

T-Craft Aero Club

March 2013



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MEMBER'S MESSAGE

by Bill McGlynn

Winds of March, April and May

Welcome to the windy season of our flying year. Of course wind also brings bumps in our world because of the way it flows over our mountains and down and around our valleys, making it hard to predict where the smooth air could be.

There is a tool in the NOAA kit that can help us make better predictions about winds. It's called the 700mb relative humidity model in the Global Forecast System (GFS) collection of dynamic forecasts. This particular tool looks primarily at relative humidity at the 10,000 foot level, but also takes a shot at winds – as far as 16 days ahead.

In the weather shot of Easter Sunday, Mar 31 at 6am MDT on the following page, you can see how a low pressure system in northern Canada is channeling the jet stream down over eastern Montana and western North Dakota. If you were flying at 10,000 ft and encountered these 40 to 45 knot winds, it would make for an exciting ride. You might post-pone your trip until things settled

down somewhat. In the meantime, winds look fairly docile and calm in Idaho and it might be the right morning to take that ride to Idaho Falls. The green shading also gives you an indication of what might be going on with clouds at that

Club Meetings

◆ Board Meeting

April 9, 2013 7:00 PM

@ the T-Craft Hangar

◆ Backcountry Seminar

April 17, 2013 7:00 PM

@ the EAA/CAP Facility

◆ General Membership Meeting

April 30, 2013 7:00 PM

@ the EAA/CAP Facility

...Continued

time. Dark green indicates relative humidity (rh) at 90% or greater, which would predict a good layer of clouds at ~10000 ft. The lighter green could be a thin layer or broken clouds or none at all – depends upon many variables in the atmosphere that day.

So here's how you find this tool: First, go to the NOAA directory at <http://mag.ncep.noaa.gov>

Then choose the most recent model run under the GFS category (ie. 20130326 06 UTC is the most recent run in the morning – the model ran at midnight our time).

After choosing the model run time, then choose “namer” on the next page, which is North America.

Next – choose the 700mb rh_ht model – fourth column, fifth one down.

Then choose “loop all” and depending upon the speed of your internet connection, wait a few seconds or all day.

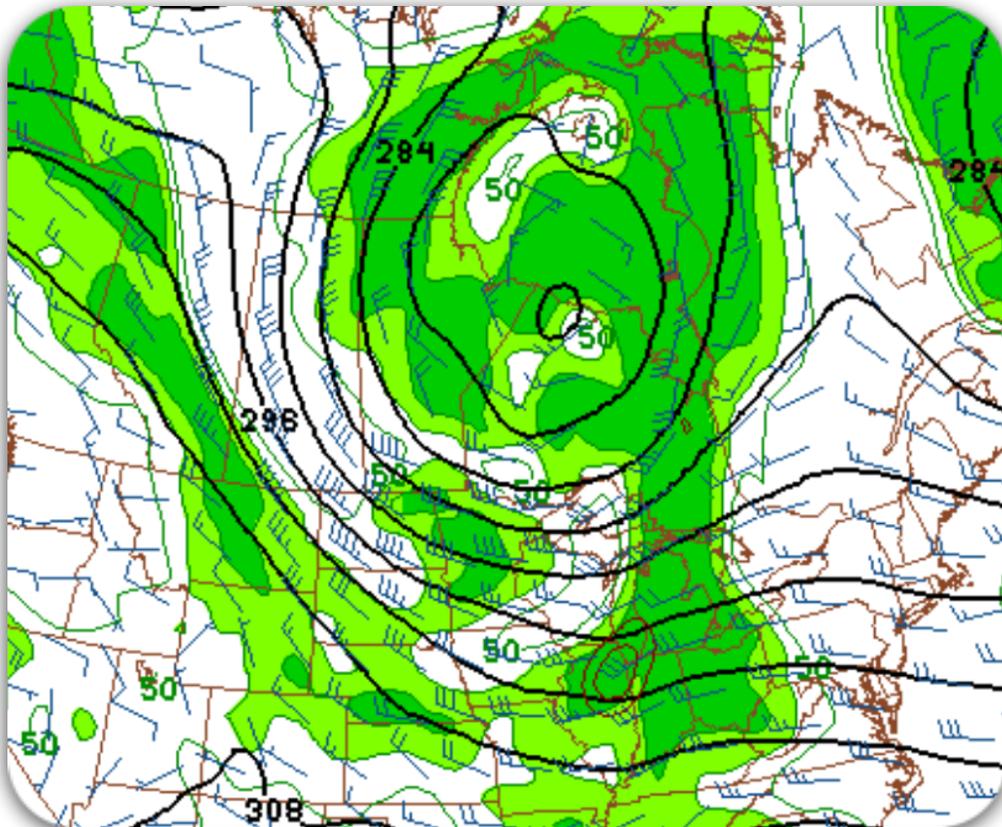
You can toggle through the hours and days of the model output by using the arrow keys on your keyboard, or point and click on the arrow keys on top of the model page. This assumes that you pressed “stop” at the top of the page, as the model will just keep cycling on its own until you do. Pay particular attention to the timestamp on each page of the model – it's on the top just behind “FCST VALID”. Keep in mind that this depicts winds at 10,000 feet. It's unlikely that winds will be higher speed

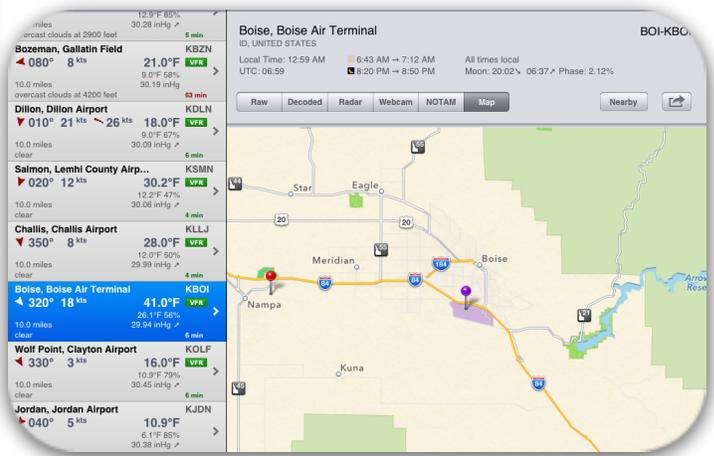
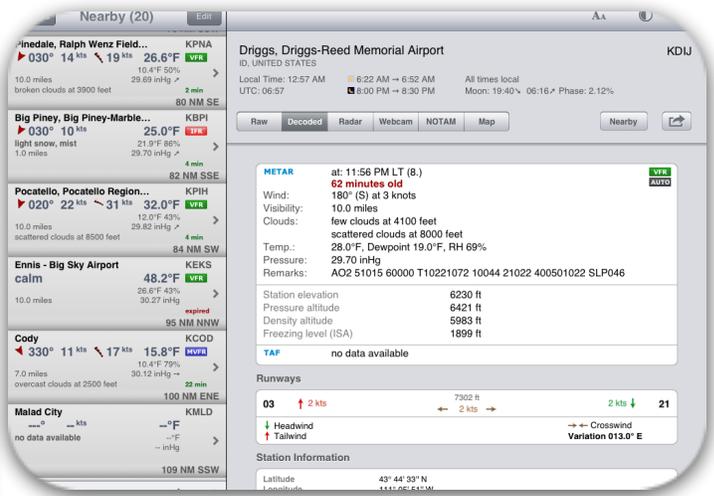
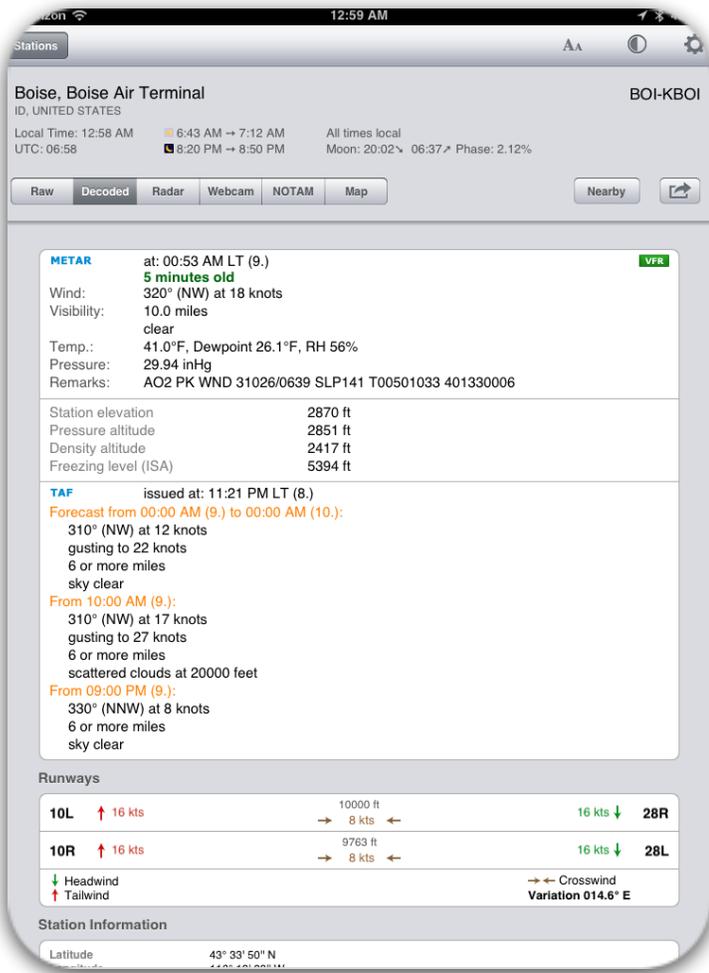
at lower levels, but it's possible (see below). Also our mountains and valleys can change the wind direction at lower levels, so keep this in mind if you're flying up canyons and over ridges.

Now remember, although these models are very sophisticated and convincing, there are a lot of things influencing winds, so you might do more digging with other tools before your launch. The ADDS page has wind forecasts, but they don't help much until just a day or maybe two before you go. Find it at <http://www.aviationweather.gov/adds/> and then choose “winds/temp”. This site also forecasts winds at 3000, 6000, 9000 feet and on up – so it's always good to check it. Take note – if wind direction and velocity changes substantially from one flight level to the next, that is a good indication of wind shear, and although it won't shear the wings off the plane, it will be an “E” ticket ride for you and your passengers if you pass through it. Ask Jim Eyre if you wondering “how exciting”. Wind shear will usually be called out in an airmet as well, and would usually be included in a FSS weather briefing.

Happy flying and may you have blue skies and non-turbulent tail winds.

Remember - "Truly superior pilots are those who use their superior judgment to avoid those situations where they might have to use their superior skills."





Aeroweather App gives you raw and decoded METAR and TAFs along with other aviation related information.

Mark your calendar for July 19th and 20th for the Annual Garden Valley Fly-in and Breakfast where fun times are had by all!



"When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return."

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Safety - Membership Director

Membership Status

We've lost 2 members this past month: Dave Martineau and David McDaniels.

Our membership is currently at 65 members. This is the lowest our membership has been in many years. Although our plane availability is great, our monthly costs will go up if we continue to lose members and fail to get our membership back up at or above 70 members.

Membership Promotion

We had a couple of promotional events in March to get the word out about our great club. We had a booth at the Sportsman show in early March and the Fly-it-forward event promoting women in aviation.

At the Sportsman show, we had 106 people sign up for a free discovery flight and handed out over 100 brochures about our club, over 75 brochures on learning to fly, and other literature. We feel we have several potential members and/or student pilots, however so far only one person has contacted me for more information.

At the Fly it Forward event, we also had several folks interested, yet only one showed any interest so far.

We were also featured in AOPA's club of the month which is another promotional opportunity. Hopefully these activities will yield some results in the near future.

T-Craft Brochures – Learn to Fly Brochures - Business Cards

As you may or may not know, we have several promotional materials you can pick up and have available for folks you meet or talk to. They are up to date with current costs, with the exception of our new bird.

Discovery Flights

We offer a discovery flight to folks interested in learning to fly. These are conducted by one of our member flight instructors, and are actually an abbreviated introductory flight lesson that can be logged. In addition to the flight, the instructor will go over the costs, materials, and requirements to earn a pilot

certificate. The potential student will receive a paper logbook with a few entry pages. There is a flyer available that describes these flights in more detail, located with the brochures near the key box. These can also be printed from our web page in the learn to fly section. Discovery flights can make a great gift for any occasion.

Word of Mouth

As with many things, word of mouth references work the best. You all can help promote the club by urging friends, relatives, associates to learn to fly and/or join our club. Pick up some of the promotional materials, so you have them available in your car and/or flight bag. Business cards have our contact and webpage info – what's in your pocket? Remember, you'll earn a free C152 hr of credit for every new member you sponsor.

Club Meetings/Events

-April 9th – 7:00 PM Club Hanger. Board Meeting

-April 17th – 7:00 PM in the EAA/CAP facility. Annual Backcountry Seminar. All BC pilots must attend this meeting to be current as per T-Craft policy.

-April 20th 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Emmett Wings & Wheels Breakfast/Fly-in, spot landing, short field, other events. (we will have 686 and our promotion booth and materials) Contact Jim Hudson if you would like to help.

-April 30th - 7:00 PM in the EAA/CAP facility. General Membership Meeting.



Naomi Watson at Women
in Aviation Week

Squawks/Status

****Always check current squawks on Schedule Master and hangar wall****

N6737S - \$57 per hour
Ready to Fly with Restrictions

N13686 - \$81 per hour
Annual Scheduled 4/15 - 4/19

N4464R - \$79 per hour
Ready To Fly

N1891X - \$117 per hour
Annual Scheduled 4/22 - 4/26

N7593S - \$121 per hour
Ready to Fly

N9989E - \$121 per hour
Coming soon to a Hangar near you!!!

ALL BIRDS

Water buckets are once again available in the hangar for cleaning the leading edges of our birds following your flights.

Please clean the leading edges, windscreens and interiors so that the planes are clean and ready for the next member



Participation at the Sportsman Show in March with Bert Osborn, Ken Kaae and Wife. Thanks for those who helped man the booth.

Fuel Reimbursement
\$4.87

News Letter

Contributions

Please send photos and your Flying Stories to

db5477@gmail.com

for inclusion on future issues.

Thanks