

YAKIMA VALLEY WPA NEWSLETTER

SEPT, 2006

Hello once again, to all of you. This letter had to be early due to yet another vacation for the Hammers this season and this one will last a couple of weeks. As I mentioned in the last letter, I also took a ten day trip, via airplane, to sunny, **HOT**, Mexico and I'll be telling you about that little adventure in some future letter. Please pay special attention to the dates this month; there is a MCALLISTER MUSEUM dance with drinks and food, a Pingrey BBQ, and the YOUNG EAGLES program which has had a **date change**.

SUMMER GET TOGETHERS WELL ATTENDED

It has been quite a surprise to me that so many of you showed up for the two dinner get togethers held this summer. Apparently the informal atmosphere of eating, putting down a few drinks, and chatting appeals to many of you and I'll include myself in that bunch. Sandy and I were having such a good time that we bagged the dancing we had planned. I had the pleasure, this time, of sitting across from Lee Peterson and his wife Kay, who filled me in on the many fine places to visit in Mexico. The Peterson's really put their Cessna to work on a regular basis to places like Alaska, Calif, Mexico as well as Central and South America. As Kay put it "we're making up for lost time". John Smith brought his mother and it was a pleasure to meet and talk with her. I believe that she is pushing 100yrs. very hard.

THE FASTABENDS TRIM UP RIMROCK AIRSTRIP



I received an email from Jack Fastabend, early spring, telling me about he and his son mowing and trimming up the airstrip at Rimrock Lake. I emailed back that, next time, I wanted to be invited and so I was, a couple of months back. I got in there with what I thought was a plenty early arrival only to find Jack and his son already working away with their weed



whip. Now remember, they live in the Tri Cities. But as Jack told me, he really loves the strip and the setting and so he has adopted it to maintain. This used to be a project that Yakima WPA took on every year. And if I remember correctly, there was also a camp-out, drive in, fly in affair as well. Why don't we start doing that again and get together with the Fastabend's to get the work done fast and then have a good time for a weekend. The strip is a pretty good place to sharpen mountain flying as well as takeoff and landing techniques and I have used it several times to sharpen myself up prior to flying off into the Idaho back-country.



PICTURES FROM THE MEMORIAL DAY AIRSHOW JONES BEACH, NY



Ray and Marjie Wells who have,

through the years, sent me several emails covering trips that they have taken in their 182, sent me these pictures. They recently had a new and larger engine as well as a three bladed prop installed on their plane and it looks like they are taking advantage of it. You may recall reading about another of their trips back east in an earlier letter. They both took up flying later in life and both have earned their IFR ticket. I only wish that they would attend more of our dinner meetings so that we all could hear about their latest forays in their 182. If they do attend one of our dinners, be fore-warned that they are super enthusiastic about flying and it will probably rub off on you as it did me.

DATES

PINGREY BBQ-----SAT, SEPT 16. Starts about 5PM. Bring a salad or dessert if you wish but be sure to bring yourself to this annual, free, event at the PINGREY HANGAR.

MCALLISTER MUSEUM DANCE-----SAT, SEPT 23. Dance to a variety of music---swing, foxtrot, “belly rubber”, tango, cha cha, “belly rubber”, waltz, belly rubber. No host bar. Some folks are bringing food, some are bringing planes. \$10 per person. Come sometime around 5PM or after for best “belly rubbing”.

YOUNG EAGLES---SAT, SEPT 30. 9AM –3PM. Bring a plane and fly some kids.

THE SOUTHSIDE HANGARS ARE GROWING!

I really goofed by forgetting to take a picture of the metal hangars going up near the Richardson hangars. I don't think that I have ever been at my hanger doing whatever and not seen Tom McMahon there with floppy hat and red red face, working his behind off. First it was driving a tractor with a blade and now it's laying out steel and bolting it together. Besides Tom and many times his wife, I've also seen Toms grandson, whose name escapes me like my keys, Ola Vestad, Marv Pugh—who has been “burning rod”; and several others whose names are also like my keys.

As most of you know, these guys have been in the trenches fighting their way through the red tape applied by our lovely government officials as well as coping with the myriad of problems associated with real estate development. But then, “the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” are always present in life and Tom and Co. have accepted them all in stride and are indeed getting the job done. All of the work by these people is being done free of charge with the hopes that the price per hangar can be at it's lowest possible point for those of us lucky enough to get one. Several are still available. Cheers, Uncle Bob