



Valley Flyers

"Just Plane Fun!"

885 Lancaster Dr SE
Salem, OR 97317

May 2023



Fuel surcharges update



The price of gas at Salem has remained fixed at \$7/gallon so for now our club fuel surcharges will remain the same as well:

- Skyhawks/Cherokee: \$3.40/hr.
- Skylane: \$5.20/hr.

May Membership Meeting: May 9th

The club's next quarterly meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday, May 9th at Joan's house (the address has been sent out by email). Please contact a Board member if there is a particular topic that you would like to have discussed. All members are welcome to attend. Thanks to Joan and Vern for offering to host the meeting!

Where Did the Water Go?

The construction equipment has moved out of the hangar area and the dust is settling. A big thank you to Salem Airport and the City of Salem for working with us to develop and execute a plan to resolve the drainage problems around the hangars, aprons, and taxiways. Significant investments have been made to properly address the water issues around the hangars.



You'll notice that several new drain boxes have been installed on the south side of the hangars along the taxiway and that our gutter drain lines now connect to the airport drainage system.



Please take extra care to protect the downspouts and drains when opening and closing the doors. **DO NOT LET THE DOORS CONTACT THE DOWNSPOUTS.** We are working to add stops to keep the doors from striking the downspouts, but they are not in place yet.

The construction areas have been reseeded with new grass. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE DIRT AREAS** as we let the new grass grow.

Dinner with the Tower

Isaac Mosgrove



Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Dinner with the Tower on March 21st at Lum-Yuen Restaurant. We had a great turn-out and a fun time talking with Don Conrad from the Salem Tower. Don started as a controller in the military and eventually found his way to Salem. Don was engaging, energetic, and funny as we had an open discussion with lots of great questions (and laughter).

The tower didn't have any significant issues to discuss, and they thanked Valley Flyers for how our

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members work to be conscientious and considerate on the radios and in our interactions with ATC. And Valley Flyers greatly appreciates how easy the tower is to work with and their patience as many of our members get comfortable interacting with ATC. Don noted that there will be some new controllers joining KSLE as they get back to being fully staffed.

The tower is now open for tours! If you'd like to arrange a tour, just call, and schedule a time (it will be during a time when they have two controllers on duty). Also, if you ever have any questions or concerns, feel free to call the tower. They are here to help keep us safe.

April Flyout: Olympic Flight Museum, Olympia, Washington

Mikel Wynn

With Todd and Simon both out of town for a good chunk of April, there weren't any solidified plans for a fly-out for the month until a few of us in the club decided to put one together ourselves. We initially had plans to do a run up to Chehalis on the 22nd to get a bite to eat at the Riverside Golf Club & Bistro adjacent to the airport there. However, weather typical of April forced us to scrap for that day and we subsequently rescheduled for the 29th, the last Saturday of the month. Sadly, one of us couldn't make it for the 29th, so the turnout ended up being small, with only two club planes heading out: Jon Eggert and his passenger Chaz Matteson (a private pilot with an Instrument rating not part of our club, but an excellent traffic spotter according to Jon!) took up N5174E and I flew solo in N1636H.



The morning of the 29th (and the week leading up to it) was perfect weather! Again, how typical for the month of April... We got together at the club hangars and decided what our final plans would be. Rather than go up to Chehalis just for the \$100 burger run, we elected to go a bit further north by heading up to Olympia, Washington instead; a fly-out from one state capital city to another, if you will! I got airborne in 36H just a little bit before 10 AM and Jon and Chaz got up in 74E soon after and we both picked up VFR Flight Following all the way to Olympia. We both enjoyed pretty good tailwinds on the way up (yes, we knew we'd pay for that later heading back!). Following an uneventful flight and landing at KOLM, we both taxied over to the north transient parking tie-downs, and we were met by a lineman from the Glacier Aviation FBO, who kindly fueled our planes in preparation for the eventual return flight home.



After settling up with the FBO, we walked over to the Olympic Flight Museum located on the airport grounds to check out some of the things they have on display there; their collection included an airworthy P-51D Mustang as well as what's likely the last airworthy example of the Kaman HH-43 Huskie, a unique helicopter design known for its use of twin intermeshing rotors, a complicated engineering design for sure! It was an enjoyable time, and we were even invited to come back for the air show the museum would be hosting on Father's Day weekend! Once we were done with the museum, we worked up enough of an appetite and we walked up Capital Blvd SE (which runs alongside the northeastern perimeter of the airport) to Red Wagon Burgers, a local burger joint with just a handful of locations in Washington. After an enjoyable lunch, we walked back to the FBO and pre-flighted the planes for the

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return flight home to Salem, which again would be uneventful aside from the headwinds we knew we'd deal with.



Even with a small turnout, we were glad to put this fly-out together and had an enjoyable time. Jon and I agreed this was a successful outing.

PIREP: 2022 Great Oregon Homebuilt Fly-in Recap

Mikel Wynn

My uncle Alan and I flew down to Cottage Grove (61S) in N1636H to attend the 2022 Great Oregon Homebuilt Fly-in hosted by the Oregon Aviation Historical Society (OAHS), which took place on September 3rd. Honestly, there wasn't much to write home about during this event other than taking the opportunity to admire some of the homebuilt/experimental airplanes, especially the handfuls of Van's RVs that managed to make it in. Like in 2021, the turnout was small thanks to elements from Mother Nature that likely deterred many pilots from making the trip out to Cottage Grove; this time, it was MVFR conditions from some rainy weather that drenched the valley during the morning hours, whereas 2021 was due to wildfire smoke.

In spite of the elements, we were able to make it in. Upon landing and securing the airplane, we walked over to the museum apron and proceeded to take in the sites. Like the previous year, the museum had their collection of aircraft on display, along with some of the fly-in visitors. My uncle was especially interested in Van's Aircraft's line-up of RV family of airplanes, so he spent some time around their prototype RV-14 with a company representative,

asking questions and making inquiries. After looking at the museum and fly-in displays, we walked off-airport and got a quick bite to eat for lunch before heading back to the airplane, where we took on fuel and made the uneventful trip back home to Salem.



While there wasn't much in the way of highlights for this event that I haven't already covered in a previous newsletter submission covering the 2021 fly-in, the flight to and from Cottage Grove with my uncle brought back a fond memory. Right before I left home to continue pursuing a higher education and begin my flight training back in 2016, my uncle invited me to go flying with him for a breakfast outing to Cottage Grove in N5174E back when he owned it. While there, we discovered the Oregon Aviation Historical Society and had a chance to check out the museum. And here we were six years later in a bit of full-circle moment; I have my pilots certificate and I was taking the opportunity to take my uncle flying in N1636H to Cottage Grove and back for a little aviation event outing. The fly-in wasn't anything special, but sharing the trip with my uncle Alan certainly was.



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Since attending this fly-in in 2022, I've taken the liberty and looked ahead to see what other events the OAHS will be holding for 2023 and as it turns out, they do several events during the summer season on an annual basis that I wasn't previously aware of. To start off, they will be holding the Wings & Wheels Fly-in & Car Show on Saturday, June 24, 2023. Then on Saturday, August 5, 2023, the 45th Annual Jim Wright Memorial Stearman Fly-in will take place to honor the airport's namesake. And of course, the Great Oregon Homebuilt Fly-In will take place again on Saturday, September 2, 2023, making this year the fifth year the museum holds this event. Considering that Cottage Grove is a fairly simple cross-country destination from Salem, I encourage you to support the OAHS and attend these events (any of these events would also make for a simple club fly-out!)

Upcoming Aviation Events in the PNW for 2023

Mikel Wynn

It's that time of the year again! May officially kicks off air show and fly-in season here in the Pacific Northwest with the Oregon International Air Show; again, they'll be putting on TWO shows this year at both Hillsboro and McMinnville and even more appropriately, they seem to be opening and then closing out the season in the region! I'll personally be looking forward to going out to quite a few of these events listed below in BOLD, with plans to fly myself out to Olympia, Cottage Grove on three separate occasions, Madras, and Hood River.

It is somewhat surprising to note that the B-17 Alliance Foundation right here in Salem doesn't have their usual major fly-in event announced if there is one at all; while they've hinted at bringing their major fly-in fundraiser event back by 2023, there hasn't been any official word. We do know that this has been the case since the pandemic, but do keep an eye on their website and social media platforms for any word of events they put on that may be worth supporting.

Otherwise, here's the list of all the air shows and fly-ins taking place this summer in the PNW:

May

19th-21st: Oregon International Air Show - Hillsboro, OR

June

17th-18th: Moses Lake Air Show - Moses Lake, WA

17th-18th: Olympic Air Show - Olympia, WA

24th: Wings & Wheels - Cottage Grove, OR

July

7th-8th: Wallowa County Fly-in - Joseph, OR

15th-16th: JBLM Airshow & Warrior Expo - Tacoma, WA

August

5th: 45th Annual Jim Wright Memorial Stearman Fly-in - Cottage Grove, OR

19th-20th: EAA 292 Fly-in/STOL competition - Independence, OR

24th-25th: Air Show of the Cascades – Madras, OR

September

2nd: The Great Oregon Homebuilt Fly-in - Cottage Grove, OR

9th-10th: Hood River (WAAAM) Fly-in - Hood River, OR

30th-October 1st: Oregon International Air Show - McMinnville, OR

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.

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