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December 2007

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, December 28, 1:00,
Jimmies Paradise (Bowling Alley).

Board Mtg – Tuesday, January 8, 5:15, Whidbey
Island Bank Conference Room.

J u a n P i l o t s



68 of us dined on Prime Rib and Salmon, enjoyed a beverage or two, told new stories, re-told old stories, and lived vicariously in the cockpit of an SR-71.



Special guest speakers **David Dempster** and **Cecil Braeden**, who were *Reconnaissance Systems Officers* on the world's fastest and highest-flying aircraft, related their experiences of Life at Mach 3.

The next two pages feature some candid photos, taken by San Juan Pilots President, **Tom Schramm**.

The 2007 Christmas Party (Cont'd)



There's nothing better than a ripping flying story. David and Cecil kept the crowd's attention.



With all eyes front, Dan DeShon wonders how good an SR-71 would look on his ramp.



Then there was John, Dodie and Jonathan ...

and Bob Tauscher, too.

The 2007 Christmas Party (Cont'd)



Arthur Miller gives our guest some flying tips.



Ray Bigler and Wayne Fitzgerald converse.



Charlie, Nancy and Roz in a relaxed pose, while Jim Cox and Bob Miller walk in formation.



Jim Gruneisen corners Bob Brunkow, while Dave Cable and Bonnie Davis appear to put Hector Cyre to sleep.



The Flight Before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas and up in the sky,
I was making my last flight home from KBFI.

My call checks in with Seattle approach,
I'm admonished the Class B, not to encroach.

Up ahead the clouds have a thick appearance,
It's time to request a pop-up clearance.

Nicely between layers at 4,000 feet,
I settle back and adjust my seat.

Then Whidbey calls traffic at my nine o'clock,
I answer "No Joy", but then what a shock.

Off my left wing was a craft, I never had seen,
The most incredible kind of flying machine.

No Cessna, no Piper, I'm shaking my head,
I must be dreaming, my traffic's a sled!

No propeller in front, or even in rear,
Thrust seemed to come from only, reindeer.

Only one pilot defies aeronautical laws,
By jove it could only be ... Santa Claus.

I watched all the while with pure fascination,
That sled was keeping up ... and flying formation!

I said not a word to my controller on the ground,
For fear how strange the sight would sound.

The radio came alive with the Whidbey voice,
GPS or NDB, what's your choice?

NDB's my answer and I feel him frown,
As I request the good old Smith Island letdown.

With St. Nick as my wingman behind his reindeer steed,
A procedure turn is the last thing we need.

Down through the clag, we're now IMC,
When we break out below, what'll I see?

Just me and the sky, for that I'll prepare,
But the kid in me hopes that Santa's still there.

Have I lost my mind, have I gone crazy?
It's clearing some, but still pretty hazy.

Turning to final, I come off of the power,
Soon it's so clear, I can see Pat in the tower.

Risking a peek past my wing in the night,
Old Kringle's still with me, tucked in real tight.

The moon on the golf course casts a lustrous glow,
As I crack the mic for all those below.

"Two mile final", only I hear me say,
Flight of two, Cessna and Sleigh.

Then all of a sudden, old Santa turned left,
A very tight turn, considering his heft.

I on short final and he on go-round,
The frequency's empty, with narry a sound.

As I rolled off the runway, it started to snow,
The radio comes alive with, "Ho, ho, ho, ho!"

Old Nick was now busy doing his task,
Just what that is we needn't to ask.

Rooftop-to-rooftop on reindeer paws,
Dragging his bag, it's old Santa Claus.

Presents-a-plenty for good aviators,
Lumps of coal for altitude violators.

As I closed up the hangar and walked to the car,
Through the quiet of night I heard from afar.

"Merry Christmas to all in our Nation,
And remember your dues to the SJ Pilots Association!"

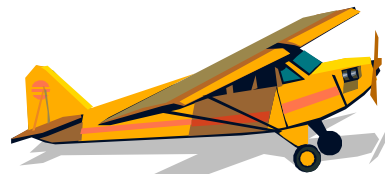


Fuel Update – The latest local pump prices as of December

Friday Harbor	5.20	Orcas	5.00
Anacortes	4.89	Skagit – Viajet	4.63
Bellingham - Texaco	4.63	Blaine	4.92
Boeing- Wings Aloft	5.17	Arlington - Fliteline	4.51
Everett – Fliteline	4.55	Port Townsend	4.77



Dave Ross at Aeronautical adds that private card holders save an additional 8 cents at KFHR and KORS.



San Juan Pilots Association 2007 board : President – Tom Schramm, Vice President -John Geyman, Secretary –Tom Eades, Treasurer – Bob Brunkow, Richard Babbit, Fred Schumacher, Pat Mayo, Mike Taylor, Art Miller and Dan DeShon.