



PLANE TALK

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NEXT MEETING: MAR. 19 - 10AM

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**President's
Squawk**

R J Blahut

Many of us attended the Northwest Aviation Conference & Trade Show last month, and it was great to see so many of you there. My impression of the show was that it was light on attendance, and there were fewer vendors. What were in abundance were flight-training organizations looking for students. Unfortunately, I didn't see a lot of potential students attending the event. The impression I came away with is that aviation in this region has suffered a decline in the last couple of years. That's not good. That's why it is important for organizations such as ours to continually promote aviation in our local communities through youth programs (like Young Eagles), public awareness events, support of aviation related businesses, and safe, responsible use of our airport facilities. Active chapters like ours will be the key to spurring a re-growth in aviation.

Last month I talked about the proposed state excise tax on aircraft. I'm happy to report that the bill did not get out of committee. But before we let out a big sigh of relief, keep in mind that the state is facing a 6-billion dollar shortfall in the current budget. They have to balance it and they are going to have to make some drastic cuts and/or raise taxes and fees to do that. I believe there is going to be continuing pressure to squeeze the aviation community financially, and we need to be vigilant, and strongly oppose any attempts to siphon money out of the aviation community that does not directly support air transportation in this state.

Things to consider... A couple of ideas/issues came up recently that could use some discussion. It was suggested that the Port of Benton booth at the trade show could use a remodel to make it more interesting. While our chapter is located at one of its airports, we are not the main focus or purpose of the booth. To his credit, the airport manager is willing to work out a better set-up for next year. An offshoot of that idea was to have a Chapter booth next to the Port's at the next show.

Another issue was in upgrading the restroom facilities next to our chapter house. I looked at both restrooms with a critical eye and agree that something should be done to make it more inviting for our visiting pilots. I will be asking for ideas on these items at the next meeting.

Last, but not least... At our next meeting Bill Musselman will be leading a discussion on ethanol-spiked fuel and its affects on the engine. See you there!

RJB—Presidential Wing-Nut



The South Central Washington Chapter of the EAA meets the third Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. in the main airport hangar/office building, 111 Nunn Rd. Anyone interested in aviation is welcome to attend and new members are always welcome. Our goal is to foster flying, building, education and social activities for all our members. We are Wing-Nuts!

Meeting Minutes Overview – February 19, 2011

RJ called the meeting to order at 10:05am. Visitors and members were introduced and the previous month's meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer reported no bills were paid in the previous month and a balance of \$2,523.68 was on hand.

Old Business: One 2011 EAA calendar was for sale.

New Business: RJ reported on sending a letter to the state legislature opposing a proposed annual excise tax on airplanes based in the state. He also reported visiting the Yakima EAA chapter at the south side hangar and they hang out every Saturday morning.

Membership: Ben Rasch reported we have 29 members and 75% have paid their dues for 2011.

Facilities: Gerry Dixon got a price from Grandview Lumber for a new roll up door in the EAA building. It was the same price as Richardson's in Richland. A motion was made to purchase a door. Thom Kuykendall wanted to know if we had considered insulating and repairing the old one and said he would get prices from Lowe's where he works. The motion was withdrawn and the issue will be discussed at the next meeting. Bob Potter said the gas grills need to go back to Richland and he will take them. Ben Rasch purchased three mobile shelving units from Costco and they will be put together following the meeting.

Media: Cormac Thompson is working on the information board for the airport. He will be assisted by Larry Montague and RJ.

Activities: RJ reported receiving Flight Advisor certification from EAA.

Communications: Cormac reported the Port District would have a booth at the Northwest Aviation Conference and Trade Show in Puyallup next weekend. Dick and Jeanne Wildman from EAA Chapter 292 in Independence, Oregon were in attendance. They were here at the last Oregon Air Tour event and thanked us for our hospitality. They took some Fly-In flyers back to distribute in their area. Gerry Dixon said a visit to the Hood River, Oregon aviation museum is well worth the \$10 admission fee. They have 75 antique planes and over 100 antique cars as well. Alan Walker said the chapter website had been updated but he would like more photos of member projects to post. RJ suggested adding a tool sharing section to the site.

Events: Larry Montague passed out an "What to Do and When" worksheet for our fly-in in July. RJ asked the group with there any interest in doing something for the National Learn to Fly Day on May 21, perhaps a Young Eagles event and/or breakfast.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

Hello Tri-Citians,

Our community has a rich and valuable history. Did you know that in the 1940s, thousands of young men learned to fly in service to our country right here at Naval Air Station Pasco? Perhaps you have a father or grandfather that trained at NAS Pasco? Currently, the original Navy control tower still stands on the east ramp at the Tri-Cities Airport, Pasco WA. but your help is needed to save the tower from being torn down. It can be preserved, restored and registered as a historic site. Please send a letter of support to:

Save the old NAS Pasco Tower
c/o Bergstrom Aircraft, Inc.
4102 N. Stearman Ave
Pasco WA 99301

Or email a support letter to: malin@bergstromaircraft.com

Help send a message to the Port of Pasco that the NAS Pasco control tower is an historic landmark and should be preserved for future generations. It's not just an old tower.

Our local history is valuable. Once it's gone...it's gone.

Please forward this message to anyone that might be interested in saving the NAS Pasco tower. Strength in numbers.

Sincerely,
Malin Bergstrom
www.savethetower.com

find us on Facebook at [save the old NAS Pasco tower](#)

Prosser Fly-In

July 16—17, 2011

- Planes, Food & Fun—No admission fee
- Free campground, RV parking, restroom and shower facilities
- Off-site transportation
- Raffle prizes
- Saturday breakfast, lunch & BBQ dinner — Sunday breakfast
- Aircraft Fly-Mart both days
- Special Prosser Area Events: Prosser Art Walk & Wine Gala Saturday evening (tickets required)



**Off-Site
Transportation**

**Free
Admission**

For more info on the Prosser Fly-In at S40 visit
www.wing-nuts.org
or call the Prosser Airport (509) 786-2053
or email: wingnuts@embarqmail.com

Sponsored by EAA Chapter 1466 and the Port of Benton



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