

San Juan

June 2008

The Monthly Newsletter of
The San Juan Pilots Assn
P.O. Box 874
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

www.sanjuanpilots.com

Mark Your Calendar

Monthly Luncheon – Friday, June 27, 1:00, Golf Course

Board Meeting – Tuesday, July 1, 5:15, Whidbey Island Bank Conference Room.

SJPA Annual Picnic at Dodie's Hangar – Saturday, August 9 (Changed Date).

Juan Pilots

The Roche Harbor Hangar Party

The odds were not in our favor as we gathered for the first outdoor function of 2008. The weather forecasters had declared this the coldest first week of June on record. But we did have a little rain, and plenty of wind going for us.



But, by 6:00 the sun was out and the wind had backed off. And, the first ever San Juan Pilots Roche Harbor Hangar Party, assumed to be a couple of dozen aviators, had grown. The RSVP list of 52 grew to an actual group of 120. Hangar owners **Bob and Lori Miller**, and **Bob Brunkow** and **Carol Marston** hosted the group, who will not soon forget the crab and pasta salad, or the key lime pie.

Competitive aerobatic pilot, **Scott Renne**, (who in his spare time is president of Blue Sea Systems in Bellingham), brought his Decathlon and performed a private show for the group. If you have ever tried to eat a burger and drink a glass of wine, while looking straight up, you can imagine how easy it was to find the show's biggest fans, by the mustard stains on their shirts, and the grape stains on their seat-mates.

Thanks again to our hosts, to **Dick and Kathy Babbitt** for the BBQ grille, and to the volunteers who set-up, cooked and cleaned up. And, to **Craig Goring** for the photos.

And now, it's off to **Dodie's hangar!** As it's said, every hot dog has its day.



John Volk Memorial Scholarship Awarded

The San Juan Pilots Association has awarded the first John Volk Memorial Scholarship to two seniors at Friday Harbor High School.

Kyle Schaefer of Center Island will pursue a career as a pilot at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and **Jens Townsdin** of Friday Harbor will attend The University of Washington to pursue studies in Aeronautical Engineering. Each will receive \$600 towards the cost of their education through the scholarship.

Criteria for the scholarship include a high level of scholastic achievement, demonstrated community service, and a dedication to an aviation-related career. Both recipients have made the honor roll at FHHS numerous times, and Schaefer commutes 3 hours per day from his home on Center Island to attend school.



The awards were presented at Friday Harbor High School on June 7 by Lainey Volk. "This scholarship was established to encourage and reward the sort of contributions that recall John's presence in our community," she said. "The goal is to honor John's memory by encouraging others to follow his example, and by giving them the tools to do so."

Lainey wrote the following and read it from the podium when presenting the awards:

"Science, freedom, beauty & adventure: what more could you ask of life? Aviation contains all these elements.

Science is in each curve of airfoil and precession of gyroscope, mathematics is required to determine fuel consumption, center of gravity & weight & balance.

That sensation of perfect peace mingles with excitement as one flies amongst the clouds, communing with the beauty of earth and sky. The adventure lies in each unique flight.

Aeronautics has caused our world to become small. We need good people to attend to technical advances in this field: building, maintaining and flying airplanes.

The John Volk Memorial Scholarship is given out for those who, like John, pursue a career in community service and/or aeronautics. I am honored to be able to present 2 scholarships this first year.

Kyle Schaefer and Jens Townsdin Congratulations!

My heart and soul lay in the sea & sky. May you soar high and far into your future and know such joy."

Virgie Returns to the Island

Behind every good man there is a great woman. Just ask local aviation pioneer **Roy Franklin**. In his autobiography, *Island Bush Pilot*, Roy describes how he transitioned from Navy fighter pilot to civilian flight instructor and got his surname in the process. Roy credits Mrs. Virginia Hayden with both. An accomplished pilot in her own right, 'Virgie' Hayden quietly helped to launch Roy on his legendary flying career over 60 years ago.



Now a nonagenarian, Virgie, at the suggestion of long-time friend **Vern Howard**, flew to Friday Harbor with SJPA member and head of Island Air, **Jackie Hamilton**, to have lunch with Roy and old friends. She was thrilled to fly with Jackie's Island Air whose tenure at the airport is now only superseded by the famous Franklin flying service.

She also shared the story of how the pilot fellas once left her alone at the airport to go duck hunting whereupon she jumped in a plane, buzzed the marsh scattering the ducks, letting them know they should all get back to work. Behind every good airport there are also some great women.

Virgie, who still lives in the Bellingham area, told Jackie she would still be flying if not for her poor eyesight.

Farewell to the \$100 Hamburger

Few of us are immune to the ever increasing cost of avgas. For the most part, many are just flying less. Next month, we'd like to publish your stories of how the high price of flying has changed the way you use your airplane. For example, how have you reduced the amount of fuel used, either by flying slower, leaning more, flying less? How about the use of available seats? Send us your story, and be part of the article.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, June 28 – Anacortes Fly-In

July 4/5 - Methow Valley fly-in at Twisp

July 9 – 13 - Arlington EAA



July 25-27 – Concrete Old Fashioned Fly-In

August 1-3 – Orcas Fly-In. Pancake Breakfast Sat/Sun, 7-11. Dinner Fri/Sat 5-7. Entertainment in the big tent, Fri/Sat at 6:00.

Saturday, August 9 – **SJPA Annual BBQ** and Silent Auction at Dodie Gann's Hangar. Donation of auction items needed! Contact Bob Brunkow at bbrunkow@icomcanada.com.

Aug 22-24 - SJPA member **Bert Geldermann** let us know about a great fly in event at Ferry County (Republic) Airport (R49) August 22-24.



According to Bert, "We have been growing every year, and in 2007 we hosted upwards of 150 planes over the weekend of the fly in. R49 is a 3,500 ft lighted strip just west of the Kettle Range in Ferry County, WA. It is smack in the middle of the Roosevelt A and B MOA. It is also smack in the middle of Curlew Lake State Park. The runway borders the lake and accommodations can be made for float plane arrivals. There is great fishing for trout, bass, and tiger muskie.....not to mention fly fishing on the Kettle river.'

'Transportation is provided to and from the town of Republic. We have a cook your own steak dinner on Saturday accompanied by live entertainment. It is quite fun and represents a chance for "coastie" pilots to experience a slightly more remote and adventurous flying experience without having to "rough it" by flying into an unimproved short strip. Local hotels are available but if SJPA members want to contact me I may be able to arrange lodging at our ranch or lake property.'

If you have questions call Bert at 360-298-0283...or e-mail him at bert@geldermann.com.

Saturday, Aug 23 – Lynden Airport Fly-In

Saturday, Aug 30 - Blackberry Festival Fly-In at Bremerton

New members

President Tom Schramm reports that we are up to 130 active members.



Bill Robinson has owned a Cessna T210 for over 30 years, and has tie-down at Friday Harbor and Boeing Field. Bill and his wife **Katia** have had their boat, the "Resolute", home-ported at Friday Harbor for over 20 years, and have a home on San Juan Drive.

Their flying adventures include many trips to the Arctic, from the Bering Sea to northern Ellesmere Island at 83 degrees north.

Bill's international law practice is focused on representing Western and Russian clients working in or with Russia. Bill is active in Rotary, chartered the San Juan Islands Rotary fleet when he was International Commodore of the Rotary

International yachting fellowship and is a member of the Rotary flying fellowship. Bill is also a member of the American Legion Post #163 in Friday Harbor.

The Robinsons have two grown children, **Eric** and **Michelle** (who was married on San Juan Island), and a yellow lab, **Chaika**, who is their backseat co-pilot.

New WSDOT Webcam coming to KFHR

SJPA Board Member **Stuart Hansen** reports that an airport cam provided by the Washington State Dept of Transportation's Aviation Division has been applied for. A call to WSDOT's **Jeff Kvamme** confirmed that the camera budget has been approved. Airport Manager **Pat Mayo** says the camera will be mounted on top of the tower, and have two North and two South views, similar to that currently installed in Arlington, <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/WebCam/Arlington.htm>.

Installation should be made early next month.

Bob Tripp Has A New Novel

Due out next month, is SJPA member **Bob Tripp's** new book, "Last Clear Chance".

When pilots are talking among themselves, their greatest fear is not dying in a major accident, but surviving it. The main character in this novel, Dan Swanton, lives through a disastrous crash on takeoff from Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport in which most of the passengers and crew members (including the other three pilots), and his wife all die.

Dan faces recovery from severe physical injury, personal tragedy, and a deep sense of guilt. The intense investigation that follows all accidents destroys Dan's professional career and personal life. In theory, this is an impartial process to find the cause. In practice, all the parties involved have an agenda. It is in the best interests for most of them if the pilots are at fault.

Dan attempts to defend himself and regain his flying status, but he is suffering from post traumatic stress disorder. Those in the airline and the FAA, who would rather not see him succeed, subvert his return to the line. His fate is sealed when he has a flashback to the crash during his requalification check ride. His son turns against him, blaming him for his mother's death. His only ally is his daughter. Plunged into despair by what appears to be the end of his career and the dissolution of his family, he turns to a woman therapist. Her probing analysis forces him to look into those questions most of us sidestep—the abyss of death and the mystery of survival. Is fate a hunter that plunges from the sky to destroy lives here on earth? What is the nature of the hidden reality that operates behind the scenes of our everyday lives?

Taking her advice, he goes into retreat at a friend's house in a remote valley on the island of Molokai. By life examples, and through the teachings of people there, he finds a path of exploration. This leads him into two mystical experiences on a sea cliff and soaring in a glider. These experiences in turn provide the resolution and transformation that allows him to move forward into a new and open future.

For more information, Bob's website is: <http://www.bobtripp.com/LastClearChance.html>



A taxing problem

Cheryl and Paul Herndon point out a potential “gotcha” when flying to another state. If you plan to have your airplane in another state, for an extended period, you might be subject to a big tax surprise.

They forward as an example, a Mass. resident got a bill, last year from Maine, for \$25,000. As an owner of vacation property in Maine, he flew his SR-22 into Rockland. Since the aircraft was in Maine more than 20 days, he became liable for a “use tax” of 5% of the Cirrus’s full value.

Washington State charges sales tax on aircraft purchased in the state, and use tax on those brought into the state. So, if your bird is registered in another state, but spends more than 90 days in Washington in any 12-month period, you could be subject to the use tax. That’s the same rate as sales tax! If you are a Washington aircraft owner, you also pay an annual excise tax. Single engine, for example, is \$65.

As the weather turns grey and cold, many SJPAA members fly South for the winter. Here’s what we were able to learn about a couple of states you might visit.

California imposes an annual Personal Property Tax, equal to one-percent of the calculated value of the airplane. This is a county tax, so it may be imposed differently by different counties. As an example, airports supply the names of hangar tenants on January 1. Each is sent a tax bill. However, exemption may be given to those whose aircraft are registered outside California.

Arizona does not appear to have a Personal Property Tax on aircraft. Arizona Dept of Revenue, Pub. 545 says, “Vehicles licensed by the state for use on the public highways, waterways or air space are not reported as taxable personal property.”

Keep in mind, this writer is not an attorney, so the above is just information gleaned from the web and a bit of personal experience. Nevertheless, it is probably safe to say that there is no safe harbor around paying (1) sales/use taxes to someone, when you buy your airplane, and (2) if your airplane spends most of its time hangared in a state with a personal property tax, you are likely to end up paying it. And finally, it would be wise to do some research before you buy an out of state hangar for your new Gulfstream

Classifieds

Sal Arria is selling a new hangar at Roche Harbor Airport. He also has a house for sale.

FOR SALE: Roche Harbor - Brand new hangar, private 50' wide - 60' deep with a 20' tall x 50' wide Hydroswing door. Fully insulated. On 4 private acres. \$445k

Also for sale: Very clean 3 bdrm, 1bath, cottage. No hangar yet but easy access to runway. \$295k

Call Paul Le Baron 877-757-3629 or e-mail: paull@sanjuanrealestate.com

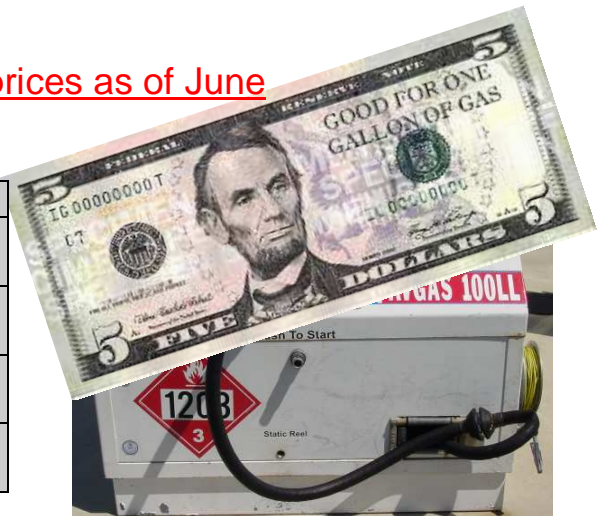
More Classifieds

"Need hangar space for larger airplane at FHR?"

Hangar space available for twin or single/twin turboprop/light jet.
New hangar. Call 206-200-1752"

Fuel Update – The latest local pump prices as of June

Friday Harbor	6.02	Orcas	5.59
Anacortes	5.59	Skagit – Viajet	5.35
Bellingham – BP Self Serve	5.55	Lynden	5.00
Boeing- Wings Aloft	6.27	Arlington - Fliteline	5.52
Everett – Jet Center	5.70	Port Townsend	5.44



- Dave Ross at Aeronautical adds that private card holders save an additional 10 cents at KFHR and KORS.



San Juan Pilots Association 2007 board : President – Tom Schramm, Vice President –Bob Brunkow, Secretary –Tom Eades, Treasurer – Dan DeShon, Jonathan Taylor, Fred Schumacher, Bob Miller, Mike Taylor, Stuart Hansen.