



Spokane Chapter

SPOKANE FLYER

SEPTEMBER 2009

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

WEDNESDAY
September 16, 2009

6:00 P.M.

Marie Callender's Restaurant
2111 N Argonne Rd.

Guest Presentation:

Maj. "Pistol" Pete Sherman
U.S. Air Force
Aerospace/Operational
Physiologist

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Our special guest at the September 16th WPA meeting is Major "Pistol" Pete Sherman, Aerospace/Operational Physiologist at Fairchild Air Force Base. Major Sherman will brief us on the high altitude familiarization program available for civilian pilots and answer your questions about the program.

For further information on the training offered at FAFB, go to: www.faa.gov/pilots/training/airman_education/aerospace_physiology

Join us on Wednesday, September 16th to learn more.

Annual Vets Fly-Out needs you and your plane!

by Geoff Scott

Fly a Vet-Lift your spirit

The annual Vet's Fall Foliage Flight is set for Saturday, September 26th, at Felts Field, WA. Once again, the WPA graciously looks forward to working with the Veterans Administration, in taking our veterans on the grand tour of Pend Oreille Lake & Priest Lake and the Sandpoint area. It's a two-hour showcase of scenic northwest splendor. It's a gorgeous route, a great parade of aircraft, and always a ton of warm-hearted fun!



What better way to say "thanks" to these men who have given so much in dedication protecting our nation's freedom? The WPA is very honored to continue in this tradition that Mike & Chuck Eller started nearly two decades ago.

We plan on meeting at 9:00 a.m. at Western Aviation with departure shortly thereafter, and a picnic lunch will be available upon return.

The Vets are always appreciative, and you'll appreciate not only the great way we get to give back to those that have given much for US ... But *ALSO, your LOGBOOK will appreciate this excellent opportunity to build some currency-time before those cold "hangar-flying" days!

For more information, or if you are interested in becoming involved; volunteers and volunteer pilots should contact Geoff Scott: (509) 535-8995 (email: geofscott@aol.com).

Please join us for this incredible experience.



WSDOT invites comment on State-Managed Airport Handbook

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation Division will open a 30-day comment period on the State-Managed Airports Handbook. The handbook will document policies, performance measures, and guidelines for the maintenance and operation of the 17 state-managed airports. Four public meetings are planned with two in eastern Washington. Dates and locations are to be determined.

Please visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/WSDOT_ManagedAirportsStudy.htm for meeting schedules and announcements.

For more information, contact Paul Wolf or John Shambaugh, WSDOT Aviation, at 800-552-0666.



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j.baur@f5.com

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

Al Gilson
alcessnapilot@comcast.net

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

Well, school is here and fall is just around the corner. The summer has brought us some beautiful weeks to enjoy and a few that were just, down right hot. We survived, and are looking to the fall for our next round of seasonal adventures.

On the list, is our annual Veterans Fall Foliage Flight. It will be on September 26th starting at 9am at the Western Aviation Facility on Felts Field.

We will need around 9 or 10 volunteers with aircraft to transport our Vets on the scenic tour through the Idaho and Montana back country, returning to Felts Field for lunch and some hanger talk. If you really want to feel good about doing something for those who gave their best for us, here is your chance!

There is also a fly out to the Columbia Crest Winery on September 26th. The flight of planes will meet at the Felts Field restaurant and leave around 10am. There are a limited number of parking spots so please contact Dave Lucke or Gary White for more information. Lunch is planned at the winery. Get more details at the general meeting at Marie Callenders on September 16th.

On October 3rd Blake McKinley has set up a Youth Aviation Adventure which will earn Merit Badges for Boy Scouts. The information shared will include such items as, communication, preflight, aerodynamics, airport operations, power plants, and much more. It will be a great learning experience for all involved.

One of our finest from the US Air Force at Fairchild AFB is going to be our guess speaker at the Sept. general meeting. Come and meet Maj. Pete Sherman. He will take us though the ups and downs of the high altitude chamber and associated physical flight characteristics.

I hope you will have the time to come and enjoy our meeting with us. Sept 16th at Marie Callenders, 6pm if you wish to order a meal, meeting starts at 7pm.

Remember, "A landing of some kind" is ***not an option*** if you some how find yourself off of the ground.

Tom



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



WPA/Spokane Chapter Airport Improvement Project Report: Ione, WA Municipal by Blake McKinley

Several years ago we were visiting some friends in Ione, who happen to have a place near the Ione Municipal Airport. As I was kicking around the airport, I noticed that there were not any transient tie-downs. Ultimately I was put in contact with David Law, who at the time was responsible for the airport. When I approached him with the idea of our chapter providing a couple of transient tie-downs, he was delighted.



But before I get to the project, I would like to provide some background and history about this airport. The economy of the town of Ione has been in a depressed state for quite some time. Consequently, for anybody to show interest in their community is really appreciated. The airport is owned by the town of Ione and due to the depressed state of their economy, the town council tends to view the airport as a liability instead of an asset. The airport was developed in 1948 and has been owned by the town of Ione from the start. Originally, the runway was about 2,400 feet and grass. Over time the runway was lengthened to 4,059 feet and then paved and a helipad was added. The Ione Municipal Airport has a NPIAS (National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems) airport designation because of its strategic location coupled with the fact that it is the only paved airport in all of Pend Oreille County.

In spite of Ione's economic struggles, they do their best to keep the runway plowed during the winter. No matter what, a helipad is at the ready in the event that there is the need for a helicopter medivac.

Improvements came slowly. Several years ago, the Ione airport received an FAA grant to build a fence around the airport property. Last year, approximately sixty acres of trees were logged off on the airport property. Then \$17,000 was spent to remove the trees that were on private property on the approach end of runway 15. The result was clear and unobstructed approaches at both ends of the runway. The runway and windsock lighting has all been converted to 9 watt compact florescent lighting and, along with the beacon, operates from dusk to dawn. Currently, the rotating beacon is temporarily out of service and will be repaired as soon as possible. Just a few weeks ago new runway thresholds and numbers were painted. Recently, a mailbox was placed at the north end of the ramp area with a sign requesting that pilots of visiting aircraft sign in. Contrary to the published data, the NDB is out of service permanently and the approach slope indicator is also out of service. David's impression is that this airport will never have an instrument approach due to the proximity of the mountains.

Eventually, I discovered that they were in the process of developing a Master Plan with the FAA, which included a transient tie-down area on a portion of the airport property that was yet to be developed. David and I decided that since there was not yet a time-line for the taxiway extension to this area that it would make the most sense for our chapter to provide temporary transient tie-downs in an existing area of the airport for now.

There is now an approved master plan for the development of airport facilities, which will allow the town of Ione to partake in federal grants with minimal funding on the town's part, provided that the FAA ever gets some longer term funding. David and John are optimistic for the future and are appreciative of all the help they have received in bringing this jewel of an airport - kicking and screaming - into the 21st century. However, convincing the Town Council of the value of this facility to the community requires perpetual effort.

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Spokane Chapter

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Wine country just minutes away

Once again, Dave Lucke has arranged another flying destination adventure. This time to the Columbia Crest Winery on Saturday, September 26. The Winery is located at Patterson, Washington, (WA 76) on the north side of the Columbia River.

After the tour, a visit to the gift shop and tasting room would be appropriate. This would be followed by our own pot-luck lunch which can be consumed on premises with purchased wine.

Of course, as the designated drivers...er...fliers, pilots can drink iced tea.

Space is limited to 20 people. Dave needs to know how many airplanes and people will attend in advance so he can alert the winery.

Contact Dave at: (509) 994-0323 or dlucke@comcast.net .

Ione Municipal continued from page 3



On approach to runway 15 at Ione

Back to the transient tie-down project. On Saturday morning August 29th, my son Paul and I met Ione City Councilman John Reddinger at the Ione Municipal Airport to install temporary transient tie-downs for two airplanes on the north side of the middle hangar taxiway. After a couple of hours work, Ione Municipal Airport had two temporary transient tie-down spots. To make a smoother transition from the taxiway to the grass at the east tie-down, some crushed rock will be brought in. Both Councilman Reddinger and David Law expressed their gratitude for the interest that the Washington Pilots Association-Spokane Chapter has shown in their community's airport.

Incidentally, the Cabin Grill is located just across the highway from the airport on the approach end of runway 15 and operates Friday through Tuesday. Their food good and prices are reasonable. David Law estimates that since the Cabin Grill has re-opened that approximately ten airplanes per weekend have come in for a meal. So if you head up to Ione to eat at the Cabin Grill or to take the train ride to see the fall colors, don't forget to sign in at the mailbox inside the airport property at the north end.



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