



SPOKANE FLYER

AUGUST 2011

Felts Field gets it right!

And a good day for aviation

by Rod Hightower, President, Experimental Aircraft Association

As some of you know, I am a student of models that work, and I just found another one. Recently I visited Felts Field in Spokane, Washington, for a weekend of exceptional grassroots aviation at one of our country's more interesting and beautiful airports. Thursday evening was a private dinner hosted by Jeff Hamilton. This was particularly pleasant for my wife, Maura, as the evening was a wonderful mix of social time making new friends, talking just enough about business, and enjoying that special camaraderie found among experienced and passionate aviators.

My discovery that evening was the story of a successful local advocacy effort by aviators and community leadership. To keep an aviation-centric focus at the airport, an organization called SATA (Spokane Airport Tenants Association) formed to represent the interests of aviators. It methodically set about strengthening relationships with the airport authority and civic leaders while creating community awareness about the value of the airport.

Over the past couple of years, the airport board has been populated by SATA members, with three of the seven members being EAAers. They collectively made an effective move hiring Larry Krauter as the new pro-aviation CEO of the Spokane Airport Board. With the support of the mayor of Spokane, an intelligent lady named Mary Verner, guess what has happened? Things got much better for the airport, the aviators who call Felts Field home, and the community that enjoys a growing and vibrant regional asset.



Friday was a day of aviating. I was invited to fly fellow EAA and Stearman Restorers Association member Larry Tobin's beautiful N2S Stearman for some formation flying fun, and practice for Saturday's big event. But first, you gotta make sure the new guy can really fly the thing before turning him loose. So a checkout was in order. Good thing because locking tail wheels are not what I usually fly, and it takes some practice to steer the mighty Stearman with brakes alone. This surely provided some humor for the locals as I subjected Larry to my developing swivel tail wheel taxi skills. Satisfied I wouldn't bend anything, I was unleashed to the awaiting two- and four-ship formations for some big fun and a flyover at the local racetrack with lots of smoke on.

Next was our 22nd Grassroots Pilot Tour Stop at the newly renovated EAA hangar. More than 125 EAA members and local pilots enjoyed an evening of open dialogue about the key aviation issues of our time, the future of EAA, and a great AirVenture video against the backdrop of a gorgeous sunset.

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UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES:

No August Meeting

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Wilderness Within Reach Flight
August 27, 2011

for the Hutton Settlement Kids
Planes and Pilots needed (see page 3)

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September Chapter Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 2011, 6 p.m.

NEW LOCATION!

Timber Creek Buffet

9211 E. Montgomery

(Just east of Argonne)

Adult Dinner = \$12.39 +tax

Seniors = \$11.39 +tax

(Prices include all you can eat and beverages)

Special surprise program



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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.

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President's Message: Tom Morris

It's obvious the month of August needs more than four weekends. The weather has finally straightened out and it is time for outings and activities. The RAF fly-in/work party at Sullivan Lake for a start on the 19th-21st. The Candle Lighters Cancer Kids Rides put on by the local Angel Flight group on the 20th. The CDA fly-in/car show and wooden boat show on the 20th, and the Wilderness Outreach for the Hutton Settlement kids as of this time is the 27th of August. We are busy and will be looking for planes and Pilots to help out. And don't forget, in late September or early October we are planning the annual Veterans Fall Foliage Flight.



Meanwhile, John Townsley has been working on the 2011 Aviation Scholarship Applications, which will be placed on the website soon for applicants to download. This year the scholarships will be increased to \$1000 each, and will be awarded as in the past, at the Benefit Auction in February. The number of scholarships will vary from year- to-year based on the fund raising events.

Our old gathering place, Marie Callenders, has gone away. We were invited by the Timber Creek Grill and Buffet to try them as our new meeting facility. September 21st we will meet at The Timber Creek Grill at 6pm. They are located at the Argonne Plaza at Montgomery and Argonne. The cost is under \$13 per person and includes drinks and desert. (all you can eat) We hope to see you there.

I would like to thank Duane and Judy Cocking for hosting our annual WPA Picnic in July. Everyone that was able to attend really enjoyed themselves. I hear there were some nifty air-powered rockets that were the hit of the party. We received a very nice thank you letter from the local NW Bi-Plane Association for a donation we provided to them for the Franklins, who were involved in an airshow accident.

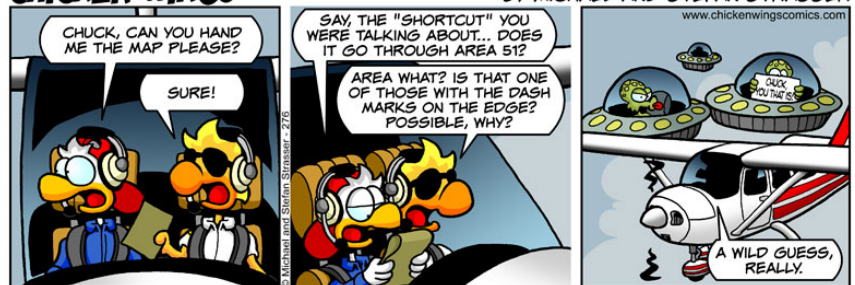
I would also like to mention the fantastic job Larry Tobin and group did putting together the Felts Field Aviation Day. The benefit for the local aviation community, Felts Field and the neighboring community is priceless.

Go out and enjoy the great weather.

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



The Do's and Don'ts of Maneuvering Flight

from the FAA

Nearly one-third of all fatal accidents occur during maneuvering flight, in part because maneuvering at low altitude limits the amount of time a pilot has to recover. Maneuvering flight is basically any type of flying performed close to the ground — even the traffic pattern is considered maneuvering!

Do's and Don'ts that can help keep you safe.

DO

- Do remember that the majority of fatal stall/spin accidents occur at low altitudes, because the closer you are to the ground the less time you will have for a successful recovery.
- Do practice stalls or approaches to stalls at a safe altitude. If you're rusty take a CFI with you.
- Do fly at a safe altitude so that you won't be surprised by obstacles that may require abrupt maneuvers to avoid.
- Do remember that turns and sudden climbs increase the wing loading which will increase the stall speed, sometimes dramatically.

DON'T

- Don't explore the flight envelope close to the ground.
- Don't exceed 30 degrees of bank in the traffic pattern.
- Don't buzz or otherwise show off with an aircraft. Not only are you putting yourself at risk, but your pilot certificate too. The FAA gets lots of complaints that include cell phone pictures and videos.
- Don't attempt maneuvers for which you have not been trained. Get an Instructor on board the first time!

Want to know more? Go to the Courses page on www.FAASafety.gov and look for Course ALC-34, Maneuvering: Approach and Landing.



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We need you and your plane!

Wilderness Within Reach Fly-Out

Saturday, August 27th is the Wilderness Within Reach fly-out for the Hutton Settlement kids. It's a trip from Felts Field to Cavanaugh Bay (66S) on Priest Lake for a day enjoying the forest, beach and water. If you wish to participate call Tom at 509-939-4459 or 509-924-5544 or e-mail: tzmorris@comcast.net. Plan for a 9:00 a.m. take-off and a return departure of about 3:00 p.m.

The kids will be bringing their lunch. For pilots: Bring your own or the restaurant at Cavanaugh is open for your dining pleasure.

Pilots need to be aware that, while the grass strip is not considered difficult, it is in mountainous surroundings and you should be comfortable in that element. Check the numbers and ensure that your aircraft has an adequate performance margin for the mission. Know before you go how much weight you can carry. You can count on passenger weights of more than 100 pounds.

Felts gets it right continued from page 1

Saturday dawned clear and warm and was the really big day. More than 10,000 people, including the community's movers and shakers, turned out for Airport Day and enjoyed the year's best weather with lots of flying, including EAA's B-17 *Aluminum Overcast*, helicopter rides, and airplane rides in a vintage New Standard biplane.

Good food was provided by EAA Chapter 79, led by its president, Ron Garnes. And Addison Pemberton's magnificent Boeing Model 40, the world's oldest Boeing aircraft and only flying Model 40, provided many rides, including a thrilling and historic flight for Maura and me.

With all the flying and airplane rides coming to a close, it was now time for the evening program, and you won't believe who showed up—Coeur d'Alene, Idaho's newest resident, Burt Rutan. Burt thrilled all with his stories of life at Scaled Composites, mentioning that SpaceShipOne is his proudest achievement, and his new journey into retirement.

After his presentation it was my turn to provide a little surprise for Burt. As the sun was setting on Felts Field, we rolled the 2011 AirVenture video. When the segment appeared of Burt flying in SpaceShipOne during AirVenture 2005, the audience exploded with thunderous cheers and whistles in honor of Burt. Knowing the segment was coming, my eyes were not on the video but on Burt, and when I saw his big eyes and a look of pleasant surprise on his face, I knew what everyone in the room knew; it was a special evening for us to share and a good day for aviation.

Now, let's go aviate!

Rod Hightower is President of the Experimental Aircraft Association. This article and photo originally appeared in the July edition of Sport Aviation and was reprinted by permission.



Spokane Chapter

P.O. Box 11911
Spokane, WA 99211

Sullivan Lake Airport Fly-In & Work Party by Bob Kay

The Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) is joining forces with the Washington Seaplane Pilots Association (WSPA) for a fun weekend of camping, a work party, and fly-in on August 19- 21 at Sullivan Lake (09S) in Northeastern Washington. It is a grass strip at 2600 feet elevation and 1765 feet long.

There is plenty of room for parking seaplanes and wheeled airplanes. Campsites are available both on the field and in the adjacent Forest Service Campground. Saturday night the RAF and the WSPA will furnish steaks, corn on the cob, and salad.

Sullivan Lake offers great swimming, fishing and hiking opportunities for everyone. We are working with the Washington State DOT and the US Forest Service to create a work plan to do some field improvements and clean-up work on the runway and in the camping area. More details will be provided to those that RSVP.

Put this event on your calendar and let's have some fun together! It is possible to drive to the lake should you decide not to fly. Come for the whole weekend, or just the day if you like. Please RSVP as soon as you decide you are coming so we can get an accurate head count for dinner. BOB KAY, RAF-WA Liaison rkay9086@msn.com 253-630-9086 or 206-818-9086



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