



## Chapter Awards Presented To Four Dynamic Members

By Kirk Kleinholz  
Award Committee Chair

Each year the WPA-Paine Field Chapter gives out four awards to recognize those who have gone the extra step.

### *Pilot of the Year*

**Robert Hamilton** earned this year's *Pilot of the Year* award for his service and contributions as our President for the past two years.

Robert had the good fortune to grow up around small airplanes. And like many of us, he likely often thought about a career in aviation.

For most of us, a job in aviation conjures images of someone out of the blue offering us a decent paying job flying the kind of airplanes we could never afford ourself, traveling to places we only dream of, doing something we willingly and gratefully already pay a good deal of money doing on our own.

But for Robert, a career in aviation came by means of a considerable commitment.

Robert gave up a steady income and chose to invest himself and a fair portion of his personal resources in a brand-new aviation company serving general aviation almost exclusively, working for peanuts to start, and in the bargain enjoying less time than ever before to pursue our common love of flying small planes.

On top of all that, Robert still found the time — no, he made the time — to serve as our President. He has proven himself a capable and enthusiastic leader.

Robert is a fine gentleman, and some members are old fashioned enough to believe that is still a worthy compliment.

Please give Robert your thanks for his two years of service as President of the Paine Field Chapter.

### *Sponsor of the Year*

**Larry Steele and Aurora Rents**

Larry is a multiple winner of this award, and rightly so.

We'd have a hard time finding someone who does more for our chapter year in and year out with less need or desire for thanks or recognition than Larry.

He supports nearly ever significant event the Chapter hosts with generous contributions of equipment, which would otherwise cost the Chapter a lot of money.

We risk taking advantage of Larry's generosity of we take his endless contri-



### Paine Field Chapter Awards

Robert Hamilton, left, presents the Chapter's *Sparkplug of the Year* award to Dave Wheeler. Robert received the Chapter's *Pilot of the Year* award.

butions for granted.

Please take the opportunity to give a personal thank you to Larry Steele next time you see him at one of our meetings or around the airport.

**More Awards  
& Photos on Page 3**

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## WPA Christmas Party *Now that was fun!*

By Kelly Van Horn  
Christmas Party Co-Chair

The annual WPA-PAE Chapter Christmas Party was celebrated on Friday, Dec. 1, at the Embassy Suites in Lynnwood.

Guests had plenty of time to socialize in the beautifully decorated atrium.

Everyone arrived with smiles, and the smiles and laughter continued during the social hour before dinner.

The room might have gotten just a little quieter during dinner, which was both delicious and extremely filling – talk about generous portions!

As we were finishing up dessert, Chapter President Robert Hamilton presented his part of the program, acknowledging current and new board members plus those who head up the various committees.

Next came the awards presentation. There were more than a few laughs as Kirk Kleinholz, the presenter, was up to his usual antics.

(See Page 1 and Page 3 to get the full story about the awards that were given out that night.)

Last on the agenda was the door prizes. We had some fun prizes this year including a one night stay in a King Jacuzzi Room at the Hilton Garden Inn, a \$100 fuel gift card, two hours of



### Christmas Party Festivities

Above, Sherry Smith, Christmas Party Co-Chair, outlines the evening's events that included prizes, great food and wonderful friends.

instruction in a Cub and a flight for two in a Glass Panel 172.

There were plenty of gift cards for Buca di Beppo, Red Robin and Starbucks along with shirts, caps, fleece vests and even a unique white tiger statue. All told, there were more than 30 prizes this year.

The Toys for Tots table brimmed over with toys for the little ones. What a great cause! We're so glad the WPA takes an active role in this worthwhile endeavor.

Thank you to all of those who helped sponsor our event and to all of those who served on the party committee, including Jim Smith (he gets first billing for a reason – you had to be there!) Dave Van Horn, Ken and Deborah Stangland and Helga Byhre.

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### CLASSIFIED ADS

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442.63 SMOH by Western  
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Phone: 360-678-8841 (home)

Classified Ads are due on the same date as newsletter articles. See Chapter Calendar for dates.

Ads run for three months, unless renewed.

To renew an ad, send an e-mail to [newsletter@wpa-paine.org](mailto:newsletter@wpa-paine.org)

### Officers

President	Kevin Kelly	425-353-7810 <a href="mailto:president@wpa-paine.org">president@wpa-paine.org</a>
Vice President	Greg Bell	425-745-5204 <a href="mailto:vice-president@wpa-paine.org">vice-president@wpa-paine.org</a>
Secretary	OPEN	<a href="mailto:secretary@wpa-paine.org">secretary@wpa-paine.org</a>
Treasurer	Dave & Kelly Van Horn	425-820-7279 <a href="mailto:treasurer@wpa-paine.org">treasurer@wpa-paine.org</a>
2005 Director	Dave Wheeler	425-252-5414 <a href="mailto:board1@wpa-paine.org">board1@wpa-paine.org</a>
2006 Director	Susan Kennedy	425-741-7445 <a href="mailto:board2@wpa-paine.org">board2@wpa-paine.org</a>
2007 Director	Gary Hill	206-523-2682 <a href="mailto:board3@wpa-paine.org">board3@wpa-paine.org</a>
Past President	Robert Hamilton	206-484-2956 <a href="mailto:past-president@wpa-paine.org">past-president@wpa-paine.org</a>

### Committees & Activities

<i>Ashland Fly-Out</i>	Ken Stangland & Bill McKinley
<i>Aviation Academy</i>	Kevin Kelly
<i>Christmas Party</i>	Sherry Smith
<i>General Aviation (GA) Day</i>	Jim & Marilyn Fries
<i>General Meeting Programs</i>	Robert Hamilton
<i>Hangar Party</i>	Sandy Allen
<i>HIO May Fly-Out</i>	Dave & Kelly Van Horn
<i>Jackpot, NV Fly-In</i>	Larry Williams & Yvonne Albert
<i>Legislation and AOPA Airport Watch</i>	
<i>Skykomish Work Party</i>	Chip Davidson
<i>Mukilteo Lighthouse Parade</i>	Stephanie Allen
<i>PAE Community Council</i>	Russ Keyes
<i>Promotions &amp; Wings</i>	Dave Wheeler
<i>Republic Camp-out</i>	Rich & Margarite Hargrave
<i>Safety and Education</i>	Jim Faustina
<i>Saturday Fly-Outs</i>	Susan Kennedy

### Membership Committee

Dick Kinnier, Chair	206-546-3634 <a href="mailto:djkinnier@verizon.net">djkinnier@verizon.net</a>
<i>Chapter Roster &amp; Dinner Reservations</i>	Jerry Blanchard <a href="mailto:rain.coast@verizon.net">rain.coast@verizon.net</a>
<i>Newsletter</i>	Anna Poole <a href="mailto:newsletter@wpa-paine.org">newsletter@wpa-paine.org</a>
<i>State Roster</i>	Mitch Mitchell
<i>Web Site</i>	Kevin Kelly <a href="mailto:webmaster@wpa-paine.org">webmaster@wpa-paine.org</a>

*Apologies to Marilyn Fries  
for the misspelling  
of her name  
in the last issue.*

## More Awards

### Sparkplug of the Year

It's rare to see a new business serving general aviation spring up on any of our local airports. Instead, the opposite is sadly all too common.

It has been a joy to watch **Dave Wheeler** and his business, Northwest School of Aviation, take root and prosper at Paine Field over the past several years.

In addition to running his business, Dave is always ready to jump in and volunteer, not only to do some of the Chapter's work, but also to lead our efforts in some key events.

He has been the chairman for our annual *Wings* recurrency training program for at least the last two years, and he offered his hangar this past year to host our annual August Hangar Party.

Dave is a pleasure to fly with, and we've never known him to be other than cheerful,

friendly and eager to infect everyone he meets with his love of aviation.

If you don't already know Dave, do yourself a favor one day and drop by Dave's hangar for a chat. You will meet a fine aviator and Master CFI.



### Sparkplug, Wright Stuff Recipients

Award presentations are a tradition at the Chapter's Christmas Party. Above, **Kirk Kleinholz** serves as Master of Awards Ceremonies. At right, Dave Van Horn, right, is presented *The Wright Stuff Award* by Robert Hamilton, 2006 Chapter President and *Pilot of the Year* award winner.

## The Wright Stuff – 'You're the Best, Dave'

**Dave Van Horn** received the Wright Stuff Award for his calm, deliberate and successful response to an engine problem while flying over ice-laden clouds.

What follows is a recounting of his experience, both in his own typical humble and reserved manner, as well as a more accurate and detailed rendition recreated from actual events.

(Thank you to Kirk Kleinholz for recreating for posterity the vivid and exciting details.)

**DAVE'S VERSION (DV):** In January of this year, I was flying to California to escape the winter rain.

**REAL VERSION (RV):** *It was just another milk run, a red-eye flight through the northwest ice machine.*

(DV): I and my wife were over Oregon, still in clouds at 21,000 feet and 30 below zero.

(RV): *There I was at 30 or 40 thousand feet, in a greasy T-shirt and my finest boxers, both wings and my left cheek iced up, flying blind, nipping at the far edge of the envelope and staring Chuck Yeager's ghost of Christmas future smack in the eye.*

(DV): Suddenly, the No. 1 cylinder died, followed quickly by No. 2.

(RV): *Without warning I had flame-outs on 1 and 2, and both starboard engines started spewing smoke and chunks of metal.*

(DV): Not liking the trend and with the engine shaking badly, I declared an emergency and descended toward Eugene.

(RV): *I winked at the beautiful babe sitting next to me and said, "This old nag ain't gonna throw me off. Buckle up kiddo, and watch how it's done." Then I called Eugene tower and said, "Clear your decks, Mister. I'm bringin' ber in with two smokin', two lopin', and my half-chewed stogie for a joy stick."*

(DV): Breaking out of the clouds just above the airport, I landed and taxied in with an escort of fire trucks.

(RV): *I pulled her out 30 feet off the deck, jinked around a gymnasium full of cheerleaders, blew off the last 80 knots yankin' ber up over the old folks' home, then set her down on the infield without a scratch ... smooth as butter.*

(DV): A mechanic found nothing wrong with the engine and concluded that ice had clogged the fuel injectors, which of course melted after landing.

(RV): *I never learned what caused the flameouts. But let's just say I never trusted that cue-ball, grey-beard Manle pilot I saw hangin' around this straight-tailed beauty of mine before we took off.*

(DV): So, me and my courageous wife ...

(RV): *My stunning copilot turned to me ...*

(DV): ...flew on to California at a slightly lower and warmer altitude.

(RV): *and said, "Gosh, you're the best, Dave, the BEST!"*



### The Best!

Kelly Van Horn salutes her husband, Dave, at the end of the *Wright Stuff* award presentation. Kelly serves as the Chapter's Co-Treasurer with Dave, and was also the Christmas Party Co-Chair.

## 2007 President's an Enthusiastic Chapter Member

By Kenneth Stangland

Kevin Kelly, an active Paine Field Chapter member, is excited about the upcoming year as Chapter President.

Kevin and his wife, Carol, have two boys: 21-year-old Nathan, who is a student at WSU; and 17-year-old Sean, who is attending Cascade High School.

Kevin says that although Carol enjoys flying with him, Sean is the real aviation enthusiast. Sean has already taken some lessons, and is thinking about the Air Force Academy.

Kevin has worked for Boeing for 18 years, and is now the Lead for the group doing the design work for wire installation on the new 747-8. The wiring on a Cessna is complicated enough. Can you imagine the complexity of a 747?

A private pilot since 2000, Kevin rents a Cessna 172 from Northway Aviation. Most of his trips are around the beautiful Puget



Kevin Kelly before a recent flight.

Sound area. He's ready to expand his horizons with some longer trips when his schedule allows.

For the Paine Field Chapter, Kevin has been Director of the Aviation Academy for three years. He is the Paine Field Chapter's Webmaster and assists with the State WPA Website. He continues to be involved with GA Day, and enjoys photographing the event.

The WPA PAE Chapter is active and involved. Kevin wants to continue the legacy handed him by his predecessor, Robert Hamilton. Kevin sees GA Day becoming bigger and better.

The State WPA Convention will be at the Future of Flight in May, and this event will require PAE members' help.

Kevin wants more opportunities for members to be involved, and more reasons for pilots to become members.

An enthusiastic President like Kevin Kelly will only help!

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## President's Message New Year, New Adventures

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By Kevin Kelly  
WPA-PAE Chapter President

### Welcome to 2007!

This year promises to bring some great things that will be happening at Paine Field, and our Chapter will be a part of many of them.

In addition to our annual events such as the Wings Program, General Aviation Day, Aviation Academy, and our monthly meetings, Paine Field will play host to a new State WPA convention at the Future of Flight in May.

Another great attraction that will call Paine Field its home is Paul Allen's Flying Heritage Collection.

All of these events will make Paine Field the destination for aviation enthusiasts.

Chapter activities are made possible by you, the members of WPA-PAE.

I'd like to thank Robert Hamilton for his two years of excellent service as our Chapter President, as well as the rest of the Board of Directors and committee heads for the wonderful job they have done over the past year.

We have new faces in the Chapter leadership this year to compliment our seasoned veterans.

With your help, we can continue the proud tradition of involvement that exemplifies our organization's mission statement: **To advance the interests of General Aviation in Washington State through advocacy, outreach, education, and social activities.**

If you haven't been to our monthly meetings or other activities for some time, I encourage you to come see what we've been up to, and possibly share your knowledge and experiences with the rest of the membership through travel-logs, safety items and lessons-learned, or other aviation information.

As with any volunteer organization, member involvement is the key to success.

We have plenty of opportunities for you to lend a hand at our events or on the board.

In fact, we have an opening in the position of Chapter Secretary. Very little time and effort is involved in this role, but small

contributions can go a long way in the organization.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all as we continue to promote General Aviation around the Sound.

**Happy Flying!**

### Saturday Morning Fly-Outs

We meet around 10 a.m. at Regal Air, Paine Field, nearly every Saturday morning.

Consult our calendar or our Web site for special events.

[www.wpa-paine.org](http://www.wpa-paine.org)

All are welcome - non-pilots and non-members of WPA or Paine Field Chapter .

The fly-out is free, but please help your pilot with fuel costs.

**January newsletter photos  
by Kevin Kelly**

## Long-Time Mooney Employee Gives Impromptu Factory Tour

By Kenneth Stangland

Ashland Fly-Out Co-Chair

The invitation was unexpected. My wife and a guest (that's me) were invited to a Christmas party in Boerne, Texas.

Boerne is a picturesque little town located in the Texas hill country just 30 miles from San Antonio.

Boerne also happens to be 34 miles from Kerrville. A trip to the Mooney factory was definitely in order.

Using my usual planning skills, we arrived at Mooney's doorstep Monday morning only to find that tours are given on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The receptionist, displaying some of that famous Texas hospitality, asked Stanley Feller to give us a tour anyway.

Stanley has been with Mooney for more than 40 years and seems to know everyone. He spends most of his time as a shop supervisor. He worked his way up through the ranks, so he understands how these airplanes are built. He's the guy who builds them.

Each airplane contains more than 7,000 individual pieces fabricated at the factory.

Giant drop hammers and sheet metal presses from another era line the shop floor. Dies from current and earlier, discontinued models are neatly stored on shelves.

Stanley still occasionally fabricates an original factory part for an early Mooney. Sub-assemblies are constructed, and assembled as a finished airplane.

It takes about 3½ months to assemble the aircraft.

The final month involves installing the interior and avionics, painting the exterior, and flight testing.

Most airplanes leave the factory with 8-10 hours of flight time. The factory pilot flies the plane until everything is adjusted correctly.

This is not a highly automated assembly line with robots and conveyor belts. Instead it is friendly people fabricating or assembling.

We were able to get as close as we wanted and ask any questions.

We've never owned a Mooney, but this was an interesting tour that I recommend if you are in the Kerrville area.

Tours start at 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and they last about 90 minutes.

## Starting Small Can Expand Your Membership

By Dick Kinnier  
Membership Chair

I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and can look forward to a happy and prosperous New Year.

I'm not going to nag about renewals except to say if you still haven't renewed, please do so just as soon as you can so we can wrap up this effort (and put a bow around it).

When you first joined, I hope you got a membership packet with a welcome letter from me. I'm sure it has long disappeared but I'm going to quote a small portion because I think it's important.

***“Since we're about 200 strong, there is no way for any of us to get to know everyone. At best we become acquainted with a new circle of great friends whose interests most nearly parallel our own.***

***For this to happen, it's important for you to jump into any and all activities of interest including volunteering for office and/or committee efforts. The jobs of officers, committee chairs and committee members don't involve rocket science and newness is not a handicap.***

So, if anyone feels left out of the mainstream of the Chapter's activities, do something that will involve you with a smaller group within the Chapter. (There's an opening for Chapter Secretary, for example.)

Once you get started, I guarantee you'll derive much more pleasure and benefit from your membership.

## Control Tower Saves the Day!

Robert Hamilton

WPA-PAE Chapter Past President

We all know what an incredible job our control tower does. The following story helps highlight it once again:

Kirk Kleinholz and I went flying in Kirk's Maule on Saturday, Dec. 2. It was a beautiful sunny day after three weeks of snow and rain.

At about 3:30 p.m. we returned to Paine Field at the same time that (it seems) every other flyer in the northwest was returning.

We called in from Langley, and within 30 seconds there were three other calls from

### ***Mooney, go around!***

Langley, one from Bush Point, and two more from Edmonds!

Paine Field is often busy on a sunny weekend day, but this crowd definitely had the tower working full time. And as usual, they kept us all straight and positioned for landing.

With our plane on short final for 34L, there was a Mooney in front of us just over the runway threshold.

In between all the instructions zinging back and forth over 132.95, we suddenly heard the Tower announce “Mooney, check your gear!”

With no immediate response, they quickly followed with “Mooney, go around!”

Kirk and I thought we were about to have front row seats to a very exciting

### ***Pull up, Mooney. Pull up!***

landing. Fortunately the Mooney leveled out a few feet over the runway and climbed. (I think Kirk yelling into our windshield “Pull up, Mooney. Pull up!” must have helped.)

Despite how busy the traffic was, which required the total efforts of the tower to keep all of us accounted for and in the right place, our air traffic professionals still found time to focus on the undercarriage of an aircraft a few feet above the deck.

Well done Tower!

The Paine Flyer  
P.O. Box 1438  
Monroe, WA 98272

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**For a complete list of upcoming  
events and the latest information  
go to [www.wpa-paine.org](http://www.wpa-paine.org)**

### WPA Voice Mail Extension Change

Use the same number (425) 353-2110,  
but now use extension "6" to leave a  
dinner reservation or other message.

## Ashland Fly Out & Shakespeare Festival Aug. 17-19, 2007

This time of year it is hard to imagine watching *Romeo and Juliet* under the stars. Have no fear; those warm August nights will eventually arrive. Plan on attending the first annual Ashland Fly-Out. You can see up to two plays each day, take a backstage tour, shop, visit the nearby wine country, or just relax.

Although this is a Shakespeare Festival, many of the plays are more modern. There really is something for everyone.

Check out [www.osfashland.org](http://www.osfashland.org) for play and ticket information. A number of lodging options are available.

Questions? Contact Ken Stangland, [kstangland@msn.com](mailto:kstangland@msn.com), or Bill McKinley, [Wdmmlf@aol.com](mailto:Wdmmlf@aol.com)

### February

- 2nd - General Meeting  
"NOAA Weather  
Briefing"  
Sno-Isle Technical  
Skills Center**
- 3rd - Owner Maintenance  
Seminar**
- 8th - Board Meeting**
- 12th - Newsletter Ads &  
Articles Due**
- 22nd - March Dinner  
Reservations Due**

### March

- 8th - Genera Meeting  
Paul Allen's Flying Heritage  
Collection**
- 3rd - Owner Maintenance  
Seminar**
- 8th - Board Meeting**
- 12th - Newsletter Ads &  
Articles Due**
- 22nd - April Dinner  
Reservations Due**

### April

- 13th - General Meeting  
Speaker to be Announced**
- 6th - Owner Maintenance  
Seminar**
- 12th - Chapter Board &  
Planning Meeting**
- 13th Newsletter Ads &  
Articles Due**
- 26th - May Dinner  
Reservations Due**