

Valley Flyers

"Just Plane Fun!"

885 Lancaster Dr SE
Salem, OR 97317

February 2026



Annual Club Business Meeting summary

Isaac Mosgrove

2025 was another great year for Valley Flyers. Our members are engaged, flying, and socially active in the club. Much was accomplished during 2025. We had our Annual Club Business Meeting on January 28th that reviewed 2025 and looked forward to our goals in 2026 and beyond. A lot of information was covered during the meeting. The following are a few of the key points:



2025 Highlights:

- **We increased membership by three to 88 paying members**, with 79 member pilots and 9 student pilots. We also have 4 Support-Services members. We had several members earn advanced ratings, and many more members continue working on their advanced ratings.
- **We continued to make more improvements to our fleet, our facilities, and resources!**
 - N174E: We stripped and repainted the plane, replaced all windows except the windscreen, and replaced all external fiberglass parts and hardware except the wingtips. We also installed a GCO 14 electronic carbon monoxide detector and updated the software in the avionics.
 - N1636H: We completed a significant avionics upgrade including a new GNC 215 (NAV/COM), GMA 345 audio panel, new panel wiring that

included interfacing the GNC 215 to the G5, moved the autopilot controller, and re-ordered the radio stack.

- N70574: We installed a yaw servo, so it now has a full three-axis autopilot, installed a GCO 14 electronic carbon monoxide detector, and updated the software in the avionics.
- N515ED: We installed a GCO 14 electronic carbon monoxide detector and updated the software in the avionics.
- N12382: We installed a GCO 14 electronic carbon monoxide detector and updated the software in the avionics.
- Facilities: We added a gravel parking area at the West end of the hangars, purchased the materials to replace the remaining hangar doors, and put the Best Tugs B4 tug into service for use with the 172s.
- **We completed some notable maintenance items on our fleet.** The cost of parts has continued to increase significantly. Below are some of the less common maintenance items performed in 2026:
 - N1636H: We repaired the case oil leak, replaced/repaired the pitot-static system, and replaced the exhaust, carb heat cable, Hobbs meter and pressure switch, throttle quadrant placard and door latch.
 - N12382: We reskinned the flaps, replaced the fuel selector valve, nose strut seals, and passenger seat roller bearings, and repaired the fuel selector linkage and a broken p-lead.
 - N515ED: We replaced seat rails, the right fuel sender, panel post light bulbs and repaired the fuel tank.
 - N5174E: We replaced the carb heat cable and air circulator blower.
 - N70574: We replaced the alternator and pilot seat rail lock spring and resolved a flap retraction issue.

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- **We had a bunch of club activities!**

- These included outings to Cottage Grove, Orcas Island, Gillette Field, Florence, Creswell, Bandon, and Southern California.
- We had dinner with Salem Tower.
- We held regularly scheduled quarterly membership meetings including informative training/safety sessions.
- We also had our Club BBQ and Strawberry Shortcake Picnic and our Annual Christmas Party.

- **Our finances are healthy!**

- As expected, the checking account balance decreased from what it was at the start of the year as we invested in improvements to the planes and hangar.
- All bills are paid.

- **We flew approximately 1885 hours**, which is approximately a 13% increase from 2024.

- **We recognized our 2025 contest award winner** who will get a free flight hour in 2026!

- Kate Pelczar won the award for the most hours flown.

Other Business:

- **Monthly dues and aircraft hourly rates:** We've worked diligently to keep our dues and rates unchanged even though the cost of oil, maintenance, insurance, and other expenses have increased. After reviewing the 2026 budget, the members unanimously agreed with the proposed increase to N5174E's hourly rate while maintaining the current monthly dues, insurance deductible, and hourly rates for the other aircraft. The fuel surcharge to members will remain unchanged. The fuel surcharge will be applied if fuel is above \$6.78/gallon and will continue to be adjusted each month depending on fuel costs. Please see the *New club rates* article below for the changes that will become effective April 1, 2026.

- **Officer elections were held:** Congratulations to Isaac Mosgrove (President), Joan Johnson (Treasurer) and Corey Benson (Safety & Maintenance Officer) who were re-elected to their positions.

- **Potential conflicts of interest** were disclosed by each Board Member.

- **Please take care of our equipment to help reduce aircraft downtime.** Paint and plastics on the struts and wings can get damaged from the ladders, belt-buckles, coat zippers, hoses and nozzles during fueling (please use the fueling mats and don't let anything touch the wings during fueling). Also, door lock mechanisms can be damaged if the door locks are forced when the door is not fully latched (please make sure the doors are fully latched so that the handles/locks easily rotate into the locked positions). The airplanes belong to all of us, so let's continue working together to keep our equipment nice and our costs low.

- **Please help** by using 'discrepancies' in Flight Circle when there is an item that needs to be taken care of. Remember to review the discrepancies as part of your preflight planning.

- **Please check Flight Circle for discrepancies or maintenance reservations before each flight.** The Board tries hard to notify affected members if an aircraft is grounded, but we cannot always do this before your scheduled flight.

- **A special thank you to the following members:**

- Nathan Powell for leading the parking area project and to all the members who helped.
- Stuart Jantze for keeping the cleaning supplies stocked, washing rags, and emptying garbage. Thank you to others who also help empty the garbage.
- Simon Hayes, Jon Eggert, Stuart Jantze, and Todd Lindley for organizing the monthly club flights.
- Chris Eriksson, Corey Benson, and Scott Bragg for keeping the avionics databases updated.
- Chris Eriksson and Simon Hayes for helping with Flight Circle.
- Corey Drechsler for being our webmaster and managing email accounts.
- Mark and Alison Neubauer for maintaining the emergency survival kits in all the airplanes.
- Stuart Jantze and Mark Neubauer for planning and installing additional hangar lighting improvements.
- Simon Hayes for writing the monthly newsletter.
- Joan Johnson for all of her behind-the-scenes work that she does in addition to finances and billing.

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- The flight instructors that support so much of the members' reviews and training (Al Gray, Alan Lasneski, Chris Eriksson, Corey Benson, Holly Benson, Jackson Gilmore, Scott Bragg, Simon Hayes, and Todd Lindley).
- The volunteer Board who put so much time into keeping the planes flying, addressing member inquiries, implementing club improvements, and focusing on the future success of Valley Flyers.
- Isaac Mosgrove for all the behind-the-scenes work.



2026 Goals: (Budget permitting)

• Aircraft Goals:

- N5174E: Overhaul the propeller and replace broken interior plastic parts.
- N70574: Replace pilot door trim
- N12382: Paint panel, replace glove box plastic cover, upgrade panel lighting controller, repair paint on leading edges, redo front seat cushions and covers, overhaul/dress the propeller.
- N515ED: Overhaul/dress propeller
- Begin saving for sixth airplane
- Continue searching to purchase a sixth airplane
- Begin setting money aside for engine replacements

• Facilities Goals (volunteers needed!):

- Replace the remaining hangar doors
- Repair sheet rock and leak in N515ED's hangar. Volunteers are needed to help with this project.
- Add lines on concrete/asphalt to help guide planes into hangars. Volunteers are needed to lead and help with this project.
- Build/install ramps over door rails to make it easier to move planes in/out of hangars. A volunteer is needed to lead this project.

- Fill low spots in hangar parking pads. Volunteers are needed to lead and help with this project.

- Finish organizing and cleaning the storage rooms.

• Club Goals:

- Hold informative training sessions with guest speakers.
- Hold regularly scheduled quarterly club meetings. These will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the 2nd month each quarter at 7:00 PM in the flight planning room. This year's meetings will be 5/19, 8/18, and 11/17. February's meeting will be moved and is planned to be combined with dinner with the Tower (see article below).
- Increase membership involvement in the daily operations of the club (washing/folding rags, maintaining cleaning supplies, mowing the grass, cleaning hangars, emptying garbage, facility improvements, etc.).
- Hold monthly club fly out activities. Simon Hayes, Stuart Jantze, and Jon Eggert, have volunteered to organize the events for 2026, so please contact them if you have ideas for fun activities.
- Do more activities with other flight clubs.



Future Goals Beyond 2026:

- Add sixth airplane
- Replace engines
- Pay off hangars
- Install concrete pads under aircraft parking locations in remaining bays
- Repair aprons for remaining bays
- Remove vacuum systems from all aircraft
- Repair paint on planes
- Replace aging aircraft
- Install an autopilot in one of the 172s

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Several of the 2026 goals for improvements to the facilities need volunteers to lead the effort and to coordinate with other volunteer members to complete the projects. If you can lead one of these projects or if you are willing to help work on a project, please contact Isaac Mosgrove.

New club rates



As stated above, we've worked very hard to maintain our low flying rates despite the increasing cost of fuel, oil, maintenance, insurance and other expenses. As approved at the Annual Business Meeting, we are increasing the monthly rate for N5174E only. All other club fees and rates remain unchanged. **The new rates will take effect on April 1, 2026.** This will allow members a couple of extra months to complete aircraft checkouts, club reviews, and flight reviews before the new rates take effect.

Initiation Fee	\$750	Unchanged
Monthly Dues	\$59/mo	Unchanged
Insurance Deductible	\$1500	Unchanged
Fuel Surcharge Threshold	\$6.78/gal	Unchanged
N1636H Cherokee 140	\$95/hr	Unchanged
N12382 Cessna 172	\$104/hr	Unchanged
N5174E Cessna 172	\$110/hr	\$6 increase
N515ED Cessna 172	\$110/hr	Unchanged
N70574 Cessna 182	\$159/hr	Unchanged

Dinner with the Tower – March



We are excited to get to have dinner with the Salem Tower again this year. We are still working to finalize the date but expect it to be mid-March.

Watch next month's newsletter for the specific date and location.

This is a great opportunity to continue to strengthen our relationship with ATC, to learn how we can work better with the Tower controllers, 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 getting to meet the many people that they talk with on the radio!

This is a highly recommended event for members to attend!

Club flyouts – February-April

Simon Hayes



The weather for flying to Hood River last month wasn't ideal, and members decided to make sightseeing flights around Mount Hood instead (see article below).

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

Date	Destination	Airport
02/21/2026	Siletz Bay	S45
03/21/2026	Prospect	64S
04/18/2026	Sunriver	S18

We've had a good response to flyout reminder emails that we've sent out ahead of time, and we'll keep doing that in future.

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

PIREP: Hood River flyout (kinda sorta)

Jon Eggert

January weather gave us ample hope for the club flyout to Ken Jernstedt Airfield (4S2) in Hood River, planned for January 17th. When the day came,

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clouds in the Columbia River Gorge caused some doubt about VFR and personal minimums. Vitali Yakavenka, Gijs Eikelenboom, each of their passengers, and myself decided to meet at the Flight Deck Restaurant for breakfast, giving the weather time to sort itself out. Although it was a beautiful sky over the Willamette Valley, the clouds dropped lower over Hood River as we dined. Eventually, the five of us set out with three airplanes, each on our own paths to scenic flights around Mt. Hood. The views were excellent, but our visit to Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum (WAAAM) will wait for another day.



Quarterly Member Meetings

We will be continuing the quarterly club meetings with the Board to provide members more opportunities to ask questions, make suggestions, raise concerns, and have increased visibility into the status and workings of the club. This is your club, so the Board wants to make sure you are aware of what is happening throughout the year. The quarterly meetings have been moved to the 3rd Tuesday of the

2nd month each quarter at 7:00 PM in the flight planning room or other pre-announced area.

Because the Annual Business Meeting was held in late January, we've decided to combine the Q1 meeting with the Dinner with the Tower event. This year's meetings will be:

- 6:00 PM, March TBD, Dinner with the Tower
- 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 19
- 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 18
- 7:00 PM, Tuesday, November 17

KSLE fuel discount

When submitting your fuel expenses for fuel purchased at Salem, please remember to do the following to help us with the fuel refund from Salem Aviation Fueling:

- **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, separate 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.

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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