



SPOKANE FLYER

JUNE 2011

Hot dishes and cool drinks highlight June potluck dinner meeting by Tom Morris

Bring your favorite dish!

Our June meeting at the EAA Event Center will be a full potluck with all dinner items being provided by the membership attending. It is your option what to bring. We will need main dishes, such as casseroles, fried chicken, meatballs, etc., salads, chips, and/or desserts. Everyone should bring at least one item (more is better). Remember to bring something to drink, too. It is always fun to see what your favorite dish is. Join us at the all new EAA/WPA Event Center at Felts Field at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15th. It's the old Felts Field Aviation building at 5829 E. Rutter Ave.

See you there!

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES:

June Monthly Meeting

Potluck Dinner and Event Center Tour

Wednesday, June 15, 2011
EAA/WPA Event Center
5829 E. Rutter/Felts Field
Spokane Valley
6 p.m.

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July Chapter Picnic & BBQ

Judy and Duane Cocking's Home
Ellerpark Airport (WN54)
8233 N. Glenarvon Rd., Newman Lake, WA
Wednesday, July 20
6 p.m.

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No August Meeting

Crowds flood Felts Field Open House to see general aviation up close



photo by Al Gilson

The Felts Field Open House and Neighbor Day on June 4th was a huge success. Thousands of Spokane area residents and aviation enthusiasts flowed on to the field to get a taste of general aviation excitement.

The event was highlighted by the appearance of "Aluminum Overcast," the Boeing B-17 operated by the Experimental Aircraft Association. Of course, our locally-based Boeing Stearman biplanes were on display, as well as the Boeing 40C, the only flying remnant of that giant aircraft manufacturer's very first passenger airliner.

Northwest Medstar, Moody Aviation, Spokane Airways, Western Aviation, Spokane Turbine Center, Inland Helicopters, Rocket Engineering, the Skyway Cafe, and other exhibitors, joined in the fun with exhibits and food for the crowd

Special thanks go out to EAA Chapter 79 and Larry Tobin for handling the details of the event with a huge "tip-of-the-hat" to the crew at Spokane Airports and the Spokane Airport Board for clearing the way to make the event possible.



photo by Al Gilson



photo by Jim Leighty



photo by Jim Leighty



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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

May has come and gone. More rain, more wind and lots of time to get sharp studying your manuals, aircraft logbooks, and records.

Dr. Jean Mpouli, our May general meeting speaker brought up many interesting points about knowing your mechanic, doing a little research, and staying in touch with maintenance on the plane you are flying. It only takes one little miscue to change the entire days' events. It is in your best interest to plan your day, rather than have to recover from it.



We had a robust turnout for the Lower Granite work party. Paul Wolf was there early Saturday morning already replacing reflectors when Marcia and I walked to the airstrip from our campsite around 9am. At 10am, the program start time, Duane Lukan joined the work force. It all went very well. All four of us handling garden tools, we pulled weeds and raked the path clean. With the early start we were able to complete our task at just before noon. Then off to the local eatery at the Marina where we fixed our hunger pains and talked about the future of the Snake River airports. We are getting closer to having the airports open year around. The Corps is still working on the paperwork, and has not indicated any seasonal restrictions. The process is slow, but once in place, the future renewals should be nearly automatic.

Our June 15th meeting will be held at the new EAA/WPA event center. We are planning a potluck dinner. Bring one of your favorite dishes. I have planned *not* to have a speaker for the June general meeting. I think we need to set down and get to know each other a little better, visit, and tell some whoppers. I would think a guided tour by Mr. Lucke and Marian Heale of the event center would be in order.

In July, once again we have been invited by Duane and Judy Cocking to join them for our annual BBQ Picnic at their home on Eller Airpark. Please plan to come to both of these events. Remember we do not have a regular meeting in August, so help kick the summer off (I hope) at the June and July meetings.

See you there!

Tom

Clearing the weeds off the runway access trail at Lower Granite airport.



CHICKEN WINGS

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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

Making ourselves heard

by Tom Morris, Spokane Chapter President

As time rolls along, economic changes occur and developer's eye land around the countries airports. It is important that we, the Aviation Interests Groups pay attention.

With the State's leaders spending money they don't have, and the citizens being taxed to cover it, we have a distinct right be on guard. The states move to re-initiate a 1% excise tax on GA aircraft is just one example.

The sad part about collection of these funds is that they are not necessarily used to benefit the payers of the tax. It is important that the funds being raised go to benefit the area of interest the taxes were collected from. The aircraft excise tax, and the aviation fuel tax end up in the State's general fund being spent on who knows what? If we don't voice our opinions and make them heard, we stand to be walked all over.

Recent voices from the representatives of Fairchild AFB, Spokane International Airport, and with input from the Spokane Chapter of the Washington Pilots Association helped Spokane County planners decide that a zoning change raising the building height restrictions from 40 feet to 150 feet in the West Plains would not be in the best interest of the airports, city or county. It was decided after the input was gathered a 60 foot height max would be sufficient, and would be in the best interest of all involved.

It is working together and being heard, that will make a difference.

As previously stated in another article, "you don't have to be the front line messenger, but it is important the messenger have numerous memberships voicing an opinion."



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Northwest Destination:



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. Density altitude is an important planning factor for this one. Go to Washington State DOT and AirNav for more information.



Sullivan Lake Airport near Metaline Falls, Washington
Photo by David Herman/PacificNorthwestFlying.Com

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 to me, Bob Kay (rkay@theraf.org), as soon as you decide you are coming so we can get an accurate head count for dinner.

Felts Field Web Cam

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





Spokane Chapter

P.O. Box 11911
Spokane, WA 99211

Land on the grass

by Larry Howard

Sky Meadows Fly-In is June 19th

The annual Fathers Day fly-in and spaghetti feed is coming to Sky Meadows airport on Sunday, June 19th.

Pilots are welcome to fly in to this private airpark in after 2:00 pm. Contact Larry Howard, 999-1505 if you are flying and need an airpark waiver. The grass is in great shape!

The airport is located about seven miles southwest of Felts Field. The identifier is WN92. Dinner at planned for 2:30 to 3:00. Bring family and friends, nothing else needed.

The address 16616 E. 44th Ave. for those driving. Call for directions if needed. I hope to see lots of friends and airplanes at this event.



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Northwest Biplane Fly-In comes to Felts Field

The biplanes will once again fill Felts Field in July. Look for the old and new biplanes at the airport on July 15-17.

There will be food and refreshments all day with a big dinner and program on Saturday night. The special guest is Mike Lavelle from the Seattle Museum of Flight.

The program features airmanship competitions, a fly market, and that special camaraderie among pilots and things they fly.

Fly-In T-shirts and hats will be on sale to help you remember the event.



MoGas in Spokane

MoGas for your Peterson STC or EAA STC, plus many other experimental or light sport engines, is available in Spokane, fairly close to Felts Field. Betts Save Way Fuel Stop at 3330 E. Riverside now offers 87 octane unleaded, NON-ETHANOL gasoline. Of course, always test aircraft fuel for the presence of ethanol, water, and other impurities before placing it in your plane.

