are disabled, and new security fencing is installed. Residents on Spokane's South Hill may notice a change in the pattern of aircraft arrivals, as the alternate runway is aligned with 40th Avenue.

As of April 14th, the main runway will re-open at a shortened length of 6,852' from Taxiway Foxtrot to the Runway 3 threshold. The entire project will be completed and main runway's full 11,002' will be operational and with full CAT III Instrument Landing System (ILS) on both ends on October 20, 2011 barring any weather-related or other delays.

Airport Update

Lower Granite work party scheduled

A phone call from Paul Wolf, Director of Maintenance for State Airports, has indicated good progress has been made in working out the lease agreements with the Army Corps of Engineers on the Snake River Airports. The final paperwork and studies are being completed and there is no expected delay in the Snake River Canyon Airports opening June 1st.

Permits are being worked on to be able to control weeds on the runways, as well as any paths leading to and from the runways. Interest has been raised to keep the airports open for a longer season. Currently the airports open June 1st and close Oct 1st. There has been no sign of rejection of the request at this time, but don't expect the runways to be plowed if snow is covering the surface.

With this news the Spokane Chapter of the WPA is planning a Work Party at Lower Granite State Airport May 21st. Path clean up and mowing grass around the



segmented circle will be some of the chores. A windssock pole may be upgraded this year as well.

These are great get-a-ways, especially at the Boyer Park Resort and Marina, at Lower Granite State Airport. Come down and join the work party group. Bring liquids and yard tools. We have lunch at the resort store around noon, do some hanger flying and have a great time. The work starts at 10 a.m.

Keep your skills sharp on the ground

With spring flying season here it is time to knock the dust and cobwebs off our favorite aircraft and get ready for the flying season. Just as important to our flying safety as prepping our bird for flight after winter storage is the prepping of our mind for safe flight operations. It is time to clear the mind and brush up on the proper techniques and skills required to operate the aircraft safely and proficiently.

Remember to review operating procedures for airport surface operations at your local airport and the airports that you frequent. Review the runway signage and what they mean. Brush up on proper radio phraseology and practice clear and concise radio communication skills. All of these skill sets can assist you in avoiding becoming a runway incursion statistic.



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509-939-8197

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Open M-F 8am to 5pm
Open Saturdays (seasonal)

509-534-7371



Spokane Chapter

P.O. Box 11911
Spokane, WA 99211

Try your luck at the Spokane Poker Run in May!

Mark your calendar for May 7th and hope the weather cooperates.

Our Spokane WPA Chapter, along with the Deer Park and Colville Chapters will be hosting a Poker Run. Marian Heale has offered to coordinate the Spokane Chapter details. The entry fee will probably be between \$5 and \$10 per plane. This is not a fund raiser but we are hoping to cover the cost of the BBQ. The airports will be Colville, Chewelah, Deer Park, Felts Field, and Priest River.

At the end of the Poker Run, end up at Deer Park for a BBQ hosted by the Colville Chapter. Plans are to have some prizes for the top three hands.

As the details get ironed out they will be available on the website, WPAFLYS.ORG, click on the Spokane Chapter.



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Two FAASafety seminars coming up for Spokane area pilots

Please join the FAASafety for a one-time showing of Brian Webb's "What Pilots Need to Know About Flying Near, or Crossing the Canadian Border" presentation. The program is on April 21st at 6:30 p.m., at the East Valley High School Commons area. 15711 E. Wellesley.

Also, there will be a 3-part presentation on April 26th at Spokane Falls Community College. This program starts at 6 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. These shows will cover the following subjects: Pilot-Controller Forum & Runway Safety; A "surprise subject" by the Spokane FSDO's Operations Inspector Supervisor. It will be informative and entertaining!; plus Stick & Rudder Skills and how they relate to flying-or do they?

At these programs you don't have to attend all of the seminars to get WINGS credit, just the ones you want, but for the best experience, go to all three! More information is and on www.FAASafety.gov