



Valley Flyers

"Just Plane Fun!"

885 Lancaster Dr SE
Salem, OR 97317

June 2025



Strawberry Shortcake Summer BBQ – June 28



We have planned our annual Strawberry Shortcake and BBQ event for **Saturday, June 28th**, 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!

Best Tugs is online!



Our Best Tugs B4 tug is now online and ready for members to use! While this is an incredibly nice tug,

it must be used with extreme care to prevent damage to the aircraft or injury to members.

Hands-on training with an approved instructor is required before a member is authorized to use the tug. Once a member is checked out to use the tug, their Flight Circle account will be updated and they will receive the code to the padlock that secures the tug (yes, it is a different code than the doors). A key to turn on the tug is attached to each C172 keyring.

The intent is for the Best Tugs tug to be used with the C172s on the north side of the hangars while the blue tug will be relocated and used with N70574.

A big thank you to Holly Benson and Chris Eriksson for putting together the training materials and user's guide.

Club flyouts: June-August

Simon Hayes



Our May flight to Seaside was cancelled due to weather. Here are the dates and destinations for the next three months:

Date	Destination	Airport
06/21/2025	Westport, WA	14S
07/19/2025	Madras	S33
08/02/2025	Orcas	KORS

Note that the Orcas flight in August is intended to coincide with the annual EAA fly-in there (see [this 2023 article](#) for more information). In the past, we've

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flown in and camped under the wing for a night or two. It looks like this year's event isn't confirmed yet, but Orcas is still a great destination even without the fly-in!

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

Member achievements

Congratulations to Dan Kirkpatrick on passing his CFII checkride with DPE Lee Shuster! CFII Jackson Gilmore.

N1636H Avionics Upgrade



N1636H is currently in the shop for its long-anticipated avionics upgrade! We are excited to share the details of the upgraded avionics and other improvements in next month's newsletter.

Flight Circle: Hobbs time discrepancies

Simon Hayes

When you check in an aircraft in Flight Circle, you might occasionally notice that the starting Hobbs time you recorded before your flight is different from the one shown in Flight Circle. This can happen due to maintenance or a previous member entering the wrong number.

If it does happen, just enter the correct starting Hobbs time when you check in. As long as the start

and end times are correct for your flight, you will be billed correctly. Note that you cannot change the starting Hobbs time when you dispatch the aircraft; you can only change it when you check it in.

Please check in the aircraft promptly after flying to avoid billing issues for the next member.

KSLE Fuel Discount



Salem Aviation Fueling has graciously offered a fuel reimbursement for Valley. Each month, the club will submit a report to Salem Aviation Fueling that summarizes our fuel purchases for each airplane. Salem Aviation Fueling will then provide a reimbursement check to the Club to help reduce our fuel costs.

What you need to do:

- **When purchasing fuel at KSLE:** Enter the full Aircraft Tail number in the pumps when you purchase fuel at KSLE (e.g., 5174E, 70574).
- **When checking your flight into Flight Circle:**
 - Enter each fuel expense separately and upload an image of each fuel slip. Flight Circle allows you to enter multiple fuel reimbursements for each flight. If you purchased fuel at multiple locations, please do not mix KSLE fuel reimbursements with those from other airports.
 - Enter KSLE as the fueling location for each fuel purchase made at Salem.

Thank you in advance for helping make sure your fuel reimbursements are entered correctly in Flight Circle. This will help us efficiently provide complete and accurate reports to Salem Aviation Fueling.

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Upcoming 2025 PNW Air Shows and Aviation Events

Mikel Wynn

While air shows have been going on for a few months now in the southern half of the U.S., the month of May marked the official start of the 2025 air show season for the Pacific Northwest region! As usual, we are quite fortunate to be within driving and flying distance of so many venues and events within a 4–5-month timespan. Many of these events are fly-in friendly and make for great daytime outings in the club airplanes (I know I'll be looking forward to flying myself out to many of these events because I can vouch for them based on past experiences!).

For your reference, here are the dates of all upcoming major air shows and aviation events taking place in the PNW region:

June

7th: Yakima Aviation Day Fly-in - Yakima, WA
14th-15th: Olympic Air Show - Olympia, WA
20th-21st: Moses Lake Air Show - Moses Lake, WA
28th: Wings & Wheels Fly-in & Car Show - Cottage Grove, OR
28th: Skagit Skies Air Show & Aviation Festival - Burlington, WA

July

11th-12th: Wallowa County Fly-in - Joseph, OR
12th-13th: Bremerton Air Show - Bremerton, WA
19th-20th: Sentry Eagle/Wings & Eagles Air Show - Klamath Falls, OR
25th-27th: Tri-City Water Follies Air Show - Kennewick/Pasco, WA

August

2nd: Jim Wright Memorial Fly-in - Cottage Grove, OR
2nd-3rd: Boeing Seafair Air Show - Seattle, WA
8th-10: Abbotsford International Airshow - Abbotsford, BC (Canada)
15th-17th: Arlington SkyFest - Arlington, WA
16th-17th: EAA 292 Fly-in/STOL Wars - Independence, OR
22nd-23rd: AirShow of the Cascades - Madras, OR

September

6th-7th: Hood River (WAAAM) Fly-in - Hood River, OR
26th-28th: Oregon International Air Show - McMinnville, OR

As always, be sure to check NOTAMs and be mindful of any TFRs and airspace constraints when flying in the vicinity of airports where major events are scheduled. Plan your flights accordingly if/when flying into or near air show sites on the day of! And most importantly, fly safe; be aware of your surroundings and maintain good situational awareness when flying to/from any show/event sites as the airspace will likely be crowded with likeminded pilots and their aircraft!

PIREP: 2024 Bremerton Air Show Recap

Mikel Wynn

On August 17th, 2024, I flew N70574 from Salem to Bremerton National Airport (KPWT/PWT) in Washington to attend the Bremerton Air Show, another new air show venue for me. This occasion was my first time flying our Skylane since it got the new paintjob! And once again, like my prior air show trip flying up to Washington for the 2024 season, this trip to Bremerton ended up being an adventure-and-a-half (more on that later!).



As it turns out, the Bremerton Air Show is a fairly new venue, with 2024 only being the second year in a row the show took place at PWT. The original event, however, traces its roots back to what was then known as the Gig Harbor Wings & Wheels Air Show that took place at Tacoma Narrows Airport (KTIW/TIW), which ran from 2010 until 2021, with

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2020 being the exception due to repercussions from the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the Gig Harbor Wings & Wheels event was permanently cancelled in 2022 due to disputes between event organizers, Pierce County officials, and airport businesses, with the latter having pulled support for the event completely (including the FBOs at TIW). Based on what I read from old articles, it was a rather ugly dispute. But from what I could gather based on continuity of the current show's social media profiles, the same organizers behind the former Wings & Wheels event relocated and rebranded into what we now know today as the Bremerton Air Show.

Like with a lot of smaller air show venues, the Bremerton Air Show is General Aviation-friendly and had options/opportunities to fly in (though, it could've been a little better organized). After landing in PWT and finding a place to park and tie down the Skylane, I was able to walk onto the venue grounds and got to enjoy the unique aircraft that were on display; we were even allowed to walk onto to the hot ramp before it actually went "hot" to get up close to the performer aircraft!



Civilian performers for the 2024 Bremerton Air Show included Stephen "Christo" Christopher and Todd "Woody" Rudberg of Undaunted AirShows and their Van's RVs, various warbirds and vintage General Aviation aircraft from the EAA Cascade Warbird Squadron, the Erickson Aircraft Collection and their Grumman J2F-6 Duck (which is a rare sight in itself!), Republic P-47D Thunderbolt, Curtiss P-40E Kittyhawk, and their Messerschmitt Bf-109, as well as two P-51D Mustangs flown by Dan Vance and Roger Collins. This air show also served as the debut

venue for one of America's newest air show performers: Cascade Warbird Squadron's very-own John "Drew" Blase, a former Air Force pilot and current-pilot for a major cargo airline who performed basic aerobatics with a hard-deck restriction of 800 feet AGL in his Italian-built SIAI-Marchetti SF.260, another rare aircraft type for the air show circuit! Blase plans to get cleared into lower hard-deck altitudes as he gains experience flying at air shows. It's certainly not every day during an air show season we get to see a brand-new performer fly their first performance, so it was certainly a treat to witness this "first" for both air show venue and performer!



The 2024 Bremerton Air Show also had military performers as well, including the United States Special Operations Command Parachute Team, otherwise known as the U.S. SOCOM Para-commandos. And last, but certainly not least, this air show was double-headlined by the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) CF-18 Hornet Demonstration Team AND the United States Navy West Coast Rhino Demo Team and their F/A-18 Super Hornet! It was hard to believe that this show was headlined by two different demo teams fielding two different generations of the F/A-18 Hornet! In fact, I believe this air show was the only air show in all of North America to feature both of these Hornet demo teams as co-headliners

The RCAF CF-18 Demo Team, led by Captain Caleb "Tango" Robert was a last-minute addition to the air show line-up, announced about two weeks prior to the show taking place. The 2024 air show season also celebrated the Centennial anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force, and the CF-18 Demo Team

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marked the occasion with a specially painted CF-18A Hornet, which unfortunately didn't fly during the weekend as Captain Robert elected to fly the team's two-seat CF-18B in the standard grey paint job. But regardless, it was great to see a variant of the older legacy-Hornet fly one more time as the A, B, C, and D models of the Hornet family are aging and many airframes (as we've already seen in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps) have already been retired or in extremely limited service.

And looking back on this air show now, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have seen the CF-18 Demo Team perform for the first and only time, because little did I know at the time, the 2024 air show season would be their last and the Bremerton Air Show was the team's final air show performance in the western half of North America. On November 22, 2024, the RCAF made the unfortunate announcement that the CF-18 Hornet Demo Team would be stood down and will not return for the 2025 air show season, likely in conjunction with their plans to eventually phase out and retire the CF-18 fleet and replace them with the F-35A Lightning II (the CF-35A?) starting in 2026. The shutdown of the CF-18 Demo Team leaves the Canadian Forces Snowbirds as Canada's sole military demonstration team and represents another decline of military variety for the North American air show circuit. But perhaps the future will see a viable and modern replacement in the CF-35A Lightning II...



The U.S. Navy's West Coast Rhino Demo Team and their F/A-18F Super Hornet closed out the flying performances for the 2024 Bremerton Air Show, which culminated with a Tailhook Legacy Flight led by the Erickson Aircraft Collection's Chance-Vought

F4U-7 Corsair flown by Mike Oliver. This occasion was my third time during the 2024 air show season seeing the West Coast Rhino Demo Team. But at the Bremerton Air Show, I witnessed another beautiful full-circle moment, both for the Bremerton crowd and the pilot flying the Super Hornet. Lieutenant John "Mack" Mackovjak, who flew the Saturday performance, grew up and learned to fly in Bremerton starting out in General Aviation. "Mack" had the rare honor and privilege of coming home and demonstrate the Super Hornet at his hometown air show in front of his friends and family (I love stories like this!). Needless to say, the hometown crowd went nuts for their "hometown hero!"



And I must admit, I too became rather emotional because of the aforementioned full-circle moment and as the Navy Tailhook Legacy Flight was performed. Several days before flying myself up to this air show, I learned that my late grandfather was stationed at Bremerton when he served in the Navy towards the end of World War II. My grandfather was one of the main reasons and inspiration as to why I got into aviation in the first place, and I felt I could honor his legacy by becoming a pilot (I carry a picture of him from his Navy days whenever I go flying!). Having the United States Navy at this air show, witnessing this Legacy Flight, and the recent knowledge that my grandfather was once stationed there got me emotional, because while he never really talked about his military service, I couldn't help but think of him and what his time in Bremerton was like. At this particular air show, I was grateful for the tribute being paid by the Navy Legacy Flight towards all those who served and sacrificed for this country of ours.

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After the air show concluded, I got the Avian Flight Center FBO to refuel the Skylane, and I got airborne for the return-flight to Salem. This day ended up being an adventure-and-a-half because of thunderstorms in the region! Even flying up to Bremerton, I had to make a few minor deviations and take indirect routings because of some isolated storm cells and even observed distant lighting strikes (which I reported to ATC while on VFR Flight Following). Thankfully, once I got past Portland on the northbound trip, weather wasn't much of a factor and things went smoothly during the air show. However, my return-trip south took much longer because I ended up diverting to wait out a decent thunderstorm that stood between me and Salem!



With no permanent tie-down spots or even shelter available at Bremerton, I decided to fly as far south as I was comfortable (with plans to land at either Olympia or Chehalis) to wait out the storm that was clearly making its way northbound. I did end up diverting to Chehalis (KCLS/CLS), where plenty of tie-down spots were available and I was able to spend time waiting out the storm in relative-comfort at the airport pilot lounge/FBO, which had comfortable seating and a panoramic view of the airport, which made for a great spot to watch the "light show" as the thunderstorm passed overhead. I also kept in touch with people who were aware of my location relative to the passing storm, letting them know that I was safe and satisfied that good aeronautical decision-making prevailed. By 8 PM, the storm was well north of Chehalis and my intended flight path south was clear, so I got airborne and continued the journey home, which thankfully ended

up being an uneventful flight to Salem after a longer-than-expected day.

The Bremerton Air Show will take place again for the 2025 season on July 12th and 13th, with the theme "Mustang Mania," which means a large gathering of the legendary P-51 Mustang!

Local fuel prices update



Thank you to everyone that has continued to fuel at local airports that have lower prices than Salem. The fuel prices change often. You can use

www.Airnav.com, Garmin Pilot, Foreflight, or other tools to check current local fuel prices. Thank you for helping to keep our costs down!

Salem:	\$5.95/gal
Twin Oaks:	\$5.50/gal
Lebanon:	\$5.98/gal
Mulino	\$6.19/gal
Albany	\$5.99/gal
Lenhardt:	\$5.79/gal

The price of 100LL at Salem has remained at \$5.95/gal, so there will be no fuel surcharge for June.

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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