



Local Chapters under  
[www.WPAFls.org](http://www.WPAFls.org)

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## Calendar of Chapter Meetings

Jan 4th Board Mtg  
Jan 5th Gen Mtg @ O'Donnells

**Jan 5th PAE Air-  
port Issues  
RSVP for dinner  
by Dec 31st**

**See Page 4 for  
Details**

## President's Message *by Rich Jones*

### The Passing of a Long Time Aviator Friend

I attended the memorial for my longest time aviator friend, Kevin E. Clark last Sunday at the Future of Flight. While I have been blessed with many wonderful friends in the aviation community Kevin was very special to me because he was the aviator who welcomed me into this wonderful community of aviators which changed my life forever. Kevin gave me my first airplane ride in a light plane. We were working on a project together at Boeing and decided to leave the office for lunch. While we were exiting the gate we discussed where to go and Kevin suggested "Why don't we have lunch in Friday Harbor?" So we flew his Cessna 152 up to the San Juan Islands for lunch! What an adventure for a non-aviator! Kevin gave me some flying lessons on the way back and I was hooked. Within the next several weeks I picked out a flight school and obtained my private pilot certificate in 60 days. I rented airplanes for a few months before Kevin helped me find my first airplane, a Cessna 172M which I flew for several years and had many great adventures. Soon Kevin had moved up to a Beechcraft Bonanza and I got a ride in it. I was immediately enamored! The roomy cabin with great big windows, the speed and unbelievably light and responsive flight controls! I knew that the Bonanza would be my next airplane and started my search. I flew to numerous locations around the northwest to look at airplanes and borrowed my brother's airplane in Michigan while visiting to explore airplane opportunities in the Midwest. None of them seemed to be the right Bonanza for me. Finally Kevin was looking at some pictures I took of a Bonanza in Spokane, Washington at Felts Field. Kevin asked me a lot of questions about this 1958 J35 Bonanza and suggested that we should take another look at it together. I had shied away from this Bonanza because it had been sitting for ten years out of annual. It only had about 100 hours on a Continental IO470C factory remanufactured engine but sitting there for 10 years? At least it had chrome cylinders so they would not rust. After looking at a lot of Bonanzas this one started to look more attractive to me. After going through a long list of things to check that an IA gave me we put some fresh avgas in it and it started right up. It ran great and the prop cycled so we made a deal and I flew it back to Paine Field that day. Kevin told me later that he thought the airplane was worth what I paid for it without the S-TEC autopilot which I am still flying with.



Several years after my Bonanza purchase I failed to secure it while parked up at Roche Harbor. So while I was having dinner it rolled across the grass ramp and down the hill into a ditch. When I returned from dinner I saw a bunch of people standing around my Bonanza which was still in the ditch with the nose gear folded up. The local aviators helped me get it moved to a safe place and my WPA friends Jerry Miller and Larry Steele came to give me a ride home. Kevin Clark flew me back to Roche Harbor and helped me survey the damage the next day. A week later Kevin and I returned to Roche Harbor to make the repairs that would be necessary to fly my Bonanza home. Kevin drove me to Omak, Washington in his pickup truck to acquire the Bonanza structure I would need to repair my airplane. Other WPA friends also assisted me during this time and I eventually got my Bonanza repaired and flying again.

I shared a number of aviation adventures with Kevin over the years which included a trip to EAA AirVenture and a trip to Alaska in his V35B Bonanza. I am just one of many aviators that Kevin has been a friend to over many years. He will be missed by many people who have known him for years both at Paine Field and Blakely Island where he owned a vacation home.

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### New Instrument Panel – Almost Done

I finally completed the installation of my new Garmin GTN 650 GPS along with an S-TEC roll steering upgrade for my S-TEC 60-2 autopilot. I am reviewing and updating the paperwork and if the weather cooperates I will have the installation signed off before Christmas. After a thorough ground functional check I performed a brief flight test in order to confirm that everything performs as expected. After some fairly extensive self-training I hope I will get used to the new navigator fairly quickly.

## Jan 5th at Shawn O'Donnell's, Paine Field Airport Issues



**Officers: [Paine-BOD@WPAfllys.org](mailto:Paine-BOD@WPAfllys.org)**

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**2017 Director Jerry Barkley**  
[paine-board1@wpaflys.org](mailto:paine-board1@wpaflys.org)

**Past President Dave Wheeler**  
[paine-past\\_president@wpaflys.org](mailto:paine-past_president@wpaflys.org)

## 2018 Membership Renewal Season

It is also the season for numerous other occasions and activities. While looking ahead to the holidays also think about your aviation community. Including friends, activities, flying in any general aviation aircraft seat, and supporting the organization that "has your back".

2018's Washington Pilots Association promises to be better and stronger than ever. Really. We have been talking about it and working towards that goal all year. Both at chapter and state levels.

If you have not already done so PLEASE consider renewing your Washington Pilots Association membership for 2018 online at [www.wpaflys.org](http://www.wpaflys.org). It's easy.

Sincerely,

Frank E. Hummel  
WPA State Director at Large



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**Christmas Party 2017 at the Future of Flight Grand Lobby  
Catered by Shawn O'Donnell's  
Sound system donated by Aurora Rents  
91 tickets sold**

**10 attendees went home with Christmas Wall hangings compliments of WPA**

*photos by Greg Bell*



**Thanks to our 2017 Board of Directors  
President Rich Jones, VP Dan Diessner, Secretary (not pictured) Eric Allais, Treasurer Geoge Futas  
Directors Frank Hummel, Gary Hill and Jerry Barkley**



**Welcome our 2018 Board of Directors  
President Rich Jones, VP Dan Diessner, Secretary Richard Beckert, Treasurer George Futas  
Directors Will Tilse, Gary Hill and Jerry Barkley**



Future of Flight is changing their administrator and will be unable to make any reservations for events until after June, 2018. At this time we have a pending reservation for Rosehill Community Center in Mukilteo for Saturday, December 8th. This will be catered by O'Donnell's, as was our last two Christmas Parties.

We are still looking for other facilities and if any member has some thoughts about an appropriate facility that can handle 100 attendees, please e-mail me ASAP at [Pink.Bonanza@Frontier.com](mailto:Pink.Bonanza@Frontier.com). We need to find and formalize a location by January.

We would also like suggestions about entertainment. We are limited on our time for such, but I think we can allocate at least ½ hour.

I was thinking of the possibility of an Ugly Seater Contest, as we seem to have had a head start on such this year.

I did have a poll on our FaceBook page asking for your preference on day of the week for the party. Not many responded, but Saturday was ahead of Friday.



**We would like to thank Larry Steele of Aurora Rents for his support of our chapter functions. They have provided tables and chairs for the hangar party and the sound system for the Christmas part at no cost to the chapter.**



## 2017's Washington Pilots Association Paine Field Chapter Awards

16 Award nominations were received

A panel of eight members from our chapter were asked to, and voted on these nominations

**Sponsor of the Year** – For at least the past 15 years, Everett Community College has allowed us to use their facilities at Paine Field to hold safety seminars and Aviation Academy classes.

And the winner is **Everett Community College**



**Spark Plug of the Year** – This year's award recipient organizes overnight fly-outs, posts videos on the WPA Facebook page, inspires others to get out and fly, as well as plan flights to farther away destinations.

And the winner is **Greg Bell**



**Pilot Of The Year** – Helps others, and in significant ways. Has served our chapter in multiple positions, regularly contributes to our chapter newsletter, conducts safety training for our members and others, assists as a flight instructor, and helps those who may need it most through Angel Flight.

And the winner is **George Futas**

Thank you !  
Frank Hummel

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Thanks to our Silent Auction Donors.  
We brought in \$3072 for the Youth Aviation Scholarship Fund.



Thanks to Kevin Kelly for donating the wall hangings which brought in donations above the stated values.





**December brought us a week of sunny afternoons.  
This fly-out was to Bellingham.  
*photos by Greg Bell***



>> How and when did you get interested in aviation?

My grandfather soloed before the great depression hit in 1929, but never got back into it since he had to give it up and help the family during the depression. My parents also liked aviation and had arranged plane rides for me. Then, in 1979 at age 16, my mom noticed that Harrison County Airport just out side Cadiz, Ohio was advertising ground school for the private pilot license and asked me if I would be interested in getting my Private pilot license. To which I enthusiastically said yes. I soloed just before my 17th birthday and had my private shortly after my 17th birthday. My parents and my grandparents were proud and by the end of the summer my grandfather decided to buy a C172, N6329D, so we could fly around together and he was thinking he might get back into flying himself. This C172 provided me the opportunity to easily earn my Commercial license and my Instrument and CFI ratings. My grandpa and I took several long cross countries in this plane including a flight to Florida and Colorado/Wyoming. I used this C172 to teach flying during the summer between my Junior and Senior year at Ohio Northern University in 1983. In the summer of 1985 while at Colorado State University I earned my CFI-IA rating. From 1985 until 1997 I rented airplanes or provided instruction in FBO owned airplanes or private airplanes. Then, in the spring of 1997 I bought a 182RG that I have owned ever since. My family and I have taken many memorable trips in this airplane including numerous trips back to Ohio, a trip to Alaska and a trip to Mexico.

>> What aircraft have you owned and if you own one now what model?

C172, N6329D, Grandpa owned, but I was usually PIC  
C182RG, N756KV – Currently own; my wife and I have had a lot of fun in this airplane



>> What non-owned aircraft have you flown?

C150/C152  
C172RG  
PA-22-150  
C182  
PA-28R-200  
C180  
PA-28-180  
C172 floats  
C177  
Aeronca Champ, model 7  
C175  
PA23-160 (Piper Apache)  
DA42 (Diamond Twin Star)

>> Are you involved or have ever been involved as a volunteer in any other aviation related organization?

Just recently joined Angel Flight West  
I am a member of Recreation Aviation Foundation and have contributed to their work of preserving backcountry airstrips.

>> What is/was your career?

Electrical Engineer, Licensed PE in WA state.  
Worked 8 years at Fluke in Everett as Staff Engineer  
Worked 22 years at Microsoft in Redmond as Hardware Design Manager  
Some flight instruction mostly flight reviews and IPCs  
Currently retired; though I likely will do some engineering consulting and/or flight instructing in 2018

>> What inspires you about aviation?

The freedom to go places and see things. For example, my wife and I enjoy flying to Orcas Island on a sunny day and enjoying a Latte and a walk into town. I also really enjoy fly/camping at some of the backcountry airstrips.

>> Why are you a member of WPA?

General Aviation needs organizations like WPA that look out for GA interests at the local level and in WA state. I also want to see our smaller airports including our backcountry airstrips in WA state maintained and improved.

Jan 5th at Shawn O'Donnell's, Paine Field Airport Issues  
Feb 2nd General Meeting and Dinner, back at LeBistro

# CLASSIFIED ADS

submissions to [Pink.Bonanza@frontier.com](mailto:Pink.Bonanza@frontier.com)

Advertisements are free to WPA members for aviation related items and/or services

Space limitations will give priority to Chapter members

Paid advertising is available for non-aviation ads in the state WPA WINGS newspaper

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