



Valley Flyers

“Just Plane Fun!”

885 Lancaster Dr SE
Salem, OR 97317

July 2017



Monthly Events

Our July fly out will be to Packwood, WA (55S) on July 15th. Packwood is a beautiful airport tucked into a valley in the mountains, and is within walking distance of the town. The runway is newly paved, and will be opening a few weeks before our arrival, so it should be a great opportunity to enjoy a smooth runway. It is also near several other mountain airports, including Tieton State and Ranger Creek in case you want to try a few while up in that beautiful area!

The August Fly Out will be a flight out to Sunriver Oregon (S21) on August 12th departing Salem at 9 am. Sunriver is a beautiful area, and the airport has loaner bikes you can ride into town. Enjoy some high altitude flying and a beautiful town!



Sunriver Airport – Chris Eriksson

Copalis Fly-Out

By Sam Ewen

Splitting flight time with a fellow pilot is a great way to explore the Pacific Northwest. In my case, it has enabled me to visit airports outside of my usual 30- to 45- minute radius from Salem. At the beginning of June, Chris Eriksson, Isaac Mosgrove, and I hopped into 5ED and explored an area we had never flown to before (except Chris, he’s flown everywhere).



Copalis Fly in

Starting from Salem, Chris flew us to Jefferson County, OS9. Flying over the Sound was incredible. This region is one of the most beautiful areas I’ve seen from the air. Along the way, we looked out for other planes, boats, and anything interesting that caught our eye. One highlight was a formation flight of two RVs and a high-wing. We arrived at Jefferson County at lunch time with a lot of other pilots who had the same idea. Unfortunately, most of these pilots seemed unfamiliar with a standard traffic pattern and entry. Luckily, we were in good hands, as Chris got us on the ground with professionalism.

After a delicious lunch, Isaac took the next leg West and around the peninsula to Copalis. Copalis boasts the only beach airport in the lower 48 states. Landing on its 3500 feet of sand is one of the coolest notches in your flying belt you can get. I can’t recommend it enough; grab an instructor and fly to Copalis! Just make sure to thoroughly wash the plane when you are back home. This trip coincided with the annual FATPNW fly in, so our landing on the beach made us the 23rd plane on the sand. Isaac had no problems with an audience, as he executed beautiful soft-field technique in front of the 50 or so people who were watching.

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Copalis Fly In

The final leg rested on me. A soft-field take off and a 180 took us down the Washington coast and headed home to Salem. The Washington-Oregon coast is an incredible flight with beautiful scenery, and the nice weather meant the beaches were packed with people. We saw plenty of kites and even a few paragliders. A quick hop over the coastal range and we were back on the ground in Salem.

Five hours of flight time usually exceeds the reach of my endurance or bank account, but splitting with two others allowed me to gain more experience and have a whole lot more fun than my usual flights. Go out and find a flying buddy, and visit airports that are outside your typical operating area. Then come back and write about it so we can all share in the fun!

First Solo!

This last month, Jordan Snyder had his first solo. He did extremely well and even got kudos from the tower for his excellent job. Congratulations Jordan!



Jordan Snyder on his first solo

Eclipse!

August 21 we will be the center viewing point for an incredible phenomenon. We are in the path of totality for the total eclipse. At 10:17 am, Salem will begin its totality. We will enjoy a full one minute and 54 seconds of totality. In this time, the entirety of the sun will be obscured by the moon, which will leave it dark enough to look up and see stars in the sky. The eclipse totality follows a path from Lincoln City area, past Salem, and onwards past Madras. There will be many aircraft flying into Salem to watch the eclipse, and Salem airport is planning for have events going on that morning for all the visitors. Expect the area to be extremely busy, and there to be significant air traffic during the eclipse as well, but come out and meet some new friends at the Salem airport!

Aircraft Care Tip of the Month

When conducting a thorough preflight, you should be carefully evaluating the aircraft for safety of flight. During these inspections, it is not uncommon to find damage to the aircraft, often it is something cosmetic such as a cracked plastic fairing, or low oil levels. Cosmetic issues that have no structural implications, or do not interfere with control movements can be deferred. For low oil levels, we have oil stored in the hangars, and after verifying the oil type is acceptable in the aircraft by checking the POH, you can add the oil yourself. Just don't forget to mark that down on your time sheet at the end of the flight so the aircraft oil consumption can be monitored.

Sometimes however, you may notice problems such as a flat nose strut, rough propeller, or something worse. When something like this is found, do not fly the aircraft, and contact a board member to have the aircraft serviced. Club members, including instructors, should not be servicing nose struts, or sanding out rough spots on props without having been trained, and authorized for each action. The board needs to be able to track aircraft maintenance and have proper logbook entries for all necessary maintenance items.

Our scheduling website allows you to input squawks on the aircraft, which will immediately email all board members with the notice that an aircraft maintenance issue was noted. We can then address the issue quickly.