

YAKIMA VALLEY WPA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

Well looky here: it's Spring, and most of us can start putting around in the bright blue again after a rather lame Winter. But no matter how lame, I love the fact that Spring is here. I bet most of you do too. Time to shine up the bird and my flying skills. How about you---all?

This letter will be short, like the amount of time I've flown in the past three months, but thanks to Lynn Harden, who wrote the feature article on Bonnie Dunbar, not too short.

Again, I would love it if some of you people would send me a piece like Lynn did. It would really make this newsletter more interesting.



The Feb Dinner Meeting was well attended; probably because Lee Peterson was giving a talk and slide show on his flight to Copper Canyon, Mexico. Lee always does a great job. His presentations make me want to get out there and fly to great spots too. Sadly, I had to leave early and missed the presentation, but I was told that it was first class. And just in case you're interested, Copper Canyon is in the Sierra Tarahumara Mountains, located in the southwestern part of the state of Chihuahua in Mexico. The Canyon is larger and deeper than our Grand Canyon and is made up of six separate canyons that compose the Copper Canyon National Park. The area can be toured by train, horse, foot and maybe plane and/or helicopter. All kinds, and types of organized tours are available.

DESULFATOR UPDATE

I wonder how many of you have purchased the desulfators I wrote about in my last letter. I also wonder how many of you have ever heard of such a thing. In my 65 years on this planet, I hadn't. I purchased three kits that my father-in-law is now soldering together for me. And I purchased a charger made specifically for charging aircraft batteries and it has a built-in desulfator. After two weeks on the charger the batteries should be like new. Time will tell. The other desulfators will be attached to other chargers to keep the plethora of batteries around my place that start mowers, tractors, a boat, a couple of vehicles, and a camp trailer, in good shape. As I see it, if a \$20 gadget can at least double the life of a \$100 battery, I'm way ahead of the game. As retirement looms, saving a buck is taking on a brand new meaning. If by chance, some of you have purchased them, how about a report? Also, at the end of this newsletter you'll find the email address for VDC Electronics, Inc. The outfit from whom I purchased the charger.

Dr. Bonnie Dunbar Talks At The Selah Civic Center!



By Lynn Harden. Rolling up to the Selah Civic Center, too close to seven, it was obvious that Bonnie's presentation drew a huge crowd as evidenced by the lack of parking spaces. The lot was full, the street was full, and I was forced into parking across the street in the paid parking lot.... What's that dear?... There is no paid parking lot across the street? Well that's a lesson to pass along. Never give \$5 to a parking attendant pushing a shopping cart. But I digress. After an introduction from Ellensburg Chapter's EAA member Lee Bates, Bonnie Dunbar did a great job of keeping

the audiences interest as she addressed the packed house. Her presentation educated us on many levels. On a personal level she talked of her travels from growing up on a farm in Outlook, continuing with childhood stories and going through her education and carrier as an engineer and astronaut. She noted that as an 8th Grader she told her teacher she was going to, "Build space ships & fly in them." In her senior year she decided to apply to NASA and found out that a college degree would be a great help. With the assistance of her good grades and a National Defense Loan and Grant Program, she obtained an engineering degree from the University of Washington. Bonnie first worked for Rockwell and then for NASA. During her time at NASA she was on 5 flights, including a flight to the space station. I know that Dennis Franz will probably know the answers to the following space questions, but I will ask them anyway and thanks to Dr Dunbar, I will give you the answers:



Q. How many space shuttles have we built? A. Five of which three are left.

Q. How many times has the space shuttle flown? A. 115 times.

Q. How long does it take the shuttle to fly around the earth? A. 90 minutes

Q. What altitude does the space shuttle fly at? A. 150 to 250 Miles

Q. How fast does the space shuttle fly? A. Mach 25. (Gives fast flyers like Tom Hollbrook something to shoot for with their next home built)

Q. What can Bob Hammer's plane do that the space shuttle can't? A. Slow flight....(not that he does it much) Oh, by the way the space shuttle lands at just under 200 knots.

Q. How many times did we land on the moon? A. Six times.

Q. Did Dennis know the answers to all the above questions? A. Probably. There is very smart man hiding behind that smile!

Now that we are done teasing your brains, back to Bonnie. After retiring from NASA, she accepted her current position as the President and CEO of the Seattle Museum of Flight.

Bonnie's winning personality, professional contacts, and broad experiences give her a great arsenal of tools to charge in to her latest challenge. With the conclusion of the formal program, Bonnie took time to personally talk with dozens of people signing autographs and sharing stories. Several people brought their logbooks to have her autograph a page. Won't the FAA inspector be surprised when they read Bonnie Dunbar's name below the text to be added later? (Something that includes the phrase," I personally attest this pilot has successfully completed his bi-annual flight review etc. etc. etc".) Watching the connection between Bonnie and the members of the audience you can truly see it is possible to come home again.

QUESTIONS

1. What effect does wind chill have in the formation of rime ice?
2. What are the conditions that need to be present for the development of St Elmo's fire?
3. What is the relationship between temperature, resistance and amperage in a wire?
For example---as a wire gets colder, what happens to resistance, if anything.

DATES

**DINNER MEETING FRIDAY, MAR, 30. 6:30- GOLDEN MOON
CHINESE RESTAURANT—1406 N First St., Yakima.**

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