



Valley Flyers

"Just Plane Fun!"

885 Lancaster Dr SE
Salem, OR 97317

February 2021



Annual Club Business Meeting Summary

Isaac Mosgrove

Despite the pandemic and lockdowns, we still maintained a vibrant, healthy, active, and growing club with a surprisingly large number of accomplishments in 2020, including a record number of hours flown. We had a great virtual Annual Club Business Meeting on January 20th that reviewed 2020 and looked forward to our goals in 2021 and beyond.

A lot of information was covered during the meeting. The following are a few of the key points:



2020 Highlights:

- **Our membership grew to 76 members** (including flight instructors), with 67 member pilots and 9 student pilots. Many of our member pilots are also working on their advanced ratings including IR, Commercial, and CFI.
- **We continued to make more improvements to our fleet, our facilities, and resources!**
 - N515ED: We repaired the external plastic pieces and ordered new avionics (GTN 750Xi, GTN 650Xi, and GMA 35c).
 - N1636H: We ordered new seat cushions and covers, replaced internal plastic pieces, and ordered a factory remanufactured engine.
 - N5174E: We replaced the engine with a factory reman that has a higher TBO, and we repaired many of the damaged internal and external plastic pieces.
 - N70574: We finished the engine replacement and paid of 50% of the loan for purchasing the airplane.
 - N12382: We refinished the seat frames and replaced the seat cushions and covers, installed a new glare shield and brow, and replaced the lower cowl.

- **Facilities:** We signed the lease with option to buy agreement for the hangars, finished the flight planning room (including 2 computers, an LCD TV, a white board, and high-speed internet), improved 36H's hangar doors, and organized and cleaned the main hangar areas.
- We purchased new batteries for the electric tug.
- We converted our flight reservation and billing system to Flight Circle to streamline our billing and maintenance tracking and to better support the growth of the club.
- We held regularly scheduled quarterly membership meetings (2nd Tuesday of the 2nd month of each quarter).
- **We had a bunch of club activities!**
 - These included outings to Sun River, Siletz Bay, Crescent Lake, and Tillamook.
 - We also had our Club BBQ and Strawberry Shortcake Picnic and held regularly scheduled quarterly membership meetings (2nd Tuesday of the 2nd month of each quarter).
- **Our finances are healthy!**
 - The checking account balance at the start of the year was \$34,578, and we ended the year with a balance of \$39,619.
 - All bills are paid.
- **We flew a whopping 1473 hours!**
- **We recognized our 2020 contest award winner** who will get a free flight hour in 2019!
 - Mikel Wynn won the award for the most hours flown.

Other Business:

- **Monthly dues and aircraft hourly rates:** We continue to work hard to keep our dues and rates unchanged even though our fixed costs have increased. After reviewing the 2021 budget, we plan to keep all rates the same except for N70574 (Skylane). The 182's rates will increase after the avionics upgrade to help cover the cost of the upgrade and the increased insurance costs.

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- **Officer elections were held:** Congratulations to Simon Hayes (Vice-President) and Alan Lasneski (Secretary) who were re-elected to their positions.
- **Potential conflicts of interest** were disclosed by each Board Member.
- **Bylaw changes were passed:** The Bylaws were updated to create a new Chief Pilot position on the Board of Directors. See the December or January Newsletters for a summary of the changes.
- **Proposed changes to the Membership Flight Rules were reviewed and discussed with the members.** Per the Bylaws, the Board is responsible for making changes to the Membership Flight Rules.
- **Please take care of our equipment to help reduce aircraft downtime.** Improper starting procedures are causing early failure of batteries and starters resulting in flights being cancelled and extra maintenance costs. Also, the paint and plastics on the struts and wings are getting damaged from the ladders, hoses and nozzles during fueling. The airplanes belong to all of us, so let's work together to keep our equipment nice and our costs low.
- **Thank you to the members for your help and patience during the conversion to Flight Circle.** Please remember to submit copies of your fuel slips each month to receipts@valleyflyers.org.
- **Please help the Crew Chiefs** by using squawks in Flight Circle when there is an item that needs to be taken care of. Remember to review the squawks as part of your preflight planning.
- **Please check flightcircle.com for squawks or maintenance reservations before each flight.** The Board tries hard to notify affected members if an aircraft is grounded, but we cannot always do this before your scheduled flight.
- **A special thank you to the following members:**
 - All who helped improve the hangars and flight planning room (laptop, computer, and TV donations; hangar door repairs, light installations) and who helped wash rags and replenish cleaning supplies.
 - Chris Eriksson, Tony Topfer, and Simon Hayes for helping with the transition from AircraftClubs.com to Flight Circle.
 - Brett Trammell for printing the newsletter.
 - Todd Lindley for organizing the monthly club flights.
 - Corey Drechsler for being our webmaster and managing email accounts.
 - Landon Nye for helping work on the planes when the shop is not open.

- Joan Johnson for all of her behind the scenes work that she does (buying supplies, washing rags, emptying garbage, and more in addition to managing the finances and billing).
- The flight instructors that support so much of the members' reviews and training.
- The volunteer Board who puts so much time into keeping the planes flying, addressing member inquiries, implementing club improvements, and focusing on the future success of Valley Flyers.
- Isaac Mosgrove for all the behind the scenes work and for negotiating avionics upgrades.



2021 Goals: (Budget permitting)

• **Aircraft Goals:**

- N5174E: Resolve airframe whistle.
- N1636H: Install a second G5 and remove the vacuum system, install new seat cushions/covers, replace the engine, and determine cost to upgrade N1636H to GPS IFR capabilities (repair static line leaks and pitot heat).
- N70574: Avionics upgrade (full glass cockpit with EIS and autopilot), add shoulder harnesses, and pay off remaining loan for the aircraft.
- N12382: Install new interior carpet and side-panels, replace broken interior plastic pieces, and add an engine block heater.
- N515ED: Upgrade avionics (GTN 750Xi, GTN 650Xi, and GMA 35c) and add an engine block heater.
- Purchase ground power supply and investigate adding ground charging power plugs to the aircraft.

• **Facilities Goals:**

- Finish organizing and cleaning the storage rooms.
- Install additional lights in the hangars.
- Repair hangar doors.

• **Club Goals:**

- Restructure Board of Directors and update Membership Flight Rules to better support the operations/growth of the club
- Hold informative training sessions with guest speakers.
- Hold regularly scheduled quarterly club meetings. These will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the 2nd month each quarter at 7:00 PM in the flight planning room. This year's meetings will be 2/9, 5/11, 8/10, and 11/9.
- Increase membership involvement in the daily operations of the club (washing/folding rags, maintaining cleaning supplies, cleaning hangars, emptying garbage, etc.).
- Hold monthly club fly out activities. Todd Lindley has volunteered to organize the events for 2021, so please contact him if you have ideas for fun activities.
- Continue doing more activities with Flights Above The Pacific Northwest (FATPNW) Facebook group.



Future Goals Beyond 2021:

- Upgrade N1636H to IFR capabilities (repair static line leaks and pitot heat)
- Replace N70574 windscreen
- Remove vacuum systems from all aircraft
- Repair paint on the planes
- Purchase hangars
- Upgrade avionics in N5174E

Annual club contests

In 2021 we have two contests within the club: most hours flown, and most different airports visited. All flights must be made as PIC in a club aircraft, and – sorry CFIs! – training time as an instructor does not count. The prize for each one is a free flight hour in the club aircraft of your choice.

We'll post reminders in the newsletter every few months and to enter you can submit your entries to the Board at the end of the year.

Congratulations again to Mikel Wynn for most hours flown in 2020!

January flyout: Siletz Bay (S45)

Todd Lindley

We finally got a break in the weather for a fly out and had originally planned to go to Sisters, OR. The ceilings and winds were perfect for a flight over the Cascades, but unfortunately the Bend area received four inches of snow the day before and the runway at 6K5 was covered in snow.



Alison and Mark Neubauer's son Scott's first flight!

Not to let that deter us from flying, we opted for a trip to the coast for lunch at Siletz Bay. We had pilots in all the club airplanes planes (except 36H which was down for maintenance), but pinch hitting for 36H were Joan and Vern in their T210. And, as luck would have it the ceilings and winds were favorable for our arrival and departure at S45. The Side Door Café was

open for sit down dining, so we were able to split the group into several tables and enjoy a nice lunch. If you recall, the last time the club went to Siletz was in May 2020 and we had to get food to-go and sit on the ramp at S45 to eat.

Our next flyout will be on February 27th; the destination will depend on the weather.



The Valley Flyers fleet at S45

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Mark your calendars! 2021 flyouts

Todd Lindley



Along with the monthly fly outs to local spots, we're planning a few longer and overnight destinations pending any COVID-19 restrictions. Also look for club

emails for occasional impromptu fly outs when the weather is nice. There are members that are flexible during the week, so we'll try and get some fly outs to accommodate flexible weekday schedules and to give the rest of us an excuse to play hooky from work on a nice flying day.

Confirmed dates:

- July 24: Museum of Flight at Boeing Field
- August 6-7: EAA Orcas Fly-in
- September 15-19: Reno Air Races

To be decided:

- Seaside (5S6)
- Blue Star Donuts at KPDX
- Night Dinner Flight



Taxiway etiquette: being a good neighbor

Isaac Mosgrove

The enthusiasm and activity at our hangars bring excitement and joy to our neighbors at the airport. Our taxiways are incredibly busy, especially with all our flights and with our Southern hangars being on one of the most active gates at the airport.

It is important to minimize the time our aircraft are on the taxiways. Please remember the following simple taxiway etiquette tips to be courteous to our airport neighbors and other club members:

- Complete your preflight planning and inspections while the plane is in the hangar. **Only pull the plane onto the taxiway when you are ready to do your final walkaround.**
- Start the airplane promptly and taxi directly to the main ramp to complete warm up, ATIS and flight preparations.
- When you return, promptly push the aircraft clear of the taxiway before unloading and completing your post-flight activities and cleaning.

Aircraft first aid kits

Thanks to Alison and Mark Neubauer, who have kindly and generously put first aid kits in all the club aircrafts! If you use something from a kit, please let Mark or Alison know so they can see what might need to be restocked.

Quarterly Member Meetings

Isaac Mosgrove

We will be continuing the quarterly club meetings with the Board in order to provide members more opportunities to ask questions, make suggestions, raise concerns, and have increased visibility into the status and workings of the club. This is your club, so the Board wants to make sure you are aware of what is happening throughout the year. The quarterly meetings will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the 2nd month each quarter at 7:00 PM, in the hangars if possible or online if not.

This year's meetings will be:

- 7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 9
- 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 11
- 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 10
- 7:00 PM, Tuesday, November 9

Have you had a memorable trip, flying experience, or words of wisdom that others in the club would benefit from, or that you would like to share? Please send your stories, tips, quotes, and pictures to **Simon Hayes** for inclusion in future newsletters.