



Spokane Chapter

# SPOKANE FLYER

## FEBRUARY 2010

### NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

### 2010 ANNUAL BANQUET & BENEFIT SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY  
February 27, 2010

6:00 P.M.

Comfort Inn/University District  
923 E. Third, Spokane, WA

Special Guest:

Dave Voetman  
"The Quest Kodiak Story"

## Hear the Quest Kodiak story at the 2010 banquet

Built right here in the inland northwest to serve the world

Join us on Saturday, February 27, 2010 for the annual Washington Pilots Association/Spokane Chapter banquet and benefit auction.

Our keynote speaker is Dave Voetmann, one of the visionaries behind Quest Aircraft and their remarkable Kodiak airplane. You'll get the inside story on the development and construction of this incredible airframe.

Of course, make sure you bid on the dozens of aviation-related items at the silent auction. See the article below for just a sampling of what will be up for bids.

Buy individual tickets for \$35 or reserve an entire table of eight for \$280. Tickets are now available from any WPA/Spokane Board member. Their phone numbers and e-mail address are on page two.

***Get your tickets today. Hurry! Good seats are still available!***



Dave Voetmann

## Fabulous aviation items highlight 2010 annual silent auction at banquet

Quest Kodiak simulator sessions up for bids by Tom Morris



At the 2010 Annual Benefit Auction, we have a great variety of items for you to bid on. Susie Scalera, Marian Heale, and the rest of the board members have been busy gathering items for the event.

It has been a difficult year to gather donations due to the economic environment. The board members have been turning over rocks looking for items. We have found some new and great value ideas this year: Donated pearls are back again this year at an excellent value. A session in the full-motion, Quest Kodiak simulator has been donated by Spokane Turbine Center. Ziegler

Building Center has donated another great air operated hand tool for your shop.

Western Aviation and Spokane Airways have always been great supporters of the auction with tests and products for your plane or the pilot ready for bids.

Want to ride in a piece of history? Bid on a once-in-a-lifetime flight in the first Boeing airliner model, the 40C, based right here in Spokane at Felts Field. Of course, you'll need to bid on the leather bomber jacket or the Recreational Aviation Foundation sweatshirt to be properly-attired for the flight.

Flight physicals, flight reviews, flight instruction, and scenic flights are all up for grabs if you are the successful bidder.

Hungry? We've got food. From Marie Callendars pies or White Box pies, to the great Longhorn BBQ fare, and our own Skyway Café breakfasts and lunches, there's something to tempt your palette. Want to fly out for food? How about bidding on a breakfast at the Cabin Grill in Ione? It's right across the street from the Ione airport.

We have Spokane Indians box seats, a Liberty Lake Athletic Club membership, a Sharp Shooting Range membership, gift baskets, business cards, books, posters, artwork, office supplies, storage units, hotel overnights, and more!

Help make the 2010 auction another great success. This is our one and only way the chapter funds our student scholarships, the Hutton Settlement kids' flight, and the fall foliage Veteran's flight. It will be another great event with everyone's help.

Bring your checkbook or cash (sorry, we can't take credit cards) on Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there!

**SPECIAL ALERT: LEGISLATURE PROPOSING NEW EXCISE TAX ON AIRPLANES-SEE PAGE 4**



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Spokane Chapter  
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dlukan@asisna.com

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pruggi@peoplepc.com

Marian Heale 624-1092  
marianheale@q.com

Geoff Beth 535-8995  
geofscott@aol.com

**SPOKANE FLYER**

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**Editor**

Al Gilson 922-4259  
alcessnapilot@comcast.net

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

**Join or Renew On-line, Today!**

**Go to: [wpaflys.org](http://wpaflys.org)**

**President's Message: Duane Lukan**

It's February and time for the Spokane Chapter's one big banquet and fundraiser of the year. Please join us on Saturday evening February 27th. You don't want to miss this. Contact any board member for tickets. It will be very helpful if you do that before Feb. 15 to ensure the caterer adequate time to organize the food. The board has been working on this for most of the past year and



everything appears to be lined up for a memorable evening. If you have been following the newsletter you know the presentation will focus on the Kodiak, the brand new aircraft designed and built in Sandpoint, Idaho. Our speaker is Dave Voetmann, the man who not only came up with the initial concept but oversaw the development of the Quest Aircraft Company and was the major force in obtaining financing for it.

Dave has dedicated his life to the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) including nearly 20 years as a pilot/mechanic in Africa. During that time he accumulated 10,000 hours while coping with difficult flying and living conditions. He flew a variety of aircraft, including that monster fixed gear turboprop single, the Cessna Caravan. Before embarking on that career he had built a solid aviation foundation. It included an airframe and powerplant certificate with inspection authorization, commercial pilot certificate, land, sea and multiengine ratings and flight instructor-instrument rating. Dave had also worked full time as a mechanic and a flight instructor. After the field work in Africa he spent about nineteen years in MAF management.

As part of his work Dave had to deal with the problem of providing suitable aircraft for the mission fields. The fleet was aging, making maintenance increasingly difficult and expensive. There were no new models ideally suited to the task. He knew what was needed and set about to make it happen. Join us for an inspiring evening hearing the story of the Quest Kodiak from both a humanitarian and technical perspective.

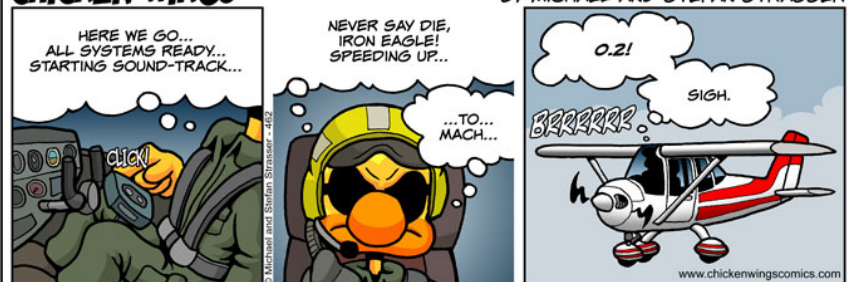
Our March meeting will deviate from the norm. Instead of the Marie Callender restaurant we will meet at Spokane Turbine Center at the west end of the flight line at Felts Field for another aspect of the Quest Kodiak, the training. Jeff Turcotte, executive director at STC will host an evening emphasizing training and safety. Credit will apply toward the Wings program.

Don't miss our banquet in February or our program in March. I'll see you there.

Duane

**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](http://www.chickenwingscomics.com)



# Weather radar is getting better....

and it's close to home by Geoff Beth

How many times, have we flown over the mountains, only to find it socked in and completely different than forecast? Ever get blown off course traveling south of Seattle trying to get to BTG? The Northwest, known for having the worst weather in the contiguous 48 states, also has the worst coastal radar coverage. All apologies to the hurricane coast, according to NOAA's "national coastal average intensity depiction chart" we get more storms per year on average at a greater wide-spread intensity.

Well, we can't do anything about the infamous Seattle Stratus, but precipitation, wind, and storm signatures will be a lot better depicted, in the next two years, thanks to Senator Cantwell (Chair of subcommittee NOAA) and President Obama's "2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act" signed into law on December 9, 2009. Nine million dollars has been put aside to build a NEXGEN Dual-Polarized Radar



on the central Washington coast. The first radar to be added to the "NEXRAD" network since 1990.

This area, in particular, has been a kind of side pocket to forecasters. Cliff Mass, Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Washington says, "Currently, Camano Island, (WA) and Portland (OR) leave a gaping void over the lower Sound." As pilots know; a lot of weather can happen in 50 miles. For example: The great storm of December 2-3, 2007: Thousands cut off from power & services, flooding physically separating many communities from rescue and support. The storm had not been forecast to develop and impact with such deluge. "We could have seen it coming with this radar."

NEXGEN: Dual-Polarized Radar will see type of precipitation as well. While Doppler winds from current radar are only available within 138 miles, considering the nearest coastline is 100 and 60 miles away from Camano and Portland, offshore wind coverage is very limited even without the mountains. This new installation will cover the Olympic peninsula all the way to the mouth of the Columbia- serving maritime, commerce, shipping, recreational interests offshore, as well as pilots trying to get a better picture of what to expect over the mountains, once we get there.

Learn more: "The NW Radar Problem" (<http://www.atmos.washington.edu/~cliff/coastalradar.html>)

## WESTERN AVIATION

<p><b>Flight Jackets</b></p>	<p><b>Garmin Aera Series</b></p> <p><b>New!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Touch Screen -</li> <li>- XM Weather -</li> <li>- Bluetooth -</li> </ul> <p><b>\$799.00 to \$1999.00</b></p>	<p><b>Kids Jackets</b></p>
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## Membership renewal update

Over 60 of our Spokane WPA members have already renewed their membership, either through the statewide on-line renewal system or by sending funds to the local chapter. Special thanks to those that have already renewed.

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so either on-line or by sending a check for \$31 to the Spokane WPA. The address is on page 2.

### Regal Aviation Insurance (ID)

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Autumn Wade

1110 W. Park Place  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
E-mail: [autumnw@regalavn.com](mailto:autumnw@regalavn.com)

208-676-1229  
877-676-1229  
FAX 208-676-8638



**Spokane Chapter**

P.O. Box 11911  
Spokane, WA 99211

**Kodiak joins efforts in Haiti**

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) has deployed a new Kodiak airplane and four crew members to join its fleet of three aircraft already serving the relief effort following the massive earthquake in Haiti. Following a brief dedication ceremony yesterday afternoon in Idaho, the Kodiak (N103MF) took off on its 3,000-mile, 18-hour flight to Haiti.

The Kodiak can carry more cargo and passengers than the Cessna planes currently being used by MAF in Haiti. It also runs on jet fuel, which is more readily available avgas in Haiti. The Kodiak is manufactured by Quest Aircraft Co. of Sandpoint, Idaho, which was founded to provide rugged, backcountry aircraft for remote operations for mission aviation organizations around the world.

**Aircraft excise tax proposed by legislature**

by Dave Lucke, WPA State VP East

Legislation to tax privately owned general aviation aircraft every year at 1/2 of one percent of value has been introduced in the Washington State Legislature. The language is included in HB 3176. The proponents are calling this the "Millionaires Tax" because they feel that everybody that owns an airplane is rich an can afford the tax, which for many of us is not true.

WPA State President, John Dobson, and the rest of the WPA board are working with our GA supporters in the legislature to find out who the key players are.

Cheryl Pflug, fellow pilot and Washington State Senator had the following comments after our last state WPA board meeting: *"The Speaker of the House is already on record referring to this as a tax on 'millionaires'. The pilot community needs to educate the Legislature as to the real value of most of our airplanes - much less than many of the legislator's new cars - or this tax WILL be enacted along with others recommended by a "Citizens Commission on Tax Exemptions." (When asked if they had talked to anyone in the aviation community. They responded that no one had testified against enacting this excise tax. So I asked how their "public comment periods" had been advertised, and was told that it was "on their website.").* *Because the economy will be slow for a long while and an airplane excise tax will be way off the radar for most people, it could take a very long time to repeal this tax - if ever. Please do pass this on."* Cheryl

WPA is thinking about proposing an increase to the current \$65 annual excise tax to maybe something greater but also requiring that most of those funds go to WSDOT/ Aviation for airport improvements.

Also, the legislators need to realize that GA fuel purchases generate about \$38 million in sales tax revenue that goes directly into the general fund in Washington State.

Please feel free to share your comments on this part of HB 3176 with your Legislator. Call their toll-free, hot line at: (800)562-6000.



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