



# Valley Flyers

"Just Plane Fun!"

885 Lancaster Dr SE  
Salem, OR 97317

April 2024



## We bought the hangars!



We have exercised the option to purchase the hangars! Escrow has closed and we now have a monthly mortgage payment. Although the mortgage is for five years, our goal is to pay off the loan as early as possible. We are currently working with the City of Salem on the Assignment of Lease to transfer the property lease agreement to the club.

## 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

## Fuel prices can be lower elsewhere



The price of 100LL at Salem has remained significantly higher than many other local airports.

Here are some examples

of local prices:

Salem: \$7.15/gal  
Lebanon: \$5.75/gal  
Twin Oaks: \$5.90/gal  
Mulino: \$6.19/gal  
Albany: \$6.39/gal  
Independence: \$6.60/gal

Fueling up at one of the alternate airports can save between \$4/hr and \$18/hr! We can use those savings to keep our rates low.

You can use [www.airnav.com](http://www.airnav.com), Garmin Pilot, Foreflight, or other tools to check current local fuel prices (some airports are *more* expensive than KSLE). Thank you for helping to keep our costs down!

## Dinner with the Tower – April 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 17<sup>th</sup> for dinner at 6:00 pm at La Margarita Express ([515 Chemeketa St. NE](#)).

This is a great 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

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503.866.2396	971.208.2542	847.345.5258	864.508.2605	928.821.0028	970.219.0661	256.652.1554	425.681.9994

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.

## March club flyout: Yakima

*Simon Hayes*

On March 16th we took three club aircraft to Yakima, WA. Our original plan was to visit CubCrafters and get some lunch at the restaurant on the airport. Unfortunately, neither of those things happened but we still had a fun time!



The weather was perfect all day, with clear blue skies and not much wind, although there was a little light turbulence in places over the Gorge. Two aircraft went VFR; I filed IFR and ATC routed us over PDX and well off the direct route to KYKM.

We had hoped to have a tour of the CubCrafters factory; however, they don't usually do weekend

tours and they weren't able to accommodate us. We went around the local airport museum instead, the [McAllister Museum of Aviation](#), which is right beside the CubCrafters factory. The museum has a variety of aircraft, engines, and displays about specific pilots and episodes in aviation history. Our guide also took us back out onto the ramp to point out some of the CubCrafters factory aircraft sitting there, in various stages of readiness to fly.



When it came to lunchtime, we discovered that the airport restaurant, [Reno's on the Runway](#), is closed at weekends because they have an active catering business that takes priority. Clearly, I need to do more research on food options for future flyouts! We did get some snacks at the museum before returning to Salem.



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## Club flyouts: April-June

*Simon Hayes*

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

Date	Destination	Airport
4/20/2024	Siletz Bay	S45
5/18/2024	Chiloquin	2S7
6/15/2024	Sunriver	S21

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

## New club CFI: Jackson Gilmore

Congratulations to Jackson Gilmore on passing his CFI checkride with DPE Lisa Dahl! You can read Jackson's new member introduction in [the April 2024 newsletter](#), and he says:

"Hello Valley Flyers, I recently joined the approved CFI list and couldn't be more excited to help fellow club members. I have been with Valley Flyers for a year and a half. I did my Private, Instrument, and Commercial in the Willamette Valley. I completed my CFI in Flagstaff, Arizona, this past winter. I am a full-time CFI in the Valley and have a flexible schedule to accommodate your work schedule. Please contact me if I can help with a club review or flight currency. I look forward to flying with you all."

## New member intro: Vitali Yakavenka

*Vitali Yakavenka*

I grew up in Belarus at the time of the USSR collapse. I got my aviation bug when I was around 10 years old and joined an airplane modeling program. 20 years later and now in the USA I continued that hobby into RC airplanes. Flying RC airplanes and in PC games I never seriously thought of flying myself for real, it was always a distant dream. Until recently I realized that now would be a perfect time to do it.

I got PPL in July of 2023. I Started training in Albany, where I live, and finished in Independence. I don't have plans for an aviation career or some kind of missions that would require flying, I just love the process! I hope to get an instrument rating at some point... And maybe try thermal soaring for real.

During business hours I'm a software engineer at Kroger. On weekends you can sometimes find me in the woods on off-road or trials motorcycles.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all.



## New member intro: Jeff Thomas

*Jeff Thomas*

Jeff Thomas was born and raised near Portland, Oregon and has had a long-time interest in general aviation. Having friends who fly and included him in flights in Oregon and California only grew his interest and desire to earn his private pilot's license. Jeff is married with two adult children and enjoys a career in investigative work with the federal government. Jeff has joined the club as a student pilot and is very

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excited to begin his adventure in general aviation with the Valley Flyers.

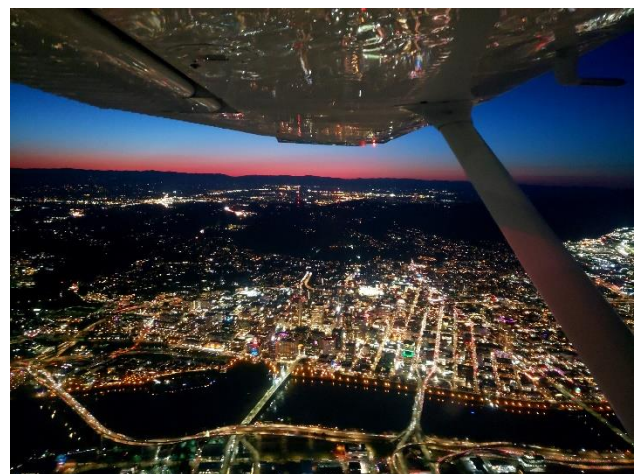
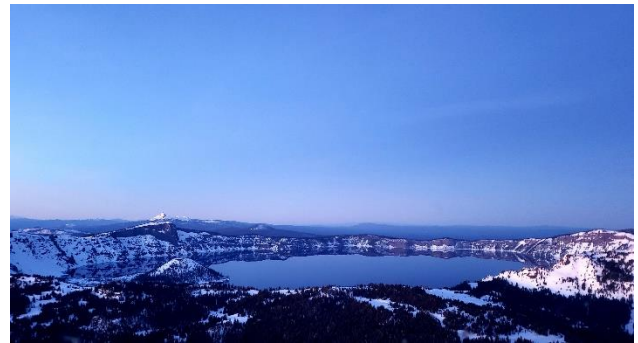
**New member intro: Lucas Allen**

*Lucas Allen*

I'm Lucas, I moved here to Salem to start with Garmin at the end of July after graduating from University of Colorado Boulder, but I grew up in Massachusetts. I started working toward my PPL in summer of 2022, building up around 55 hours, and completed all my requirements but moved out here before I was able to schedule my checkride. I'm looking forward to finishing my PPL and hope to continue with instrument flying as well as checking out the beautiful Pacific Northwest! I'm also an avid flight simulation enthusiast and enjoy hiking!



Ben Simpson took these pictures of Crater Lake and Portland. He also flew to Port Blanco, where he was able to hike directly from the airport.



**Member photos**

Todd Lindley shared this picture of sunset on the ramp at San Jose International (KSJC).

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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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