



# SPOKANE FLYER

## JANUARY 2010

### RAF lands at January Spokane chapter meeting

by Duane Lukan

For our January 20 meeting at Marie Callenders, we have John McKenna and Jerry Cain from the Recreational Aviation Foundation, coming in from Bozeman Montana. The RAF goal is maintaining access to public lands for aviation use. This organization has achieved notable successes and has a program to assist others in the same pursuit. Please join us for this informative program and learn the strategies for saving our back country airports.



Left to right: AOPA President Craig Fuller, RAF President John McKenna and RAF Director Jerry Cain at Russian Flat, August 6, 2009 (RAF photo)

#### NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

WEDNESDAY  
January 20, 2009

6:00 P.M.

Marie Callender's Restaurant  
2111 N Argonne Rd.

Special Program:

The Recreational Aviation Foundation

Learn about the RAF. A group dedicated to the preservation, maintenance, and creation of recreational and backcountry airstrips across the nation.

### Annual banquet program features Dave Voetmann and the Quest Kodiak

The 2010 WPA/Spokane Chapter Annual Banquet and Benefit Auction is coming up. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27, 2010. The event will be on the top floor of the Comfort Inn/University District for our annual extravaganza. With a breathtaking view of the Spokane skyline, this will be another great show with a sumptuous meal and informative program.



The turbine-powered Quest Kodiak—developed and built just northeast of Spokane in Sandpoint, Idaho.

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.



Dave Voetmann

As always there will be a wide selection of aviation-related items that you can bid on in the "silent auction." Proceeds from the auction go to support the activities of the chapter, especially our Aviation Student Scholarships, the Veterans Fly-Out, and the Hutton Settlement Kids Fly-Out.

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.

### Membership renewal update

by Dave Lucke WPA/Spokane Treasurer & State WPA Eastside VP

About half of our Spokane WPA members have 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.

WPA needs your support. The statewide and local organizations continue to grow at about 10% per year. On the eastside of the state, we have a new and very active chapter in the Tri-Cities. I am working with the Colville chapter and Dave Garringer to get a new Colville airport. It is a long and arduous task.

If you have not renewed your membership, please do so either on-line or by sending a check for \$31 to the Spokane WPA. If you renew on-line at [www.wpaflys.org](http://www.wpaflys.org), your user ID usually defaults to the first three letters of your last name, followed by the first three letters of your first name and then 001. When you renew, please include an email address as we will be using email more to communicate with members.

Thanks for renewing early and supporting the WPA.



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**SPOKANE FLYER**

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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 the beginning of a new year and for me, a new adventure as Spokane chapter president. First I want to recognize Tom Morris with a big thank you for his service as 2009 president. He kept abreast of, and coordinated activities, even when he was in far off parts of the world. It was an outstanding year for accomplishments. Tom remains a top informational resource for aviation in

general, and airmanship in particular. I have had the opportunity to buttonhole him with questions and it's always a learning experience.

We are coming off a very successful year and I don't anticipate major changes in direction. We have expanded activity in two areas, our popular co-hosted safety meetings with the FAA Wings program and the Boy Scout Aviation Merit Badge activity, an important community outreach. We will continue to look for presentations that are informative and interesting and for activities that are beneficial. In all of that we will be grateful for suggestions from the membership.

Attracting and holding new members needs to be an important goal for our organization. We depend on a good program as a basis for that attraction, but there is another aspect that is at least as important and in which we all participate. I'm talking about the social aspects of our activities – the camaraderie that we enjoy. It should be a major attraction for members to want to be with us. We need to be attentive to those around us and ensure that no one is left out. Cliques are fine, they are part of the camaraderie, but don't let them be too distracting. Our common interest in aviation is the tie that binds. We have an endless amount of interesting information and experience to share. What can we do? Wear our name tags. Watch for stragglers (and rope them in.) Be inclusive and congenial. Be a good listener.

The biggest event of the year, the Annual Banquet and Fundraiser comes up on Saturday Feb. 27. Get your tickets from board members at \$35 each. Our speaker is Dave Voetman, the force behind the development of the Kodiak bush plane and formation of Quest Aircraft Company to execute the project. With many years and thousands of hours flight time as a missionary pilot, mostly in Africa, I expect Dave will have a fascinating story to tell.

Fly nice, stay out of the ice!

Duane

(The photo? It's the hot/cold vent air mixer going into the Bonanza.)

**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)



## We say 'blue skies and tailwinds' to Chuck Eller by Geoff Beth

Charles T. "Chuck" Eller Jr. passed away on Wednesday, December 30 after a long illness. Chuck was fondly remembered at a memorial service on January 5, 2010. Chuck was a loving husband of 35 years to Linda, father of three, grandfather of two, and "big brother" to most everyone that knew him.

Chuck was an avid stock-car racer, mariner, Vice President of Eller Corp., respected pilot, and a former president of the Washington Pilots Association/Spokane Chapter.

Chuck touched the lives of many in his 57 years, with many of them attending the standing-room-only service at St. Joseph's in Otis Orchards.

Chuck's brotherly nature and engineering genius will truly be missed, just as we shall miss seeing that fire engine red-stripped Cessna 210 zipping along the shores of Newman Lake on a dog-legged final to EllerPort airport.

As co-founders the annual "Vets Flight", Chuck and Pam Wicks of the Veterans Administration worked together for more than 18 years. Pam remembered Chuck's outspoken light-hearted nature. "How did he get his nickname 'Up-Chuck?', by trying to make us air-sick in his plane on the "Fall Foliage Flight," she said.

He got me good, too, one year, when he talked me into flying with him and gave me the ride of my life, which in turn made me ill. Then he gave me a large SEE THROUGH glad-baggie to use, and hold onto, for the remainder of the flight! I never let him live that down, or, for that matter, flew with him ever again! Chuck and his brother Mike Eller are such great guys. I can't believe how long they have given back to the Vets with such a great experience and out of pure kindness of their hearts!"

The Eulogy that was read at the service said it all, "Chuck loved anything fast, and with a motor. He survived race-car crashes, and that boat that almost killed him three times, but, he always brought the airplane back in a mostly re-usable condition."

Safe to say, Chuck is right there, smoothly sailing the Clear Air & Visibilities Unlimited of the highest flight-level any pilot can ever hope to achieve.

Godspeed, Chuck.



### Scholarship winners announced

The WPA/Spokane Chapter is pleased to announce the winners of the WPA annual aviation scholarships:

Tyler Mallett, Moody Aviation; Brandon Lowe, SCC Aviation Maintenance (Moody Aviation); Donald Merriam, Moody Aviation; Scott Sikkenga, SCC Aviation Maintenance (Moody Aviation next step); and Klaas Christiaan Kroneman, Moody Aviation.

Congratulations to these fine students. We hope to have them as guests at our annual banquet

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**Spokane Chapter**

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**The Vancouver Olympics come to Spokane (sort-of)** by Geoff Beth

Our little corner of the Northwest skies will be getting slightly smaller this month when, on January 29, the TFR'S go into effect for the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, BC. By the way, if you don't have your parking space at an airport near there by now, you're not getting one. The commercial operators have all available parking spaces scheduled so tightly that they will be dropping PAX off without stopping.

Details are in the official "AIP 37/09" at [www.navcanada.ca](http://www.navcanada.ca). Just remember, if you DO travel anywhere north of Skagit/Bay View (KBVS), you'd better have a flight plan and that discrete code on your transponder (and be talking to ATC) or you will be getting a special-escort service of the non-friendly variety.

We were told they have pretty twitchy trigger fingers this year. *But that's.... not what this article is about.*

Spokane International is one of just three official "gateway" airports to the Olympics. How will this affect your local GA flight? Both Spokane Airways & XN Air will serve as check-in locations where flights must be screened. This additional traffic may cause minor inconvenience to aircraft parking at times, but O'Hare-style 'stacking' is not anticipated. So far, only 29 aircraft have reserved slots through our gateway.

HOWEVER: That all could change. According to Charlie Archer, Director of Charter Ops at XN "Watch the weather!" If Boise gets their typical inversion and a system rolls in over Reno, then those flights have GEG as their only choice. Now, nobody is going to be #5 holding for approach, if that's what you mean, but you may be waiting for that fuel truck a few more minutes out front on the ramp.

John Chastek at Spokane Airways says they've already got the TSA parking space and expects no delays, with added parking, remote ops and a shuttle service ready if needed. So, relax—keep practicing those touch n' goes on that brand new longer runway. But from January 29 through March 10 make sure you check with FSS for TFR's along your intended route. And keep your weather-eye to the skies over Reno & Boise that could equate to "Flow Control" over Geiger... Then you would be watching at least 10 Coca-Cola charter flights-per-day filled with lucky Olympic goers pass your wingtip, while enjoying that extended downwind with complimentary scenic valley view.

**Working on your "Wings?"**

Here's an option for someone who wants to attend a safety seminar, has a computer, but doesn't want to leave the vicinity of the refrigerator. For an opportunity to earn one KEB WINGS credit see:

[www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event\\_details.aspx?eid=29274](http://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=29274)



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