

T-CRAFT AERO CLUB

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 8, Issue 12, December 2011, T-Craft Aero Club Inc., All Rights Reserved

As 2011 is gently rolled into the hangar, eager anticipation fills the heart as 2012 is pushed out. This issue will remember the year with photos submitted for the newsletter by our members; you can find each photo's caption as you read previous issues from 2011. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for 31 January 2012; two positions – president and secretary – will be open for nominations and vote. The Board will also review the 2011 business year, so be sure to attend. From the Board, we hope your holiday season has been joyous, and that you welcome the New Year safely.



From the Membership Director

Winter Flying

Nothing beats a cool, clear, crisp day or night for flying and we are often blessed with many of such days in Idaho. This December, (to the angst of the snow lover in me), we have been blessed with an abundance of sunny days for great winter flying. The following is a refresher of the newsletter published in 2009 on Winter Flying considerations.

As we have to do with our home and car, there are some preparations to make, both physical and mental to adjust to the colder weather and winter conditions. If you haven't done so yet, please review the Winter Operations document Jim Eyre published. It includes tips and information on preflight, starting, in-flight safety, and engine operational considerations. It's on the club web page at: <http://www.t-craft.org/siteindex.htm> click on **Cold Weather Operations**. Also review the October 2011 Newsletter available on our website under the **Newsletter Archive** tab for additional tips Jim has provided.

In addition to Jim E's tips, consider the following for your pre-flight planning, comfort and safety during winter time flights.

Preflight Planning: Obtain a good weather briefing; pay particular attention to freezing levels, icing, fog, and mountain obscuration Airmets. Be aware of changing weather conditions and get en route updates. Check NOTAMS and call your destination airport(s) for updates on runway and ramp conditions. If an overnight stay is planned, look for a heated hanger you can rent, or at least bring your plane for de-icing/de-frosting if needed. Plan a route to maximize safe landing opportunities in case of an emergency, and always have an out. File a flight plan (with the FAA or someone who will know your route and ETA) and stick to your plan.

Comfort: Dress warmly, carry blankets for rear seat passengers, you can always peel off those layers and stow in the aircraft. Bring some fluids to keep hydrated.

Survival: Winterize your Survival bag. Keep extra layers of clothing and blankets in the unlikely event of an off-airport landing. Have a pair of gloves in your flight bag for preflight and fueling. Have basic first aid supplies, flares, matches, strobe lights, and a signaling mirror. Basic shelter can be created using the fuselage and plant material. Know how to build a snow cave if needed.

Emergency Communications: Consider purchasing a SPOT tracker or Emergency Personal Locator Beacon. A VHF handheld transceiver could be helpful to reach overhead aircraft for assistance. Bring a cell phone, which may work in some locations.

Aircraft Pre-Flight: Be sure all frost & ice are removed from the aircraft especially flight control surfaces. Check tires and struts: Cold temperatures cause pressure in tires and struts to decrease. If struts are low, they will need to be serviced by a mechanic. Check that Pitot tube heat is working. Be careful, it does get hot to the touch.

Taxing: Be watchful for snow and ice patches. Brake cautiously when taxiing, taking off, and landing. In areas with lots of snow, be careful of snow banks which may catch a wing inadvertently. Brake Easy: Plan on minimum brake usage when landing and when taxiing through snow. Warm brakes melt any snow upon stopping and then refreezes, locking the plane in position.

Run-up: Check to make sure that cabin heat works - be sure that cabin heat does not introduce exhaust gases into the cockpit due to a leaking heat exchanger, introducing of carbon monoxide into the cabin. Locate and frequently check the CO detector coupons during the flight. The spot on the detector will turn gray/black when CO is in the air. If you or your passengers start getting drowsy, sick or a headache, get some fresh air, it could be CO poisoning.

En-route Flight Conditions: Monitor outside air temps regularly, especially if you start picking up any moisture. Avoid icing conditions by all means, and, if you pick up ice unexpectedly, exit icing conditions as soon as possible.

Carb Icing: Recognize a higher potential for carb icing and use carb heat as necessary. Plan on using it earlier than manufacturers recommendations and often. Test your carb heat during run-up at high and lowest RPM settings.

Fuel: Bring lots of it - more fuel equals more options. Be it climbing above clouds, or steering around a storm, you'll be glad to have it.

Cross Wind: Adjust your cross wind approach to final to the current conditions. A commonly used rule of thumb is cut your max crosswind component in half for a snowy runway, and cut it by 75% for hard packed snow or ice on the runway.

Local Considerations: Snow removal at Nampa and similar airports can be spotty, especially on the taxiways. Make sure taxiways are clear of most snow and don't attempt to "plow" through deep snow and/or slush. A Prop-strike in snow, ice, or slush is considered the same as a prop striking water or the ground, and will require an engine teardown, i.e. very expensive.

The north side of our hanger gets little sun, and patches of ice persist for some time, which can make it extremely difficult to get planes in and out of the hanger, especially if you are by yourself. Be careful that you or your passengers don't slip and fall on the ice or snow.

Are you night current? If not, getting night current would be a good way to burn your use-it-or-lose-it hour, and a night flight is a good way to check out the Christmas and city lights. Night currency requires a minimum of three landings to a full stop, one hour after sunset, within the past 90 days before you can take passengers.

Winter Flying can be just as much fun as in the summer, but it takes a little more preparation, planning, and a willingness to postpone trips because of inclement weather.

Additional tips and considerations can be found on AOPA's article on Winter Flying at: <http://www.aopa.org/members/files/topics/winterfly.html>

Fly Smart, Fly Safe and Have Fun,
Jim Hudson

Membership: We currently are at 73 members.

New Members: Please welcome the following new members who joined us this month.

Doug Case – Doug is returning to flying to enjoy the friendly skies after several years absence.

Scott Cagle – Scott is working towards his Recreational Pilot Certificate.

New Pilot Ratings this Month:

Congratulations Ben Maxwell – Earning his Private Pilot Certificate

Training/Events:

January 17th 7:00 PM –T-Craft Hanger: AOPA "Null Report", Accident Statistics Review
February – Date TBD: 0YD Accident Review, Jim Hudson



Aircraft Maintenance

Contact Jim Eyre [cell:(208)794-0667] with squawks, and use the notification feature found on-line in [Schedule Master](#) to alert pilots intending to use impacted aircraft. Write the tachometer time on the Squawk Sheet clipboard found on the hangar wall. Sign your name, and include a phone number where you can be contacted. Document Hobbs time for all other recordings. Report leaks immediately.

375 – Pilot side PTT squawked; waiting for confirmation.

686 - Nose tire went flat on landing. **Inner tube was split.** Back in August the FAA sent out a "Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin" (SAIB) Subject: Landing Gear, Tire Tube, Goodyear Aviation Tires, Flight Mate Butyl. Bulletin alerts operators, pilots, and aircraft manufacturers of possible inner tube failures made from butyl rubber by Goodyear. The failure of the inner tube is not an unsafe condition that would warrant Airworthiness Directive under Title 14 part 39 at this time (FAA words).

Failures have occurred during **cold weather** operations reported following short flights or ground operations. Goodyear is reported to be working to improve their inner tube quality. Aero Services sent their stock of Goodyear butyl inner tubes back. 375 **did NOT** have Goodyear butyl rubber, however we suspect the brand we are using is reacting as such during these **cold weather** months.

FAA recommends that pilots be prepared at all times to compensate for a flat tire during landing because this might pull airplane to the affected side, especially during **cold weather** and cross wind landings conditions on narrow and on short runways.

93S - #1 Radio squawk as weak; reviewing. Taxi light out (will replace lamp). 12V outlet (cigar lighter) possible blown fuse (will replace if so). Spring in starter adapter broken; repaired by AeroServices; discussing \$1900.00 repair bill with Western Skyways (should be covered under engine replacement warrantee).

From the Board

Flying rates (effective 26 July 2011)

375	-	\$58.00*
64R	-	\$84.00
686	-	\$86.00
91X and 0YD	-	\$121.00
93S	-	\$124.00

*[all rates recorded per hour "wet"]

Fuel re-imbursement for December 2011: \$4.89gal.

(Review your receipts and confirm \$.25/gallon is recorded. Report any discrepancies **ASAP** to Dennis Wheeler.)

NEW MEMBER NOTICE

T-Craft Board approved members must be formally accepted into the Club by member vote during a General Membership Meeting. The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for 31 January 2012, 7:00p.m., in the EAA/CAP Building, Nampa airport.



General Information

*** Members wishing to maintain currency may attend the following meetings:***

Next Board Meeting: 10 January 2012, 7:00p.m., T-Craft Hangar training room.

Next General Membership Meeting: 31 January 2012, 7:00 p.m., EAA/CAP Hangar, Nampa, Id

Websites of Interest

(Hover your pointer over the link, hold down the Ctrl key, then click your left mouse button.)

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lq_fire2.php, Large fires, some including TFRs
<http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/index.cfm>, TFRs on WACs or Sectionals
http://aviationweather.gov/adds/icing/icing_nav.php?icg_type=CIPSEV50&height=max&fcst_hr=0
<http://aviationweather.gov/adds/metars/>
<http://faasafety.gov/>
http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr_map_ims/html/index.html, FAA
http://www.aopa.org/asf/online_courses/
http://www.aopa.org/asf/online_courses/, AOPA Flight Safety on-line courses
<http://www.aopa.org/asf/publications/advisors.html>
<http://www.aopa.org/index.html>
<http://www.aopa.org/letsqoflying/>, AOPA's "Let's Go Flying!"
<http://www.aviation.state.or.us/>, Oregon State
<http://www.faa.gov/go/runwaysafety>, Runway safety
http://www.faa.gov/news/safety_briefing/, FAA Safety Briefings
http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aircraft/airplane_handbook/
<http://www.firedetect.noaa.gov/viewer.htm>, Fire Reporting
<http://www.flyidaho.org>, Idaho Aviation Association
<http://www.itd.idaho.gov/aero/>, Idaho Aviation Association Calendar of events
<http://www.nampaairport.org/airport/Category/news>, Nampa, Id. Airport news
<http://www.navmonster.com/>, TFRs along your route
http://www.undaerospace.com/cbt_files/virtualengine/Magneto/virtual%20Engine.swf, Magneto Fun!
<http://www.weather.gov/aq/sectors/pacnorthwest.php>
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/boi/>, National Weather Service – Boise Office
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/satellite/?wfo=boi>
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/zoa/cwa.php>
<http://www.ghcc.msfc.nasa.gov/GOES/goeswestpacus.html>
https://faasafety.gov/gslac/ALC/course_catalog.aspx
www.backcountrypilot.org
www.cubgearstore.com, Survival, and back country gear
www.shortfield.com
www.t-craft.org, the official website for T-Craft Aero Club Inc.



Reminders

Answers concerning our Club, Policies, or even locating a **New Member Application Form** for your friend or family member can be found on the T-Craft website: www.t-craft.org.

T-Craft Business Cards and Pamphlets are available. Share them with friends and acquaintances in the community who may be looking for piloting opportunities.

Delete the remainder of any unused flight time from ScheduleMaster immediately after landing. Somebody may be able to use that time.

T-Craft Members are responsible for keeping their **contact information** (phone numbers, email addresses, postal address) updated in **ScheduleMaster**. To check or update your information, login to ScheduleMaster, click the "User" tab at the top, then click the link that says "Click here to edit your user info".

Got something aviation **you want to sell**? Post it in the T-Craft Newsletter. Send your advertisement to the Secretary at: jlvanho@msn.com.





Thanks to all who have sent us stories and photos for our newsletter. Be sure to send us yours this coming year.



It's Star Date 1512.2, and you're onboard the Starship Enterprise. Can you spot the navigator? [from *Star Trek, the Original Television Series*, episode: "The Corbomite Maneuver"]

Fin