

WPA Dinner
Christmas
December 8, 2006

The meeting was held at the "Howard Johnsons" in the Plum room. There were 25 attending the buffet dinner.

1. Jim Wickstrom, president, brought the meeting to order by first introducing Marjorie and Ray Wells and John Smith's 95 year old mother.
2. Jim announced that 2 students from Ron Nulph's Skill Center had each received the \$1000 scholarship. They are both attending Big Bend Community College.
3. Tom McMahan and Ola Vestad reported on the progress of their hangars on the South side of the airport. The original four hangars are almost finished and ready for occupancy. He invited all present to come and see these new hangars and they intend to have an open house next spring. The complex is being called the Yakima Airpark. The present unicom frequency is 133.25.
4. Ola passed out the gift numbers to everyone for the evening's gift exchange.
5. All those attending agreed that Bob Hammer should remain the editor of the newsletter and Jim requested on his behalf that we all are welcome to make contributions to Bob for the newsletter.
6. Lynn and Tracy Hardin will continue to manage the spaghetti feed next year. They announced that Mike Sutton has taken the place of the retiring Ron Nulph at the Skills Center.
7. Elections for the chapter were held. It was moved and seconded that the 2006 officers remain the same for 2007. This was approved by unanimous vote. The officers are:
Jim Wickstrom, President
Lupe Bell, Vice president
Joel Weyhe, Treasurer
Dennis Franz, Secretary
Bob Hammer, Newsletter editor
8. Joel sold \$60 of raffle tickets and the drawing was held. Lupe drew the winning tickets of number 830 for \$40 going to Marv Pugh and number 822 for \$20 going to Chris Vestad.
9. Jim reminded everyone to reimburse \$10/plate to Joel before leaving.
10. Ola Vestad reported that there is a \$35 annual fee for the border crossing. It is required that a passport be presented and that exit of the airplane is prohibited until the customs agent allows the exit after the interview and luggage inspection.
11. Les Phlue gave a small talk on the concerns of the airport board. He is a member of the board as well as the Secretary of the state WPA. He reported that the board was, after five years, still trying to solve the problem of 16th Ave. and its location relevant to runway 27. The board has been given an ultimatum by the FAA to solve this problem this coming year or they will shorten the runway which will make it impossible to have major airlines flying into Yakima. He also said that the FAA would like to close 16th Ave. The city would like to relocate 16th Ave. to the east, and the county would like to relocate 16th Ave. east all the way to 10th Ave. Another alternative is to make 16th Ave. into a big U around the threshold of runway 27 FAA requirements. The FAA pointed out that Yakima is the only airport in the West that has this runway encroachment problem. Other concerns of the airport board are:
How to keep the airport restaurant open.
The airport safety overlay all the way around the airport.

Les mentioned that the WPA board recognizes the need for the public to be involved in airport and general aviation issues. He stated that the WPA and its membership is important in this regard, especially as a lobbying presence with the legislature and as a representative presence at airport hearings. He pointed out that the WPA membership is 900 out of 17,000 licensed pilots in Washington and with only 30 people attending that last state WPA board meeting. To this end he gave invitations to the dinner attendees to come to the next annual meeting of the WPA at Paine Field. The keynote speaker will be Mike Melville who has agreed to speak without a fee.

12. The gift exchange was held with everyone having a good time.
13. The meeting was adjourned.