



Valley Flyers

"Just Plane Fun!"

885 Lancaster Dr SE
Salem, OR 97317

July 2025



Strawberry Shortcake Summer BBQ

Thanks to everyone who joined the club's summer BBQ on June 28th! We had fantastic weather, and about forty club members and guests were able to come to the hangars and spend time enjoying the event.



We enjoyed a lot of wonderful food; thank you to everyone who brought sides and other food to share! The BBQ was a great opportunity to catch up with friends and other members.

And the strawberries were great too!



Club flyouts: July-September

Simon Hayes



June saw yet another weather cancellation! Here are the dates and destinations for the next three months:

Date	Destination	Airport
07/19/2025	Madras	S33
08/02/2025	Orcas	KORS
09/06/2025	Westport, WA	14S

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 flown in and camped under the wing for a night or two.

Alan Lasneski CFI	Brandon Tilby CFII	Chris Eriksson CFII	Corey Benson CFII	Holly Benson CFII	Jackson Gilmore CFII	Scott Bragg CFII	Simon Hayes CFII	Todd Lindley CFII
503.866.2396		847.345.5258	864.508.2605	704.960.9741	928.821.0028	970.219.0661	256.652.1554	425.681.9994

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

Member achievements

Congratulations to Holly Benson on passing her CFII checkride with DPE Joe May! CFII Mindy Fisher.

And congratulations to Jackson Gilmore on passing his MEI checkride with DPE Lee Shuster! MEI Jacob Trimble at Jerry Trimble Helicopters.

Finally, special congratulations to Brendan Hari on his first solo! CFII Holly Benson.



PIREP: Bandon State (S05)

Todd Lindley

On a recent sunny afternoon, a couple of us were pondering where to go for a \$100 hamburger (inflation, fuel surcharges and tariffs excluded). We'd recently been to the usual spots which have food within walking distance (S12, 6S2, 4S2, 61S, KPFC, S45 and others) so after throwing a dart at the sectional, we decided on Bandon State as neither of us had ever landed there. But looking at the map, the trek into town was 2-3 three miles. After making a quick call to the local airplane maintenance shop they told us about a shuttle service (Fairway Shuttle) that would drive us around as needed. With the logistics in place, we got a weather briefing, fueled up the 182 and launched for Bandon.



The direct flight took just over an hour and as one can infer from the windsock in the photo there was a healthy breeze blowing down runway 34. After securing the airplane, we chatted a bit with the local mechanic while waiting for our shuttle into town. Once into town we headed for the "Wheelhouse & Crowsnest" eatery for some local seafood. Afterward did some walking around the docks and marina which has a nice pavilion with local artist made wood sculptures and grabbed a coffee and pastry at the Bandon Coffee Café while waiting for the shuttle back to the airport.



Coquille River Lighthouse

The winds hadn't let up since landing, but the headwinds made for a very short takeoff run for the flight back to Salem. We'll add S05 to the club fly out list for a future club outing.

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PIREP: 2025 Buckeye Air Fair & AOPA Fly-in Recap

Mikel Wynn

After last year, this trip looks like it has become an annual tradition for me, especially since my parents will soon be relocating to Mesa, Arizona full-time to spend their retirement years and so long as I maintain my AOPA membership!

From February 12th to the 17th, I took time off work, flew commercial down to Phoenix, Arizona (and apparently escaped some winter weather that hit and paralyzed Salem and Portland the day after I left!), and met up with my parents to spend some time with them at their "winter home" in Mesa. Once again, I got an early-start to the 2025 air show season by attending the Buckeye Air Fair & AOPA Fly-in at the Buckeye Municipal Airport (KBXK/BXK) while in Arizona!



Like last year, the event featured a Saturday evening twilight air show, which ended with fireworks and a drone show; once again, I didn't attend that portion because it would've made for an extremely long day. What was new about this year was that Saturday also featured an afternoon "matinee" air show in addition to the regular Sunday air show the following day. Like last year and remembering some lessons learned, I utilized my AOPA membership and RSVP'd online, which allows me and one guest access to the AOPA VIP chalet. This year, my dad accompanied me as my guest to take advantage of the VIP treatment, which we both thoroughly enjoyed and in relative comfort! Better yet, this year AOPA catered lunch for its members and their guests at the VIP chalet in addition to the

cold drinks, snacks, and swag they had on hand, which means my dad and I enjoyed a substantial meal without having to spend money at an expensive vendor! The 2025 Air Fair was already a vast improvement over the 2024 edition, with vehicle parking still being the one major fubar that could use some improvement.



My dad and I enjoyed visiting with the various exhibitors and vendors as well as checking out some of the static displays of the latest additions to the General Aviation industry from several different aircraft manufacturers. On this trip, I only ended up attending the Saturday matinee air show and decided to forgo coming back for the regular Sunday air show because based on the performer line-up and schedule, I got to see just about everything in a little over half a day on Saturday, which worked out great for me because I was able to relax the following day before flying back home to Oregon.



For the 2025 edition of the Buckeye Air Fair, the air show line-up included returning performers from last year's line-up, such as local Jon Melby out of

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Chandler, Arizona and his Pitts S2B Super Stinker, Nathan Hammond of GhostWriter AirShows and his de Havilland Canada DHC-1 Super Chipmunk, Karl "Gash" Gashler and Barry "Bdog" Hancock of Red Thunder AirShows and their two Yakovlev Yak-50s, as well as the Phoenix-based Aerial Extreme Skydiving Team. New to Buckeye for 2025 included Kyle Fowler of Go EZ Aerobatics and his Rutan Long EZ, two-time member of the U.S. Unlimited Aerobatic World Team and Unlimited Champion Brett Hunter and his Van's RV-6, the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Southern California Wing's Grumman F6F Hellcat and North American PBJ Mitchell (a Naval/Marine Corps variant of the B-25 Mitchell medium-bomber), as well as the Lost Coast Warbirds TB-25J Mitchell nicknamed "Sweet Dreams." Also, for the Saturday matinee air show only, the United States Air Force's 61st Fighter Squadron (known as the "Top Dogs") out of nearby Luke Air Force Base sent a pair F-35A Lightning IIs for a brief demonstration with a few high-speed fly-by passes; this was the only military participation for the entire air show event, which was appreciated.



The CAF was also slated to send their rare Mitsubishi A6M Zero alongside the Hellcat and PBJ Mitchell but never made it to Buckeye likely due to prolonged maintenance issues. Having the Lost Coast Warbirds TB-25J Mitchell known as "Sweet Dreams" present at the 2025 Buckeye Air Fair was also special because that very airframe once sat derelict in the dirt at Buckeye Municipal Airport for nearly two decades, so this occasion was seen as a homecoming for the airplane! "Sweet Dreams" was acquired by the Lost Coast Warbirds from the Lauridsen Collection in 2021, followed by a year-long on-site restoration effort to airworthy condition to fly down

to Marana, Arizona for more extensive restoration work. The once-derelict B-25 would then undergo another year of maintenance and restoration work before debuting at an air show in Santa Maria, California in 2023. For the locals who knew the plane that is now once again a flying piece of history, they certainly appreciated seeing it restored and back in the air where it belongs!



Overall, the 2025 Buckeye Air Fair & AOPA Fly-in made for a worthwhile early-start to my 2025 air show season and it made for a great get-away from the winter/rainy weather. Being an AOPA member still has its perks for this particular event. And yes, I am still proud to be a member of AOPA, advocating for General Aviation and our freedom to fly!

Local fuel prices update



Thank you to everyone that has continued to fuel at local airports that have lower prices than Salem. Thank you for helping to keep our costs down!

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

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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