



Valley Flyers

"Just Plane Fun!"

885 Lancaster Dr SE
Salem, OR 97317

November 2020



Flight Circle updates

We've now completed our first month using the new Flight Circle system for club reservations and billing. As with any big change like this, we've seen a few minor issues coming up; thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding as we work through them!

There's more information below on some specific questions that have come up, and anyone who needs more information or help with Flight Circle is welcome to contact Chris Eriksson, Toni Topfer or Simon Hayes. If you have questions about payments that are not to do with Flight Circle, please contact Joan Johnson.

Invoices and payments

With the move to Flight Circle, we're changing how we handle invoices and payments.

All invoices are now electronic. Flight Circle sends statements by email only on the last day of the month. You won't get any more paper invoices. You can go into Flight Circle to see your account balance and make payments at any time.

You need to enter your fuel purchases in Flight Circle. When you check in a flight there's a page where you can add an "adjustment". That's where you should enter the amount you spent on fuel (if any). The guide in the briefing room has more details on how to do this. If you forgot, or if you had a problem with adding an adjustment, any Board member can add or correct it for you.

You still need to submit fuel receipts. Even though we now enter the fuel purchases in Flight Circle the club still has to gather receipts. Please send them to Joan by email or regular mail.

You can pay by debit or credit card in Flight Circle itself. You can pay for each flight as you go, or at the end of the month. There is a 2.09% fee added for credit cards.

You can pay by check at the end of the month if

you prefer. Please send your check and any fuel receipts to Joan. Including a printout of your Flight Circle account that shows the amount would be helpful but isn't essential.

Don't forget to use your 'contract' hour for your first flight each month. Select "Contract: Unflown Hours" as your payment type to make sure you get credit for your one hour per month minimum. If you forget or have a problem, please contact Chris, Toni or Simon for help.

Flight reviews

It's important that your flight reviews are up to date, to meet both the FAA's regulations and the club's insurance requirements. Flight Circle will prevent you from dispatching an aircraft if either your FAA flight review or club checkout is out of date so please make sure that both those dates are accurate in the system.

Here's a reminder of the main points to keep in mind:

- The FAA requires a flight review every 24 calendar months, or another approved activity such as a checkride (14 CFR 61.56).
- The club requires a checkout every 12 calendar months. Like a flight review, it's valid until the last day of the calendar month, e.g. a club checkout on 11/01/2020 is good through 11/30/2021.
- If you're a student member and you pass your private checkride, that counts as a club checkout that's good for 12 months. Other checkrides (instrument, commercial etc.) do *not* count as a club checkout.

If you aren't sure when you need a flight review or club checkout, an instructor can help you go over your FAA and club dates.

More TFRs

Fortunately, the wildfire TFRs are now gone, at

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least from the Willamette Valley. There are new TFRs appearing, though: the 'stadium TFRs' that apply to stadiums with 30,000 or more seats during NCAA and other major sports events.

In the Valley, we can see these coming up in Corvallis and Eugene for football games. The TFR in Corvallis is about a mile from the approach end of runway 17. Please be aware of these TFRs and if you have to enter them, make sure you comply with the listed requirements. That usually just means you must have a transponder code and be talking to ATC. Getting flight following is a simple way to cover both those points.



Upcoming stadium TFR (on 11/8) near KCVO, as displayed in Garmin Pilot

Winter engine starts

The weather is getting colder and that can sometimes be a challenge when it comes to starting engines. We want to avoid draining the battery or even burning out the starter!

Pulling the prop through is often helpful to loosen the oil and make it easier to turn over the engine. First, make sure the mags are off and the mixture is at idle cutoff. Second, check the keys are out of the ignition and safely in your pocket. Third, go back and check the mags, mixture, and keys again, just in case! Finally, if you're completely sure the prop isn't hot then pull it through 4-6 times in the normal direction of travel, i.e. clockwise as seen from the cockpit, or counterclockwise from in front of the aircraft.

After that, you can prime and start the engine as usual. If it doesn't start, do not keep cranking until the battery is dead. Stop, and let the starter rest between attempts. You can also check the POH for the aircraft to see if there are any cold starting procedures for that specific model.

If you need help with cold starting, an instructor or board member can help you.

Aircraft update: N1636H

We're planning to make more improvements to 36H over the coming months:

- New engine. The engine is already on order and we expect it to arrive some time in December.
- Avionics upgrade. We plan to add a second Garmin G5, which will allow us to completely remove the vacuum system. It will also qualify 36H as a 'technically advanced aircraft' per 14 CFR 61.129(j), meaning that it can be used to log TAA time for a commercial certificate.
- Seats. We're going to rebuild the seat lift mechanisms and reupholster the seats while we have the aircraft down anyway for the other work.

We don't know yet exactly when 36H will be offline for the upgrades; that depends when the engine arrives and when the shop has time to do the work. Our goal is to schedule it in Dec/Jan/Feb since the weather means those are slower flying months anyway.

October flyout: Tillamook Air Museum

Todd Lindley



Tillamook Air Museum from the air

After a couple of cancelled fly outs, the weather

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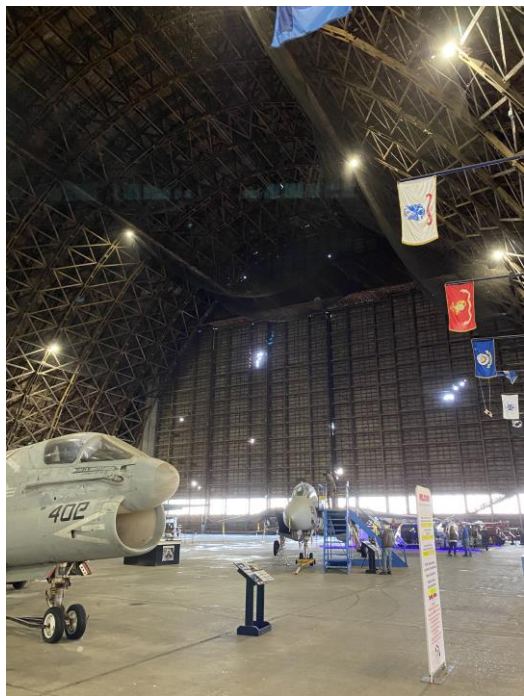
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finally cooperated so that we could complete the October fly out to KTMK to visit the Tillamook Air Museum. The museum is located just east of the airport and can be accessed via a taxiway from the approach end of runway 19. The museum building was a WWII blimp hangar that was used to house K-class airships used for anti-submarine patrol and convoy escort. The hangar has an enclosed area of over seven acres!



Inside the Air Museum

We departed KSLE on a Saturday morning with broken/overcast skies in the 4000'-5000' range.



Morning flight conditions at the coast

The coast was reporting overcast as well and we didn't want to get on top and then not be able to

get back down underneath the overcast at the coast. so we went the low route following highway 22 over the casino and toward Lincoln City before turning north up the coast to Tillamook. The winds were calm, allowing for a straight landing on runway 01 and then a short taxi to the museum.

Our next flyout will be on November 14th. The destination will depend on the weather but we're looking at Sisters or Sun River.

Quarterly club meeting on 11/10

The club's next quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday November 10th at the hangars. All members are welcome to attend.

Newsletter is going online-only

This newsletter will be going online-only. You'll receive it by email in future, although we'll have some paper copies in the briefing room for anyone who needs them. Our newsletter archive is also available on the club's website.



Club Christmas party

Isaac Mosgrove

Joan and Vern have graciously agreed to host the party, starting at 6:00 PM on Saturday, December 12th. Given the current situation, this is a tentative plan that we'll review nearer the time.

In order to have enough food for everyone, each member is asked to bring either a main dish or salad, and a small dessert to share. The club will provide meat and some fixings. We'll also do a gift exchange, so bring a fun gift in the \$10-15 range (aviation gifts are always fun). Bring your family or friends and masks for a fun evening together. Please RSVP to Isaac by December 5th so that we can get the plans finalized and seating appropriately spaced. Feel free to text or email Isaac or Joan if you have questions.

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