



Valley Flyers

"Just Plane Fun!"

885 Lancaster Dr SE
Salem, OR 97317

June 2023



Fuel surcharges update: good news!



The price of 100LL at Salem has just decreased so we are able to **eliminate** the fuel surcharge for June!

Strawberry Shortcake Summer BBQ



We have planned our annual Strawberry Shortcake and BBQ event for **Saturday, June 17th**, weather permitting! Please bring your choice of meat for your family and a salad or main dish to share in the potluck. The club will provide beverages and strawberry shortcake for everyone.

We'll start the event at 12pm, with the grilling starting at 1pm. Bring your family and friends to enjoy an afternoon at the hangars! We'll also invite the Tower so we can get a chance to visit with some of our controllers.

This event is BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair). It would be helpful – but isn't required – to RSVP to Isaac Mosgrove so that we can plan enough beverages and strawberry shortcake.

Keep an eye on your emails in case the schedule changes!

Upcoming Special Member Meeting

Rus McCracken and Alan Wynn have been working diligently with the Board to prepare our application for tax exemption. In going through the process, a few changes have been identified that are desired for our Bylaws and for the Membership Flight Rules. A special member meeting will be called to review the proposed changes. A vote will be made by the members to approve the changes to the Bylaws.

Please watch your email for a notification of the date and time of the special meeting. As per the Bylaws, a copy of the proposed changes will be sent to members at least ten days prior to the meeting.

June flyout: Cottage Grove

Todd Lindley



We didn't have an organized flyout in May, however on June 24th we'll fly to Cottage Grove (61S) to attend the ninth annual Wings & Wheels event. We plan to leave Salem at 9am; the event starts at 10am.

Do you know of a plane for sale?

Isaac Mosgrove



We continue to have a growing waitlist of eager aviators wanting to join Valley Flyers. We've

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moderated the rate at which we add new members to ensure that we balance aircraft utilization with aircraft availability for current members. We are now starting to investigate potentially adding another aircraft to our fleet.

Historically, we've had the best luck when members know someone who has a plane that they may not know they want to sell. We've been able to create agreements that are a win-win for the club and for the seller.

So, we are throwing this out there. Do you know of someone who has an airplane that they may be interested in selling? Ideally, we want something that has a low-time airframe, mid-time engine, old avionics, low operating and maintenance costs, and is an airframe that still has good parts availability. Sorry, but no tail draggers or complex aircraft. Given our current aircraft utilization, it would likely be something under 200HP.

Member achievements

Congratulations to Annie Tupek on her first solo! CFI Alan Lasneski.

Congratulations also go to Brett Hilt, who passed his private pilot checkride with DPE Lisa Dahl. CFII Anthony Obendorf.

PIREP: 2022 Reno Air Races Recap Part 1 - Saturday's Events

Mikel Wynn



I drove with my parents down to Reno, Nevada to attend the 2022 National Championship Air Races. I know the club had plans to do a multi-day fly-out around this event, which unfortunately fell through

for those who had airplanes reserved and I could see why once we arrived in downtown Reno: Wildfire smoke. It was some of the worst smoke I've seen with all the nearby wildfires burning throughout Nevada and California. That and the associated TFRs surrounding the area, it would've been challenging to do a club fly-out (my uncle Alan flew commercially into Reno via San Francisco, and he said it was socked in IFR right down to minimums as his flight landed). In spite of the wildfire smoke, I managed to make it out to the races on September 17th & 18th, the two main days of the event (I'll cover what happened on the 18th day in Part 2). Right away though, I could tell the schedule of events throughout the week had already gone completely to hell due to the challenging conditions posed by all the wildfire smoke; basically many qualifier heat races cancelled early on in the week and race organizers were scrambling to fit in as many races as possible to make up for the days lost to wildfire smoke. Overall, the organizers did a good job before the smoke became too thick towards the end of the day's events.



For Saturday's events, I focused on seeing what races I could, the static displays as well as some of the air show demonstrations that took place. Throughout most of the day's events, the schedule was filled with air racing from all the classes and the smoke from the wildfires appeared to be clearing out. However, by mid-afternoon, a shift in the winds blew the smoke back into the vicinity of Reno-Stead Airport and a few more races ended up getting cancelled. Thankfully, some air show demonstrations were able to go on and actually close out the day's events, so it wasn't a total loss for the spectators. For me personally, the highlight of the day's events was some of the air show performances. The air show portion of the 2022 air races were co-headlined by

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the United States Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet West Coast Rhino Demo Team (flown by Lieutenants Ryan "Jeeves" Thurman and Evan "Tommy Boy" Bokhart from Strike Fighter Squadron 122 out of NAS Lemoore, CA) as well as the United States Air Force F-22 Raptor Demo Team (flown by Major Joshua "Cabo" Gunderson), both of which closed out the flying demonstrations for the day's events; seeing these two demo teams in Reno meant I got to see all four single-ship demo teams from the United States Air Force as well as both the east and west coast F/A-18 Super Hornet demo teams for the 2022 air show season, a feat that I never expected accomplish during any given air show season! The F-22 Raptor Demo concluded with an Air Force Heritage Flight with a P-51D Mustang, flown by Steven Hinton Jr., seven-time air race champion of the Unlimited Class; Hinton made his debut with the Air Force Heritage Flight Foundation in 2022 after his father Steve Hinton flew his last Heritage Flight Formation at the opening ceremonies of Super Bowl LVI on February 13, 2022.



We were also treated to an impromptu demonstration by the United States Coast Guard and their MH-65 Dolphin, complete with the deployment of a rescue swimmer! I always find it a treat to see any kind of demo from the Coast Guard, especially at landlocked or inland air show venues considering that they typically operate with very-limited resources and assets. Overall, I had a good time for Saturday's events at the 2022 Reno Air Races. After the flying concluded, I spent some time around the static displays to wait for the crowds to thin out. Among the displays was the F/A-18F Super Hornet used in the filming of Top Gun: Maverick, which came out earlier in the year after two years of delay!

Needless to say, I along with everyone else who saw this specially painted Super Hornet were starstruck!



As you may no doubt be aware by now, the Reno Air Race Association (RARA) announced this past March that 2023 will sadly be the final year where air racing takes place at Reno-Stead. That means until they find a new venue to possibly continue pylon air racing, the Reno Air Races will be dead after this year. If you haven't been before or you've been a long-time fan, this year will likely be your last opportunity! **The 2023 Reno Air Races, dubbed "Last Season at Stead, Final Checkered Flag," will take place September 13-17.**

New member intro: Grant Feetham

Grant Feetham

Born and raised in Salem, Oregon, I grew up wanting to become a firefighter. After high school I became a volunteer firefighter while going through college and becoming a paramedic. In 2020 I completed an accelerated pilot training program, earning my CFI, CFII and MEI ratings. I was briefly a member here prior to moving to Washington and instructing there for a time. Once I have met ATP minimums, I will be flying for Horizon Airlines, with the goal of starting there this fall. When I'm not flying to complete my ATP minimums my wife and I stay busy at home with our 8-month-old daughter and dog.

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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