



# SPOKANE FLYER

MARCH 2009

## McKinley honored by state WPA



WPA president, John Dobson (R) and Blake McKinley.

Blake McKinley was honored by the Washington Pilots Association with the group's Bernie Lyman award. The award was presented at the WPA/Spokane Chapter annual banquet in February.

Blake received the recognition for his tireless efforts on the part of WPA for his contributions as the Spokane Chapter president, treasurer, and board member.

Blake is also instrumental in the Chapter's annual Hutton Settlement kids fly-out to Priest Lake.

## 2009 Annual Banquet and Auction *What a great night!*



Addison Pemberton tells the Boeing 40 story.

Over 130 people attended the Spokane Chapter annual banquet and auction, raising over \$4000 for the aviation scholarship fund.



WPA/Spokane Chapter President addresses the group.



Spokane Airport Tenants Association board member Mike Scalera, WPA Eastside VP Dave Lucke, and WPA state president John Dobson.



Even the Boeing 40 attended!

### NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 18, 2009

6:00 P.M.

Marie Callender's Restaurant  
2111 N Argonne Rd.

Guest Presentation:  
Ralph Wilfong

Post Crash Survival

*"More than a Leatherman  
and Fish Hooks."*

### Post crash survival-now what do you do?

Our March 18th meeting will be an FAA WINGS safety seminar. Registration is available either online at [www.faasafety.gov](http://www.faasafety.gov) or at the seminar. The title: "Post Crash Survival: More than a Leatherman and a Packet of Fish Hooks" says it all. You've lived through the landing, now you must survive the post crash. As PIC you are not only responsible for your own survival, you must take care of your passengers! Learn mental tools that will enhance your chances. What should your survival kit contain and how big should it be? Where can you find those handy items that will improve your odds? How do you use them effectively? Where should it be carried? Will rescue be imminent, or will you have to wait for a few days to be found? What can you do to improve your odds of being found? Bring these and other questions to the seminar.

Our speaker, Ralph Wilfong, has over 30 year of experience in outdoor education, search and rescue, emergency medical services, disaster emergency services. He was State Search and Rescue Coordinator for Virginia and was a member of the FEMA committee that developed the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force program. Ralph currently teaches air crew survival for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Air and Marine Operations, for the United States Coast Guard and for several state agencies. Join us at Marie Callenders at 6:00p.m. on March 18th.



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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.

**Editor**

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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.

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**President's Message: Tom Morris**

As you all know, we have been busy completing all the tasks to bring to you the 2009 Benefit Auction and Dinner. The benefit, held February 28<sup>th</sup>, was a complete success. Our featured speaker, Mr. Addison Pemberton, and his Airmail partner Larry Tobin, shared stories about crossing the country in a wonderful presentation. Addison also took us through the Boeing 40C restoration process. It was a fantastic program and I would like to thank Addison, Larry, and all the volunteers that helped make this historical accomplishment possible here in Spokane.



We had 132 people attend this years banquet. The venue was great. Decades made it easy for us to look organized. They provided an excellent service and a beautiful room. I'm sure many more will use their facility now that that have experienced dining at Decades. Our benefit netted just over \$4000 that will be used for Inland Empire Flight Training Scholarships.

This auction and dinner wouldn't have been such a success with out the members helping out and doing their part to make possible. Gary and Carolyn White selected Decades last year before I took over the controls. They are the two we need to acknowledge for having picked such a great facility. Jerry Baur is the man behind the scenes that cataloged and kept track of every auction item and where it went. Where would we be without his operational knowledge? All the Chapter Officers and Board Members did a fantastic job—thank you all, for the work that you did.

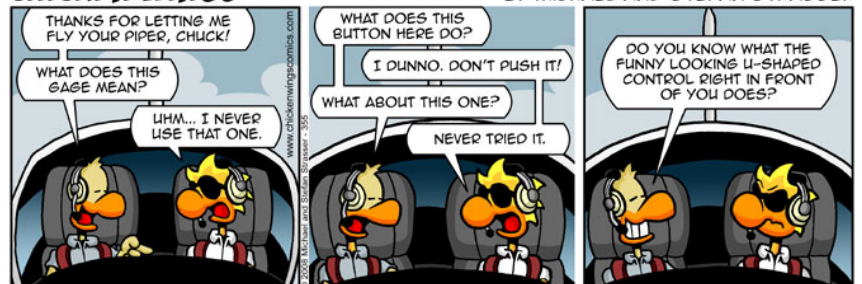
I can't leave out the dedicated companies and individuals that step up every year and provide us with Items for the auction. Without these items the auction would not be possible. You saw their names as you looked at the items, PLEASE use these companies and continue to buy their products and services.

Looking ahead, the March general meeting features Ralph Wilfong and survival techniques once you find yourself on the ground with an unscheduled stopover. This will be a Wings Event and will be good for credit toward the Wings Program.

It is a good start for the year, let us work together to improve what we can and stand strong when faced with a challenge. Together we can make a difference! Tom

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BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



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You can make a difference

# WPA-PAC needs your help so WPA can help you

by John Townsley

WPA is all volunteer. Sometimes that means we can't speak as strongly as we need when issues come before the State legislature, the local planning commission, and sometimes even the Congress. Every member is potentially a key player. Will you help out? In February WPA launched WPA-PAC so we can fund lobbying efforts on behalf of general aviation. Do you have the time or inclination to visit Olympia to button hole our legislators on the problem of the moment? Can you work on a city or county election campaign, or door bell for aviation friendly state legislators come election time? If not, then donate generously to WPA-PAC so we have the funds to help aviation friendly faces for you. Unfortunately for GA, trade groups like the oil lobby, the ethanol lobby, the building and real estate lobby, and other similar interest groups are well funded. We in WPA have a volunteer lobbyist who is willing to help us when he has time, but he can't do everything when he's working for what we can pay him (not much to nothin'). We are working with him on issues like airport closure, ethanol in mogas, grant guarantees, and land use near airports.

So, how can we in the GA community have more clout on the issues important to us? It boils down to time and money. If you and others will volunteer time in Olympia to work on the ethanol problem that's a big help. But few of us can afford to spend day after day working with legislators so they understand the risks they've created for accidents, the damage to our equipment, and the real costs of injecting ethanol into fuel or allowing wind mills to site next to an airport. We need funds to hire a lobbyist. At election time we need to support GA friendly legislators. Money is what the oil companies have to hire a lobbyist to testify and talk with legislators.



Closed runways at Blaine Municipal Airport

Money is what the wind machine lobbyists have. Money is what keeps the interests of developers and the building industry powerful in Olympia and locally at places like Kennewick and Blaine (and in Washington D.C.).

We in GA can compete with the well funded lobbying organizations of those who would take our airports or eliminate our fuel. But we can't do it with just volunteer effort. **We need a war chest.** I invite you to help WPA engage on behalf of GA when our airports are threatened or when our the fuel we depend on is taken away. Go to [www.wpaflys.org](http://www.wpaflys.org), click on the blue button on the right side of the screen, and donate generously to WPA-PAC.

To be blunt, we can complain until we're locked out of the sky or we can do something about it. Contribute to WPA-PAC. It's an investment in your future and your kid's future. We need your help to keep Washington's airports open, keep fuel available, and keep Washington's pilots in the air.

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**Spokane Chapter**

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Spokane, WA 99211

**Lower Granite work party coming in May**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 23rd for our annual Lower Granite airport work party. Fly in or drive in as we fix up the trail, check the runway and do a little maintenance to our adopted airport. Bring a rake, shovel, weed-eater or just a pair of gloves. Contact Tom Morris for details.



On final approach to Lower Granite airport (00W)

**You're invited to comment on LATS**

You are invited to comment on Washington's draft alternative aviation strategies. The Aviation Planning Council, with support from the Washington State Department of Transportation, has developed these draft strategies as part of the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS). Also available for public review is the Aviation System Plan Summary Report, which presents the LATS key findings and policies upon which the alternative strategies are based.



The public comment period on the draft strategies extends from March 4, 2009 – April 17, 2009. Please submit comments on or before April 17, 2009 to allow timely consideration of your issues and concerns by the Aviation Planning Council as it develops its final recommendations.

The draft strategies are designed to address key issues facing Washington's aviation system in the areas of capacity, stewardship, and incompatible land use. These key issues represent major long-term challenges to Washington's air transportation system and impact both commercial and general aviation users across the state. The final set of strategies will ultimately become part of the Washington Aviation System Plan.

You may mail, fax or e-mail comments using the contact information listed below or submit them in person at a regional public meeting.

*Mail: WSDOT Aviation, P.O. Box 3367, Arlington, WA 98223*  
*E-mail: [marveln@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:marveln@wsdot.wa.gov)*  
*Fax: (360) 651-6319*

Learn more about the Long-Term Air Transportation Study and the alternative strategies then discuss your issues of interest at a Regional Public Meeting: March 26, 2009 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the Spokane Airport Ramada Inn.



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