



Valley Flyers

"Just Plane Fun!"

885 Lancaster Dr SE
Salem, OR 97317

September 2026



Quarterly Member Meeting report

We held the Quarterly Member Meeting at Garmin at 7:00 PM on August 18th. Twenty-five members attended, and we reviewed the club's finances, membership, aircraft utilization, maintenance activities, hangars, and club goals.

Finances - the club has a healthy bank balance. We have rented out our sixth hangar to a pilot from Vancouver, WA. To keep the accounting workload on Board members manageable, please check fuel reimbursements and receipts carefully in Flight Circle, and always submit them with the exact dollars and gallons shown on your receipt.

Membership - we currently have 91 members, and a waitlist of 44. The current wait time to join the club is around 21 months.

Flying hours - 2026 started strong with a lot of flying time, although members have been flying less in the past few months. That may partly be due to not having any active time-building members right now.

Maintenance - we reviewed open and recurring maintenance activities. There was a discussion about issues with the cabin doors on the 70574 and the baggage door on 5174E. Please remember that slamming doors doesn't help, and may make things worse. Please also avoid putting anything on top of the dash because it's very easy to scratch aircraft windshields, even with what seem to be soft items.

Hangars - note that badges are still required at the airport even though TSA has left. The airport has extended the badge renewal period to 24 months.

Sixth aircraft - the club is still potentially interested in finding a sixth aircraft. We discussed a C150 and a C177 (Cardinal) that might be a good fit, although we would need more details and discussion with their owners to determine if either could be a serious option for the club.

Avionics presentation

After the club business portion of the Members Meeting, Joshua McKinney gave a presentation on using the Garmin navigators in the club aircraft, especially the GTN650Xi/750Xi. Joshua is a club member, a CFI, and a Flight Test Engineer in Garmin's Flight Test department.

Joshua focused on tips and techniques for VFR pilots, including navigation, fuel planning and monitoring, radio frequency selection, the simplest way to do 'direct to' and more. He also touched on a few more advanced features like VNAV.

There were a lot of questions from the audience, and it seemed that everyone learned something new. Many thanks to Joshua for the great presentation!

SAVE THE DATE

Club Christmas Party – December 5th!



As requested, we are getting the word out early to make it easier for members to save the date! Joan and Vern have graciously agreed to host the party, starting at 6:00 PM on Saturday, December 5th. It will be our usual amazing potluck where members bring a side dish or dessert and the club provides the meat and some fixings. We'll also do a

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gift exchange. Bring your family or friends for a fun evening together. This is a great time to see old friends and to meet some of our newer members.

N12382 panel upgrade

The lower portion of N12382's panel has been upgraded with beautiful new powder-coated custom metal pieces with white printing, many new circuit breakers, and a custom metal glove box door. We also repainted the inset above the audio panel in the radio stack. This gives the interior a whole new and refreshed look! Thank you to AVID Avionics for creating this custom solution.



Volunteers needed!

The club is looking for volunteers to lead several hangar maintenance tasks:

- Finding or fabricating small ramps to help get the aircraft over the door rails more easily
- Coordinating the replacement of low spots in the asphalt inside the hangars with concrete patches
- Spraying weeds in the parking areas and around the hangars

If you are able to help with any of those, please contact Isaac or any Board member. Thank you!

Club flyouts - August-October

Simon Hayes



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

Date	Destination	Airport
09/19/2026	Sisters	6K5
10/17/2026	Night currency	TBD
11/21/2026	Chehalis, WA	KCLS

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

Reminder: entering Hobbs time

When you log your flight time in FlightCircle, please record it after engine shutdown at the hangar. If the Hobbs is starting to move between numbers, round up to the next tenth. For example, if the Hobbs is somewhere between 1234.5 and 1234.6, you should log 1234.6.

We've seen a few more missing 0.1s than usual lately, and as a club, every tenth helps keep the club running smoothly and affordably. It also helps reduce the workload on the Board members, who don't have to track down the missing time to see what the reason was.

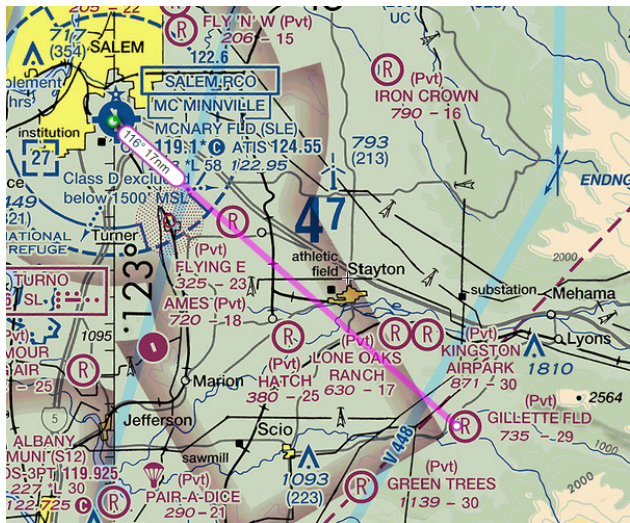
Annual Jordan Dinner – Sept. 27th

This year's Annual Jordan Dinner Cruise-In & Fly-In will be held September 27, 2026 from 10:30 am – 3:00 pm. This event is a ton of fun to fly into with lots of airplanes, cars, vendors, activities, kid games, and good food. Plus, you get to land on grass! A few years ago there were nearly 100 airplanes and 500+ cars.

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The all-you-can-eat dinner (chicken, rolls, noodles, potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw, and dessert) is \$20 (adults), \$5 (children 6-10), and free for kids 5 and under. There are only 2000 meal tickets, and tickets can be purchased in advance. Questions regarding the Fly-In can be directed to Robin Gillette at 503-949-5391.

Address: 39043 Jordan Rd., Scio
Airport: Gillette Field OR51
Runway: 8/26
Wide Grass Runway 2800' Long
Powerlines – East End
Traffic Pattern: Left-hand
Unicom: 122.9
Elevation: 735
GPS Coordinates: N 44° 43.228'
W 122° 41.753'



New member intro: Neal White

Neal White



I retired from the Air Force as the Superintendent of Academic Training for the AF Survival School. I bought a Cessna 150 in 2012 and sold it in 2025. I have been the president of the Oregon Pilots

Association, the Salem Airport Advisory Commission and currently serve on the board for the Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team. ODART is preparing for a logistical role after Cascadia.

I volunteer at The Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum on Tuesdays as a tour guide and on Thursdays in Restoration.

I am excited about being part of the Valley Flyers family.

New member intro: Chris Hendricks

Chris Hendricks



Greetings! I'm Chris Hendricks, a born and raised native Oregonian. Notching my PPL has been near the top of my life goals list for nearly 2

decades, and in 2025 the stars finally aligned for me to start my flight training! I punched my ticket in June of this year after training in a C172H out of 7S5 and am now approaching 100 hours coming into Valley Flyers.

My father (pictured) is a 5000hr+ ATP who came by his time selling airplanes before I was born. When I was a wee lad he sparked a nascent passion for aviation in me by flying us from S21 to KCVO to catch my first football game at my future Alma Mater (Go Beavs!). My father had the distinct privilege of being my first passenger, marking his first time behind a yoke since the early '90s. I hope to pass the generational passion for aviation on to my children and have already logged our first few flight adventures together to KCVO and KTMK. The best part is the fun has only just begun!

In my day job I have worked for Garmin AT for the past 13 years as a Project Engineer.

Some other passions I have when not flying include Backpacking, Motorcycling, Ultimate Frisbee, Fishing, Speed Puzzling, Board and Video Games, Music, and taking care of the people who take care of me.

Moving forward I'm hoping to earn my Tailwheel and Complex endorsements, an IR, CPL, CFI, and perhaps a CFII, as well. On a longer timeline I hope to do an EAB (Sling TSi or RV-10 perhaps) with my son Sebastian (12) and daughter Alexa (10). A Spirit SE-1 also looks like a super fun aircraft to have in a personal stable at some point. While I love having a fun rapport with individuals, I demand a lot of myself as a pilot and am looking for more

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opportunities to build my skills as an aviator. Feel free to reach out if you would like to go make some memories together, share costs, or would just prefer a second brain in the other seat. I look forward to meeting you all and contributing to the club as well. Blue skies and tailwinds.

New member intro: Cole Rawie

Cole Rawie



Greetings Valley Flyers! My name is Cole and I'm excited to join the community of VF. The third dimension flying provides has captured my attention as long as I can remember. There is a very basic

plywood and 1x4 replica of the wright flyer at my parent's place that dad built with me when I was probably four. In my younger years I pored over books on astronomy and WWII aircraft, and when my brother and I were in middle school a very generous man gave us two homebuilt gas RC airplanes. We sure did have a lot of fun flying those airplanes at my grandparents' farm, and when we couldn't get outside to fly we made good use of an RC flight simulator.

Two things I appreciate most about flying - one is remembering a different perspective on life when the wheels leave the ground. When I have the chance to pause and look around at creation, suddenly, many concerns that weighed me down before don't seem to matter quite as much, and the reality that life doesn't revolve around me is clearer. The second is how much fun it is to share this experience with others. I love showing off the beauty of the PNW to those who have not seen it from the air before!

A little about me outside of aviation - I am married to my best friend Blue and we have the cutest baby, a 4 month old son, Micah. I live out in Silverton and like exploring this beautiful state, making pizza, and playing guitar.

I'm quite grateful for the opportunity to continue this crazy passion and share it with others, and I'm eager to meet you all!

PIREP: 2026 Moses Lake Air Show Recap

Mikel Wynn

The 2026 Moses Lake Air Show took place on Friday, June 12th as well as Saturday, June 13th and I managed to fly myself up there on Saturday (which ended up being the better day of the two!) in N70574. I was really happy to make it back to Moses Lake for the 2026 air show season, especially after getting skunked the year before during the 2025 season due to really foul weather that forced me to cancel my trip and flight out there.

Flying out to Grant County International Airport (KMWH/MWH) was pretty straightforward this year too, as I was able to do it in VFR conditions and the weather was fantastic (unlike my first time in 2024, where I took the club's Cherokee and it ended up being a LONG day and it was hellaciously windy!). The Skylane's speed and performance also helped make the trip manageable too! After landing on Runway 32R at MWH and informing ATC I was part of the General Aviation fly-in for the air show, I was directed to taxi the Skylane onto the closed-off section of Runway 04/22, which was being used at the entire show venue. A marshaller parked me right in the middle of the static display area, and having the Skylane on display amongst the other aircraft was probably the best part about this whole experience! It was also a treat to mingle with all the other GA pilots who flew in as well. Our club Skylane certainly got a little bit of attention at the air show because I was asked repeatedly if it was a factory-new T-model (it must've been the new paint job we got on it back in 2024!). Let's just say I REALLY enjoyed the looks on some people's faces when I told them that N70574 is actually a 1960s M-model Skylane!



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After securing the Skylane and staking out my spot on the crowd line, I enjoyed the sights and sounds of the Moses Lake Air Show, starting with the static displays and getting plenty of pictures. I also grabbed a few much-needed souvenirs and swag from some of the exhibitors. I even reunited with a good friend of my mine, Tyler Chase, who I used to go to church with when he still lived in Salem before getting married; Ty currently lives in Ephrata with his family, just up the road from Moses Lake and he is also a pilot, owning a 1972 Cessna 172L Skyhawk. It was really good to see him at this air show!

As far as ground displays were concerned, there should've been more to see at this year's air show, including military. However, they were noticeably absent, likely due to the ongoing geopolitical tensions that have been all-too prevalent this year. But the 2026 Moses Lake Air Show still had a decent and respectable line-up. The performers for 2026 included aerobatics from Anthony Oshinuga in his Pitts S-1S Special and Torrey Ward in his Subsonex JSX-2 Microjet. Renny Price was also slated to perform aerobatics in his Sukhoi Su-29. However, he was unable to perform after his Vedeneyev M14P engine suffered a major mechanical issue that left his plane grounded at MWH.



A star attraction (and they might as well have been considered the show headliner!) was the Red Bull Air Force, consisting of several different types of demonstrations, including Skydivers who were part of the opening ceremonies with a large American flag. Another was Aaron Fitzgerald in his highly-modified Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) Bo-105 helicopter, doing things no other

helicopter can and should do, namely aerobatics! Skydivers wearing wingsuits also flew in formation with a modified Cessna 182 Skylane known as the "Silver Bullet" flown by Luke Aikins; this is the same Skylane outfitted with a large belly-mounted speed brake that was part of that partially-successful mid-air plane-swap stunt that was done back in 2022, which of course drew FAA scrutiny. One skydiver also performed a BASE jump from Aaron Fitzgerald's Bo-105 helicopter.



The best way I can describe the Red Bull Air Force is "absolute insanity in a controlled environment!" They combine extreme sports with air show performing with a variety of aerial stunts that are innovative and unique to them and not done by any other air show performer elsewhere. In addition to being a travelling billboard for the energy drink company, the Red Bull Air Force is well-known for pushing the boundaries and limits of human flight and they do it very well. It was an absolute treat to see one of the most-unique air show performers in the world at Moses Lake!



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This air show also ended up being warbird-heavy, which I was totally for! Veteran air show pilot and Unlimited, Jet, and Sports Class air racer Vicky Benzing brought out and performed in her purple P-51D Mustang "Plum Crazy" for some graceful aerobatics. The Erickson Aircraft Collection out of Madras, Oregon brought several of their planes out to Moses Lake, including their B-25 Mitchell for static display as well as their P-40E Kittyhawk and P-38L Lightning for the flight demonstrations.

The Soaring by the Sea Foundation (SBSF) out of Eugene, Oregon also brought out their PBY Catalina as well as their P-40N1 Warhawk; their Warhawk was originally slated to just be on static display. But with Renny Price being unable to perform in his Su-29, event organizers arranged to get the SBSF's P-40 to fill in as part of the performer line-up. Performing several high-speed passes along the show line, the foundation's P-40N1 was flown by Job Savage, who has achieved quite an impressive reputation in the aviation community for his age. Having first started flying in 2020, Job Savage has made quite a name for himself in a few short years; he placed 6th in the T-6 Class at the 2023 Reno Air Races and was named Class Rookie of the Year. He also flew as PIC for two Atlantic crossings in the DC-3 as part of the D-Day Squadron in the spring of 2024, and was named as a "Warbird 20 under 40 Rising Star" that same year. Savage is now in the business of providing instruction and ferrying warbirds, especially tailwheel airplanes with his company, Tailwheel Professionals.



For me, the biggest highlight of the 2026 Moses Lake Air Show performer line-up was seeing one of only two airworthy Boeing B-29s in the world fly! The B-29 Superfortress nicknamed "Doc" from the

Doc's Friends foundation was on static display only on Friday's show, but flew on the day I attended. "Doc" closed out the flying performances with a World War II-era Legacy Flight, flying in formation with the Erickson Aircraft Collection's P-40E Kittyhawk and P-38L Lightning for an emotional and poignant tribute. It was one of the rarest formation's I've witnessed this year! The B-29 then made a few solo passes, where I nailed some of my most-coveted shots with my camera! Unfortunately, the flight of "Doc" was cut short and ended with an emergency landing following an overspeed of a propeller when one of the prop governors malfunctioned, resulting in unplanned maintenance; everyone heard the prop go into overspeed. Thankfully, the crew landed this national treasure safely and maintained a prudent and responsible approach in preserving a truly rare warbird!



For me, it was absolutely emotional and sobering to witness a B-29 in flight for the first time. Considered as one of the world's first super weapons, the B-29 Superfortress ultimately ended World War II by dropping two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945, which of course led to the unconditional surrender of the Empire of Japan. As a Japanese-American, I have family connections from both sides... To me, these now-former weapons of war, continue to fly as a living memorial and tribute to those who fought and lost their lives in that global conflict. These airworthy warbirds also serve as a reminder to us today just how close this world came to ruin, and what was done to end the war. These historic aircraft should remind us to never let the darker aspects of history repeat itself. This is why I never take sights like this for granted.

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After the flying performances concluded, I stowed my belongings in the Skylane and killed some time by going back to the static displays to allow the crowds to thin out. After most of the fly-in traffic departed, I hopped in N70574 and got taxi clearance to the Million Air FBO to get some fuel. I also hung out with my friend Tyler while waiting for the fuelers just to catch up with each other before going our separate ways. I got airborne out of MWH for the uneventful VFR flight home to Salem, happy that I was able to get out to Moses Lake again for a fun and memorable day of flying and air show fun!

For those interested, the Moses Lake Air Show will take place again in 2027 on June 11th and 12th. So if you're interested in flying a club plane out there to be part of the fly-in, be sure to mark your calendars!



don't try to stretch a flight simply to save a few dollars!

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.

Fuel surcharge update

Avgas at Salem is still at \$6.90/gallon, just above the \$6.78/gallon mark at which the club applies a fuel surcharge. The surcharge is still 12c/gallon:

Aircraft	Fuel burn	Surcharge/hr
C182	13gph	\$1.56
C172, PA28	8.5gph	\$1.02

The club will continue to reimburse fuel expenses fully as usual. The surcharge is a completely separate item and you'll see it show up in Flight Circle as part of your regular billing.

We appreciate members filling up at other airports if avgas is cheaper there, however safety and required fuel reserves always come first. Please

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