



Yakima Valley WPA Newsletter

March 2008
Volume 2008 Issue 3

Yakima Valley WPA Newsletter, 901 N. Conestoga Blvd., Yakima WA, 98908
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President's Message

Dennis Klingele

The weather is turning toward Spring, and we just had the first sure sign of Spring, with the NW Aviation Conference this last weekend. The Conference was really well done and attendance looked very good.

Traveling to the Conference was half of the fun this year, the EAA 206 bus trip that was organized by Tom McMahon, Lance Sorensen, with the help of Marv Pugh and others too, was full, a great success, Thank You !

The Aviation Conference is always a great opportunity to learn the latest on what's happening in the Northwest, and Nationally in Aviation. This year was more than what I had grown to expect. Phil Boyer, President of AOPA made his annual presentation, Eighteen (?) years in a row he has done this for us now, and this time the presentation was even more impressive than usual. The political activity surrounding the FAA funding in Washington DC took on a whole new level of revelation when Phil was able to share with us some of the advertisements that are only placed in the Washington DC area, designed to impact the Legislative process. Some of these ads are cute, yet very misleading and harmful to GA's interest and needs. Phil also shared some video clips of those politicians that are major problem creators or saviors for our aviation (GA) interest. These politics can all be very dynamic and complicated, and with some very big money involved, the GA people are often not the ones who are being looked after. The thought of what would happen if we had no organizational response is very frightening. The bottom line, we are very very fortunate to have AOPA working for us, AOPA is a

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WPA Mission Statement

"To advance the interests of general aviation in Washington State through advocacy, outreach, education and social activities."

(Please see *President's Message* on page 2)

Meetings & Information for Members

Editor

- ✈ The next membership meeting is **Thursday March 6 at Barnstormer's Restaurant** in the Yakima Air Terminal. Dinner should start around 7 P.M. with a streamlined menu offered.
- ✈ The board will meet tomorrow, February 27th, 6:30 at Les Flue's office. The address is 608 Pioneer St. in Union Gap. Just go south on Cornell as far as you can go; his office is in a house just across the street, a little to the left.
- ✈ The WSDOT is compiling a list of volunteers who have worked on, or would work on, the Tieton airstrip at Rimrock Lake. This is for the **Adopt-A-Airport** program for state managed airports. If that's you, please call or email President Dennis with your contact information and he will pass it on to them.

✈ In the More-to-Do Department: In the latest issue of WPA *Wings*, page 3, is a proposal. The WPA has launched a campaign

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(President's Message from page 1)

small organization in comparison to many, however AOPA has been very impressive in educating and working with our Legislative portion of the government, and with FAA too. AOPA has also assisted WPA in dealing with issues in our State, always helping. Please consider, if you are not a AOPA member, join AOPA, if you are already a AOPA member, renew your membership when it's due. Thank You...

Yakima Valley Chapter WPA will be meeting at the Barnstormers, Thursday the 6th of March, at 6:30 PM. This will be a dinner meeting this time, and we are working with **Barnstormers** to have a limited menu for the meeting that will allow them to better serve us. The program will be a video presentation, FLYING FRIENDLY, on how Pilots can help communities and airports get along together. Please join us, and remember that guests are welcome too.

Please don't hesitate to call any of your WPA board if you have any ideas, concerns, or such, we will always be happy to do our best for you.

Dennis Klingele

*The next membership meeting is Thursday, **March. 6th,***

***7 P.M. at Barnstormer's** in the Yakima Air Terminal. Social hour starts at 6:30.*

*Wear your **name badge** if you have one.*



Yakima WPA Chapter President Dennis Klingele and his wife, Doreen..

Happenings at McAllister Field

Les Flue

1. Buck has been trying to secure baggage carts for the terminal. Bob Clem, the former airport manager, built two that are now in use. THANKS BOB!
2. The Airport has 65 different tenants and Buck met with them last month for the annual tenants meeting. He discussed the storm water situation and the possible fees attached, an airport review of land lease fees and the projects that ended in 2007 and current and near future projects.
3. Our application to the FAA (PFC 11) for this year's Capital projects has been submitted. The projects are:
 - design work for moving RWY 4-22:
 - crack sealing the east ramp
 - update security badges.
 We continue with the Valley Mall Blvd/16th Avenue realignment process. The Environmental Assessment should be complete in mid May. The Corps of Engineers and the Dept of Ecology are working together to finish up the wetlands assessment as we speak.
4. We are close to entering a lease with option to purchase with the Congdon Family for the land southwest of the terminal between the two runways. The paperwork is now with city/county legal and should be executed very soon.
5. Boardings at the terminal continue to tap a segment of our area that chose to drive somewhere else and fly out. Horizon's load factors for December was down 3% from the previous year (200 people) while Delta carried 2,071. That is an increase of over 1800 people flying out of Yakima! Starting next month, I will have figures describing the number of cargo flights, amount of cargo and business aircraft landings at the airport the General Aviation segment).
6. The ASO presentation is finished and we are working with the city and county to set a joint meeting for it's presentation.
7. We received Mayor Edler and Commissioner Lieta's thoughts on our Business Plan. The Board is formulating a response and will have a rough outline at the end of the month.



*A mushroom cloud is spotted at McAllister Field
(J. Weyhe)*

*Consider sending in your
short flying bio and
picture for the
Newsletter.*

(Meetings & Information for Members from page 2)

to form a partnership with local businesses called the "Membership Benefits Program". The goal is to provide members with incentives and discounts on aviation related products and services. If the resulting mix of benefits and services comes together, **it would offset the cost of your membership.** State-wide WPA has already sent letters to suppliers of aviation products seeking their support in this partnership, but they could also use your help. They are asking at you contact business and suppliers in the Yakima Chapter and ask them for a commitment to support the program (there is a form in Wings). If you do so, please contact Les Flue and give him the contact name, email and phone number, and what the result of the contact was...positive or negative. He would like to know in any case. If you've misplaced your *Wings* issue, go to the WPA website.

Who's Who and What's Up

Yakima Chapter Officers:

President - Dennis Klingele (509) 966-5300

Vice President - Les Flue (509) 952-2376

Treasurer - Mike Bull (509) 949-1530

Secretary - Jim Wikstrom (509) 965-3630

Newsletter Editor - Joel Weyhe (509) 966-1686

Webmaster - Les Flue (509) 952-2376

News & Info: Send articles and important pilot information for publication to the editor -> YakimaValleyWPA@live.com or by mail, if necessary, to Joel Weyhe, 901 N. Conestoga Blvd. Yakima, WA, 98908.



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None yet

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Website: The WPA *state* website may be found at <http://www.wpaflys.org>, and the *Yakima Chapter* site at www.wpaflys.org/Chapters/Yakima/yakimachapter.html

Meeting Notice: The next meeting will be held March 6th at 7:00 p.m. at Barnstormer's Restaurant in the Yakima Air Terminal.

Important Contact Info:

WPA President - John Dobson (360) 898-2319

PYKM Airport Manager -

Buck Taylor - (509) 575-6159

EAA Chapter 206 - Stu Copland (509) 965-1209

McAllister Museum - (509) 457-4933

Mid-Columbia 99s - Mary Cooke (509) 375-0445

FSS - 1-800-WX-BRIEF

ASOS PYKM - (509) 248-1502

Newsletter Date: The next newsletter should ship sometime in early April. Topics will include a calendar of activities, creating your own name tag, updating your membership data on the state-wide web site and some neat stuff you can buy there. *(I know, this is the same promise from last month, but there wasn't space enough to include it all this time).*