



SPOKANE FLYER

MAY 2012

Big airplanes in the sky and you



This month's WPA program features Major Mathew Koerschner, Chief of Flight Safety, 92nd Air Refueling Wing, Fairchild Air Force Base, and Captain John Alsbrooks, Chief of Safety and a Helicopter pilot with 36th Rescue Flight at Fairchild. Captain Alsbrooks flies rescue missions in eastern Washington, Idaho, and western Montana.

Major Koerschner and Captain Alsbrooks will discuss several topics of interest to GA pilots who fly in the vicinity of the base. Topics will include some of the rescue mission conducted this year, the newly reconstructed runway at FAFB, upcoming training military training events involving FAFB, and the large training exercise planned for next year called Rodeo 2013. Throughout their discussion they will highlight the need for GA pilots to be alert for military aircraft through see and avoid and awareness of the Special Use Airspace and Military Training Routes that criss-cross eastern Washington.

Please bring your business cards to add to their collection of contacts in the Spokane area. Join us on May 16th at the Longhorn BBQ in the Spokane Valley at 2315 N. Argonne. You can drop in and grab dinner at 6 p.m. The program usually starts around 6:45 p.m.

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES:

Spokane Chapter May General Meeting

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 6 p.m.
Longhorn BBQ, 2315 N. Argonne (I-90/Exit 287)

Program:

MidAir Collision and Avoidance
Major Mathew Koerschner
Captain John Alsbrooks
USAF

Lower Granite Airport Cleanup Party

Saturday, May 19, 2012, 8:30 a.m.-Noon
00W-Lower Granite Airport

Felts Field Open House

Saturday, June 2, 2012-9am to 4pm

All the turns in the road

by Andrew Brackebusch

When you reach your junior year in high school all of a sudden people want to know what career you would like to have for the rest of your life. This can be a pretty traumatic experience as one can imagine and I was no different in that respect. So, I had one question to ask myself and that was what career can I pursue were I wake up every morning knowing I love my job and I am making a difference? The answer I came up with was serving my country and beyond that flying aircraft for our military. I instantly knew this was the plan for me so I applied to the United States Air Force Academy and the United States Naval Academy. I decided to use the topic of aerospace as my senior project and while working on that I wrote a paper on the history of flight and attended NASA's Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars summer academy at NASA Ames research center. I received the necessary congressional nominations for a slot at either of the academies. I wanted nothing more than to attend the academies and be on the fast track to my dream of flying for my country.



My excitement was elevated to an entirely different level when Terry Newcomb and his brother Dana introduced me to flying in their Piper Cherokee for my job shadowing. We flew cross country from Spokane International to Electric City, on to Ephrata, and return to Spokane.

I had experienced nothing like the feeling of piloting this airplane before and I was instantly hooked. I cannot thank either of them enough.

I received a letter in early April that changed my plans drastically. Neither academy could offer me a spot as the number of cadets is at an all time low due to the military drawbacks. I was disappointed that my hard work didn't pan out, but I knew that god just had other plans for me. I had been accepted to the University of Idaho and I knew that they had good ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) programs.

I now plan to attend the University of Idaho and apply for a spot in Naval ROTC. I would like to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering and become a pilot in the Navy. I am so blessed to have the connections that I have and to have had the opportunities I did. I know now that flying is the career for me. It is amazing that the abstract thought of a junior in high school has now become my dream career that I will now pursue through all the turns in the road.



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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.

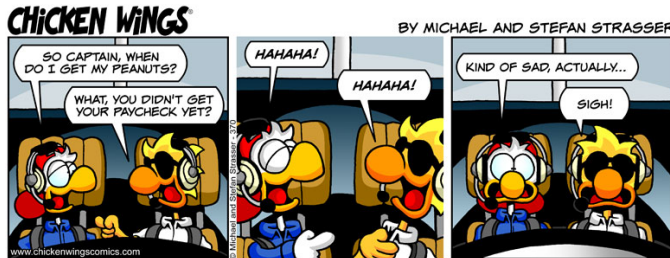
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Chapter general meetings are held every 3rd Wednesday except February, August, and December.
Board meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday each month.

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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

President's Message: Terry Newcomb

"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party." You could see this phrase typed over and over again, hundreds of times, on all the typewriter displays in the all the department stores. As it turns out, it was a typing drill. But it does fit the WPA in this case: We are planning a cleanup party at the Lower Granite Airport 14 miles south of Colfax. We could sure use the help of "all good men and women." Arrival is your choice: you can fly in, drive in, boat in, or walk in and after a couple hours of hard work, we will relax and have lunch at the local restaurant.



Our monthly meeting on Wednesday May 16th features Major Mathew Koerschner from FAFB speaking on midair collision and avoidance. Last week we were approaching Spokane from the north, for a "straight in" to 21. Then a P3 from Fairchild passed just in front of us at about the same altitude headed east, but landing at Fairchild. We watched as they flew almost all the way to Brown's Mountain. I stopped my descent and checked with the tower to see if they were still planning to land at FAFB, which the tower confirmed. They were apparently flying an arc to final, so they passed in front of us a second time going west, and at a lower altitude. Last place I want to be is under any large aircraft on final. It was quite a sight! Fly safe.
Best regards, Terry



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THE WPA PILOT PUZZLE PAGE

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 L I S G S E I L M T W C C S H
 I P H N I A H O O A A H H S E
 G E A I Y N C W Y B A V P N A
 H R V D L Y E S L R E O E A D
 T S A N L R M X T I K R P L S
 E P T A K E O F F A A A A A E
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- ENGINE TOWER
- FELTS TRANSPONDER
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- GPS VOR
- HANGER WING
- HEADSET WPA
- LANDING YOKE
- LYCOMING

Have a little extra time in the cockpit as you wait for your IFR clearance? Here's a fun way to spend a few minutes. Circle the words on the puzzle that are in the list. They can be vertical, horizontal, frontwards, backwards, slanted, top to bottom, bottom to top, whatever. Nope...no prizes. This is a low-budget newsletter. Have fun!

NextGen update by John Townsley



A couple of very interesting things have surfaced regarding NextGen. There are more guesstimates on the cost of the required aircraft equipment-possibly \$10,000+ for “small” GA aircraft and \$100K+ for transport category aircraft. There are also some interesting discussions of how to squeeze more money from air travelers to pay for the system. Part of this includes an interesting discussion of a national sales tax on fuel and one of the very interesting things not said in the analysis is that the cost of NextGen for an “average-valued” GA aircraft of about \$50K is projected to be at least 20% of hull value. Equipping an average valued transport category aircraft will be about 0.1% of hull value.

It looks more and more that the sky will be a lot less crowded, and the ramps will be quite roomy after January 1, 2020.

Here’s a link to the report: <http://enotrans.org/perch/resources/nextgen-paper.pdf>



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Coming June 2nd

Second Annual Felts Field Open House

Once again, Felts Field Airport will be hosting a "Neighbor Day Open House" from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturday, June 2, 2012. The event is free and open to the public. There will be antique, vintage, homebuilt, and contemporary planes based at Felts on display. Some of the more rare and interesting aircraft include the world's only flying Boeing-40, and the restored 1930s era Stearman biplanes that are often seen in the sky above Spokane. In addition, Spokane Turbine Center's "Kodiak," Inland Helicopter's "Robinson" helicopter, and Northwest MedStar's emergency medical aircraft will be on site.



More importantly, the pilots will be on hand to talk with visitors regarding their aircraft, flight, and restoration efforts.

The event's primary coordinator is the Spokane Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). The Spokane Chapter arranged for EAA's B-17 "Flying Fortress," to fly-in for the Open House.

Also, the Spokane Washington Pilots Association chapter will have a specialty aviator coffee blend on sale at the event.

Get ready to dig in

Lower Granite Airport work party on Saturday, May 19th



It's time for the annual Lower Granite work party to clean up the trail etc. on Saturday May 19th. We always try to have it ready for the Memorial Weekend. Gather together to help keep this gem of an airport open and usable, with an easy trail to the campground. Fly-in or drive to Lower Granite (00W). Bring along a few garden tools, rakes, weed wackers, shovel, etc. to help out.

For lunch, bring a picnic, or plan to eat at the restaurant.

Lower Granite is now open all year thanks to the efforts of your chapter leaders and the WSDOT Aviation Division.

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