



SPOKANE FLYER

FEBRUARY 2012

Annual WPA Banquet features great food, the R.A.F., and super auction items!

A great program

The WPA Spokane Chapter 2012 annual banquet is going to be a really big show this year. Coming to us from the big skies of Montana are John



McKenna and Chuck Jarecki from the Recreational Aviation Foundation.

The Recreational Aviation Foundation has a single mission: "Keeping the legacy of recreational aviation strong by preserving, maintaining and creating public use recreational and backcountry airstrips nationwide."

The RAF implements its mission through several guiding principles: As a volunteer-driven organization, the RAF works to develop partnerships in protecting the common interest of the recreational flying community. They work in cooperation with public and private landowners/managers and aviation advocacy organizations on state and national levels. They advocate that aviation is a valid and appropriate way to access recreational opportunities on public or private land and that access to backcountry is well served by low-impact airstrips as trailheads.

An important component of their mission is that recreational aviation is enhanced and landowners are better protected by including aviation in each state's Recreational Use Statute and they are working in many states, including Washington during the current Legislative session.

And finally, aviation safety through pilot education is paramount to the successful use and enjoyment of backcountry airstrips.

Of course, along with the great food is our annual silent auction with great pilot supplies and services in the lineup as well as other great items. The proceeds go to our scholarship fund, Hutton Fly Out, Veterans Fly Out and other chapter activities. Tickets are still available and only \$35 for the dinner and program. Call Tom Morris at 509-924-5544 to get your tickets today!

Auction items galore!

The Auction Committee has been hard at work collecting items that have been donated by supporters of our Annual Benefit Auction. At last count it appears there will be around sixty items to bid on. The variety of items that range from a \$400 credit towards the usage of banquet facility at "The Luxury Box", for that Big Event you have been planning, to a Time Out Chair you can use at home or the office.

Need a Medical? Three have been donated, two "any class" and one 3rd class. You can find Breakfast at the Cabin Grill in Ione, or certificates for the Skyway Café. Need a rose for your garden, or a pot to put one in? Use the Ziegler's Building Center Certificate to help pay for a project. A Floatplane ride was donated as well as a Flight Review.

The list goes on, there is a little something for all. Many have come forward to once again help fund the WPA activities which include, the three \$1000 Scholarships that will be awarded this year at the Banquet, the Hutton Settlement Wilderness Outreach, and the Veteran's Foliage Flight. There is a great deal of work that volunteers take on themselves to make sure these events continue from year to year. It couldn't be done without those who generously donate these items. Some are small, others worth hundreds of dollars, it all comes together so we can Pay It Forward.

We live and work in a great community, we are all very proud of our accomplishments. This year will represent nearly \$17,000 in Scholarships awarded by the Spokane Chapter of the WPA to 30 recipients since 2004. It is our community support that has allowed us to be so successful.

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES:

Annual Benefit Auction & Banquet

Saturday, February 11, 2012, 6 p.m.
Luxury Box, 10504 E. Sprague

Program:

"Recreational Aviation Foundation"

Dinner & Program

\$35 per person

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

Call Tom Morris at 509-924-5544



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Spokane Chapter
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Spokane Flyer

is published 12 times per year by the Washington Pilots Association, Spokane Chapter. We always welcome articles and photo contributions that may be of interest to pilots in the Spokane area and the Inland Northwest. Please submit articles in Microsoft Word and photos in the JPEG format for best results. General story ideas are also welcome.

Editor

Al Gilson 922-4259
alcessnapilot@comcast.net

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: Terry Newcomb

I recently returned from Portland, Oregon and have found it hard to believe the weather can be so agreeable in January; surprisingly, the temperature hovered in the mid-fifties with plenty of sunshine. We are certainly through the majority of winter and it has been one of the warmest I can recall. The WPA is doing the final preparations for the Banquet on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at the Luxury Box on East Sprague in Spokane. If you have not purchased your tickets yet, call or email any board member and we'll be happy to help you. The ticket sales have been brisk this year. There are a lot of choice items donated by companies and individuals for this year's auction, such as medicals, flight checks, airplane maintenance, and many more items for both pilots and co-pilots. We extend a warm thanks to both donators and bidders for their hearty support. We are awarding three \$1,000 scholarships, which puts the total awarded at over \$17,000 from the Spokane Chapter of the WPA! This year's speakers will bring us up-to-date on the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) (www.theraf.org). I hope to see you there as it is always a lot of fun!

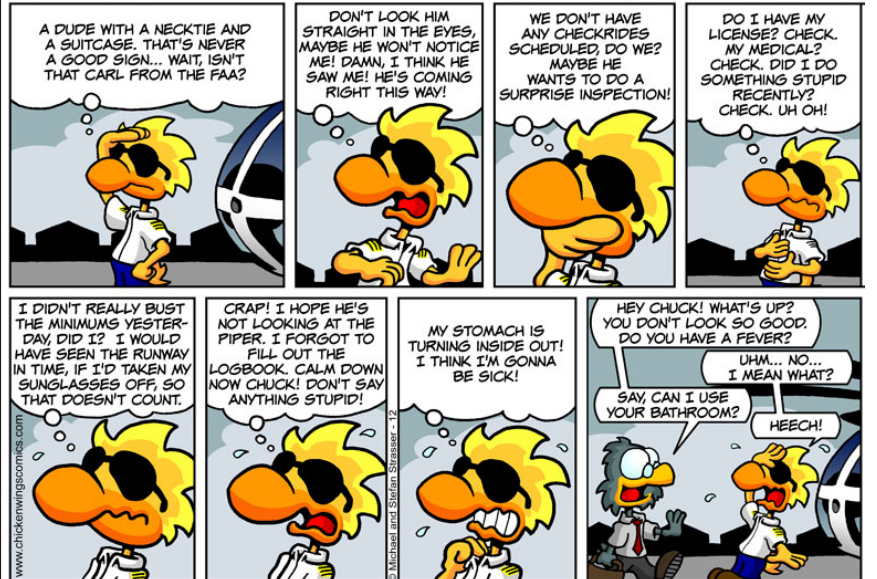


I attended the FAA Safety meeting at Spokane Falls Community College in Spokane on January 25th regarding "NextGen" (ADS-B). It was an excellently organized class and well attended with several important questions answered. I have to admit, the FAA is working hard to obtain everyone's input, feedback and answer your questions. If you want to know more about how it will impact you, please go to <http://www.faa.gov/nextgen/> for more details. To delve deeper, you can check out <http://rgl.faa.gov/> and search for AC20-165.

Fly safe, spring is just around the corner! All the best, Terry

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.chickenwings.com



RENEW YOUR WPA MEMBERSHIP NOW

It's time once again to renew your WPA membership.

You can do so either on-line at www.wpaflys.org, or by sending a check for \$31 to the Spokane WPA. When you renew, please include an email address as we will be using email more to communicate with members. Renewal time is also the opportunity to make your financial contribution to the WPA lobbying efforts in Olympia. If we lose this battle our tax bills will make the lobbying costs look like small change.

Thanks for renewing early and supporting the WPA.

Wanted: Alive!

Reining in the fatal accident rate

The general aviation accident rate is not dropping, and pilots continue to find themselves in the same accident-causing scenarios that have been plaguing them for years. Be part of the safety conversation as the Air Safety Institute digs a little deeper into what's causing pilot-related accidents. Join us as we discuss the top pilot-related accident categories, why they are what they are, and how you can avoid falling into them!

Don't repeat the mistakes of others. Attend this free AOPA Air Safety Institute seminar in Spokane. It's coming up Thursday, February 23rd at 7 p.m at the Red Lion River Inn, 700 N. Division St. The seminar is free with no pre-registration required.



Availability of aircraft maintenance and avionics at GEG no longer up in the clouds

by Charlie Archer

With the recent sale of the XN Air and Spokane Airways FBOs to Ross Aviation, the future of the maintenance and avionics shops at Geiger Field were in question. Two longtime members of the aircraft community stepped up opening Aircraft Solutions LLC in the location previously used by XN Air. Owner Bill Ifft and his business partner Matt Brown, understood the value of the mechanics up at the International Airport, and didn't want them to disappear. "They were already looking for jobs elsewhere, but with few opportunities in the greater Spokane area, most were looking for jobs quite a ways away," said Bill Ifft. "I don't like seeing established families leaving the area when I know that there is business here to keep them employed." Bill and Matt have invested a considerable amount of capital to upgrade the facilities, and to provide advanced training to the mechanics and avionics technicians to keep them abreast of current industry trends.

Aircraft Solutions remains the only Cessna Authorized Service Facility for single and twin engine piston aircraft in Washington and Idaho. With this designation they have committed to having a parts department with the largest stock of Cessna parts in the Inland Northwest. They also specialize in Beechcraft Bonanza, Baron, and King Air airplanes along with the Cessna Citation family of jet aircraft. The avionics shop will continue to support all of the major avionics brands, and are ready to help with upgrades, troubleshooting avionics issues, or providing 2 year IFR certs. The company is also building a mobile response team to be able to help rescue aircraft stranded at smaller airports without avionics or maintenance support on field. "Aircraft Solutions is an exciting opportunity that I'm glad to be a part of," Ifft said, "and I am excited to welcome everyone in the area to our facility to meet with our outstanding staff and see how we can help grow General Aviation in the area."

Contact Aircraft Solutions at 509-838-8883.



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Felts Field Web Cam

The Felts Field web cam is online. Go to www.wpaflys.org, click on the Spokane Chapter tab, then click the Felts Web Cam link.





Flying Farmers back in Moses Lake on February 4th

The Washington Flying Farmer Pilot's Safety Seminar will be this coming Saturday, Feb. 4th at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. Sign in is 9:30 a.m. and seminar begins at 10 a.m. and goes to 3:30 p.m. Lunch break is from noon to 1 p.m. Also, be sure to bring a lunch. The nearest restaurants are in town, about 15 minutes from the airport... not much time to go and eat during the lunch break. Refreshments will be available.

Three FAA Wings seminars will be offered at this event well attended even. Complete all three seminars and you've got all the ground work done you will need to earn your 'Basic' FAA Wings. Do about 30 minutes of air work (later, on your own time and nickel) and you've got your FAA Wings, plus you have a BFR. For CAP types this qualifies as a "person-to-person" safety seminar.

You may also receive a break on your aircraft/pilot insurance if you participate in recurrent training such as this program. Not all insurance companies offer a discount, but some do.

See: www.faaafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=42175 for more details, and to register for the individual seminars. You can pre-register online, or you can register at the door. If you pre-register online it's more likely that you'll get FAA Wings credit if your hand writing is at all ambiguous... I sometimes have difficulty reading names and emails from the sign in sheets when it's time to award your credits for FAA Wings events.

The Flying Farmers have done this annual aviation safety and proficiency program since the 1940's!!!

Moody safety seminar set for March

The final schedules are set for the Moody Aviation annual Safety Seminar and IA Renewal Seminars. A special treat is the featured speaker for pilots this year during the Safety Seminar Clarke McNeace will be sharing his expertise on the topic of aerodynamics and upset recovery. Clarke has a gift for teaching this subject in an extremely clear and understandable way while holding you captivated with interest. Anyone who invests the time to come will not only be glad they did, but the tools he shares may someday save their lives.

The Safety Seminar, sponsored in cooperation with Mission Safety International, is scheduled for Thursday and Friday March 1-2, 2012 and the IA Renewal Seminar is set for Saturday March 3, 2012. Both events are free of charge and open to the public. If you are able to begin sharing those dates with your membership group and any others that you desire to invite we would love to have you join us if you are in the area. The seminars will be set up on the FFAST website and WINGS credits will be available.

For information, contact Jim Conrad at Moody Aviation 509-535-4051.

Recreational Use Statute bills still alive in the Washington Legislature

Thanks to the Recreational Aviation Foundation we have two identical Bills in the Washington Legislature to amend Washington's Recreational Use Statute (RUS) to fully include Aviation. One is HB2244 in the House of Representatives, the other is SB6090 in the Senate

To keep HB2244 and SB6090 from dying of neglect we need to call our members of the House and Senate urge them to vote for these two bills. Do it today!



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Contact: John Cadwell (509) 521-8532 –or– Al Gilson (509)922-4259