



# Valley Flyers

“Just Plane Fun!”

885 Lancaster Dr SE  
Salem, OR 97317

March 2024



## New airport gate codes



The airport updated the gate codes on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If you have received your security badge, then you should have received an email from the airport with the new gate code. If you did not receive the email, then please contact the airport’s Credentialing Program

Coordinator (Micah Aldridge).

**If you have not applied for your badge, you no longer have access to the airport.** Members are not allowed to provide the gate codes to those who do not have a badge.

## Application for tax exemption submitted

Isaac Mosgrove



We have submitted our application for tax-exemption to the IRS! A huge thanks to Rus McCracken and Alan Wynn for leading the effort to become a tax-exempt 501(c)(7) social club. They spent time researching, contemplating, and consulting with AOPA to make sure that our application was complete and thorough so that we have our best chance of being approved. Their guidance drove the refinements to our Bylaws and Membership Flight Rules so that it is clear that we meet the latest IRS rules.

The Board has viewed our long-held goal of becoming tax-exempt as key to keeping our costs low as we prepare to purchase the hangars and future engine replacements and aircraft upgrades. The IRS recognizes the importance of social clubs, and the Board believes our club meets the requirements to be tax-exempt.

I wanted to share Rus’s introduction paragraph that leads into the club activities section of the application:

*Blue Sky Pilots, Inc. provides an opportunity and venue for club members to experience the pleasure of general aviation flying, education, and advocacy while making social connections. Membership in the club is open to pilots and those interested in pursuing general aviation. The operation and overall design of the club is to provide significant opportunities for membership interaction encouraging social gathering, sharing of aviation experiences, and camaraderie. Additionally, the club offers opportunities for members to improve their aviation skills.*

## Hangar door updates

The installation of the new hangar doors for N515ED is nearly complete!



The remaining hangar doors will be upgraded as funds allow. We are also now ready to disassemble the last old wooden door from N5174E’s hangar. Please contact Isaac if you are available to lead a

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team to disassemble the door and dispose of the material (including recycling the metal). It would be great if someone were interested in salvaging the wood.

## Fuel surcharge update



The price of 100LL at Salem has remained at \$7.15/gal, which is above the updated budgeted threshold for adding the fuel surcharge. The fuel surcharges for March will continue to be:

Skyhawks/Cherokee: \$3.14/hr  
 Skylane: \$4.81/hr

## Club flyouts: March-May

*Simon Hayes*

Our February flyout to Tillamook was rained (and winded, and clouded) off. For March, we're going to stick with our plan to fly to Yakima, WA. We're hoping that Cubcrafters will be able to give us a tour of their factory; they don't usually do that on the weekends and we're waiting to hear if they can accommodate us. We'll let you know as soon as we can.

Here are the dates and destinations for the next three months:

Date	Destination	Airport
3/16/2024	Yakima	KYKM
4/20/2024	Siletz Bay	S45
5/18/2024	Chiloquin	2S7

Please contact Simon Hayes or Jon Eggert if you have questions, suggestions, or comments about the flyouts.

## Dinner with the Tower – Apr. 17



We are excited to have dinner with the Salem Tower again this year. One of the Salem ATC controllers will be joining us on April 17th for dinner at 6:00 pm. The dinner location will be announced in the April newsletter.

This is a fantastic opportunity to continue to strengthen our relationship with the tower, to learn how we can work better with the tower, and to make sure we are doing what they want to make the airspace a friendly and safe place. The tower is looking forward to meeting the many people that they talk with on the radio!

This is highly recommended for everyone. Please plan to RSVP to Isaac so he can estimate the seats needed.

## Member achievements

Congratulations to Holly Benson, who passed her instrument checkride with DPE Jordan Bartell at Hillsboro. CFII Mindy Fisher.



Congratulations also go to Jackson Gilmore, who passed his CFI checkride with DPE Lisa Dahl. He trained at Wiseman Aviation in Flagstaff, AZ, with CFI Fred Gibbs.

## Reminder: club currency requirements

*Simon Hayes*

Finally, the weather is getting better, and daylight savings time starts this month. Both those things make it easier to fly, which is great news for everyone.

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Some members might have reduced or paused their flying over winter, and if that includes you, please think about your currency and proficiency before your next flight.

In addition to the FAA's currency requirements, the club also has insurance requirements that we all need to follow. Please take a moment to refresh yourself on the Currency section of the [Membership Flight Rules](#). The key items are:

- Every 12 months, a club flight review with a club instructor
- Every 90 days, act as PIC of an aircraft
- Every 90 days, complete three landings in category and class

Please also remember that current isn't the same as proficient, and if you have any questions or concerns about operating the club aircraft safely, any club instructor can help you with checkouts or refresher flights.

## Lightspeed headsets tip

*Simon Hayes*

We've heard from multiple members with Lightspeed headsets that they've had audio issues in some of the club aircraft. Things like the sound breaking up, or hearing nothing at all. Lightspeed helpfully offered the club some spacers to adjust how the headset plugs fit into the aircraft sockets, although that doesn't always seem to help.

If you've experienced this issue, you can also try setting your headset from mono – which is the factory default setting – to stereo. That has resolved the issues for at least some members. All the club aircraft have stereo audio panels so there shouldn't be any issue with moving between them.

Check your user's manual for instructions on how to switch from mono to stereo; it's most likely a DIP switch inside the battery holder.

## PIREP: Swell café at Siletz Bay

*Corey Benson*

I went to a new cafe called [Swell](#) this weekend near the Siletz Bay airport (S45) [*which is our flyout destination in April -Ed.*]. It was just a 10-minute

walk north of the airport off Gleneden Beach Loop. The staff and food were really great! Even better, it's open in the morning and lunch on the weekends (unlike the other food options available). If anyone is looking for a weekend brunch spot by the beach, I would recommend this place.

## PIREP: 2024 Buckeye Air Fair & AOPA

### Fly-in Recap

*Mikel Wynn*

From February 15 to the 19th, I took time off work and flew commercial down to Mesa, Arizona to visit my dad and sister, who were down there and check out the place the home where my parents will eventually relocate to as part of their retirement. This trip also coincided with the 2024 Buckeye Air Fair & AOPA Fly-in, which took place February 16-18 at the Buckeye Municipal Airport (KBXK/BXK) just west of the Phoenix-area. This trip allowed me to get an unexpected, yet welcome early start to my 2024 air show season!



Once I knew I was going to be in the Phoenix-area for sure and as a current member of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA), I RSVP'd for the fly-in event via the AOPA website (more on that later!). A little background on this event: the Buckeye Air Fair started out as a simple fly-in pancake breakfast and airport open-house-style event in the early 2000s. Over the years, the event evolved into a convention-style aircraft display where aircraft manufacturers and aviation companies bring and show off their products; the occasional military fly-over was added during some years as well, pending availability. Then, in 2023, full air show performances were added to the event for the first

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time; according to AOPA, over 500 aircraft flew in, and more than 30,000 spectators participated for the 2023 Buckeye Air Fair & AOPA Fly-in. For 2024, the turnout was forecasted to be bigger than last year and based on what I saw and experienced, I think it's safe to say this was another successful year for AOPA and the city of Buckeye.

The performer line-up for the 2024 Buckeye Air Fair included Jon Melby in his Pitts Super Stinker, Nathan Hammond of GhostWriter Airshows in his de Havilland Canada Super Chipmunk, Karl Gashler and Barry Hancock of Red Thunder Airshows in their two Yak-50s, Leland Kracher and Tom Braymer of the NextGen Eagles Aerobatic Team in their two Christen Eagle IIs, Kyle Franklin of Franklin's Flying Circus and his Piper Super Cub (which included a hilarious comedy act and deadstick landing demonstration!), the Aerial Extreme Skydiving Team, and the Desert Rats Warbird Formation Team and their four Nanchang CJ-6s. This year also marked the first time this air show got a military performer as part of the line-up, with the United States Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II Demo Team headlining the event; the demo concluded with the United States Air Force Heritage Flight, with Steve Hinton Jr. flying in his father's P-51D Mustang.



Considering that the A-10 Demo Team is based out of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base just a few hours down the road in Tucson, Arizona, it seemed quite appropriate for the team to start their show season in their home state! I was quite excited for the line-up because many of the aforementioned performers are ones I've never seen before. Most notably, this air show served as the debut venue for the NextGen Eagles, which carries on a long-standing air show legacy showcasing the Christen Eagle as an

aerobatics platform started by the Eagles Aerobatic Team (1979-1995) and the Iron Eagle Aerobatic Team (1992-2014). And performer Jon Melby is worth mentioning here because being based in Chandler, Arizona, he was with the Buckeye Air Fair from its early days and played a crucial role in helping evolve this event into what it has become today.



One other new element to the 2024 Buckeye Air Fair was the addition of a twilight air show, which took place on Saturday, February 17th. I chose to go out to Buckeye on Saturday and Sunday; I went on Saturday to check out the displays, visit the vendors and exhibitions and even attend a few AOPA seminars, but passed on the twilight air show because I knew photography would be a challenge for me. Plus, there was no daytime air show on Saturday, and it would've made for an extremely long day. I also wanted to spend time in Mesa with my dad and sister while I was in town, so I was happy to go back out the following Sunday morning to attend the regular daytime air show, which as expected was a fantastic start to my 2024 air show season!



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One other thing I loved about this air show was the perks of AOPA membership! Because I RSVP'd (at no additional cost!), I had access to the VIP chalet for AOPA members, which included unlimited snacks and ice-cold drinks. Watching the air show from the comfort of the shaded tent was possible as well. I even learned that AOPA members can bring in one non-member guest into the VIP chalet as well, something to keep in mind for next year! AOPA also had a lot of nice swag that members could take home.



Overall, the Buckeye Air Fair & AOPA Fly-in was an incredible event and made for a remarkable February weekend. More importantly, I am proud to be a member of AOPA because of this event! Plus, I will have an excuse to come back for subsequent events now that my parents will eventually relocate to the Phoenix/Mesa area to spend their retirement years. Arizona has really grown on me on this recent trip of mine, and I hope you all might consider checking out the Buckeye Air Fair next year, especially if you hold an AOPA membership!

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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