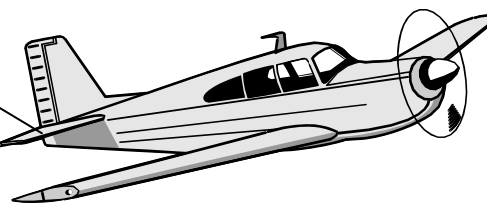


SKYWRITING



December 2009

November Flight Time				www.flyingcc.org	
<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Last Annual</u>			
N5303L	20.5	July 2009	Surcharge: \$.00/gal	Local ASOS Numbers	
N80213	30.6	August 2009		Moline	309-799-7096
N6231F	13.5	May 2009		Davenport	563-388-2154
N8114F	13	July 2009		Clinton	563-243-8934
N2516V	5.2	September 2009		Muscatine	563-263-0902
Total Hours:	82.8	(Up from 78 in October)		Dues Paying Members:	58
Spring Plane Wash: Saturday, May 2, 2010					

Members

Congratulations to **Tim Ferguson** who has started work on his instrument rating. Tim recently became a VFR pilot and is charging forward. Way to go Tim!

A Passing of the Baton

Fellow Club members and shareholders I have been writing and editing the Club's newsletter, "Skywriting" for many years now. I had to look back at my copies to see just how long. I took the newsletter over from David Goff on the May 1993 edition. David only did it for a couple months. Before that Kevin Rowe wrote the newsletter for a couple years.

I decided to pass the torch, and since Scott Latham had indicated he would do it, I decided just before the November board meeting to let it go. I say "let it go" because while it was a labor of love for many years I felt I had lost interest in keeping it fresh and interesting. I think it's in good hands now, and I commend Scott for stepping forward to do it. I want to thank the members and especially the board of directors for supporting me all these years – Dennis English

I would like to extend my greatest gratitude to Dennis for his hard work over the years. I would also like to remind every member of the Flying Country Club that this is your club and I welcome all input for the newsletter. Anyone that would like to write an article please feel free to do so. You may submit your article to scott@chrysaliscomputersolutions.com. – Scott Latham

New Member Incentives

The board has decided to offer members incentives to reactivate or refer new club members. For every member that is

reactivated (meaning, the member had to have been inactive for a period of one year) or for every member that refers a new member will receive a free month of dues. This could mean big savings for members looking for a way to get some free flying time. Thanks to the board for giving something back.

In The News

It hits very close to home when we hear about a plane incident within our close proximity. As many of you may know a Cessna 182 crashed in Kewanee, IL on the 24th of November killing one passenger and injuring two others. Both the man and woman in their 80's had been pilots for more than 30 years. Whenever something like this happens it always brings about a pause. What could have gone wrong? Although the NTSB hasn't offered a report yet, as pilots we all form our own opinions. Whatever your opinion might be, I hope that it teaches something or offers a reminder that it is a privilege that very few people get to share and it is a great responsibility.

Regardless of how long you have been a pilot or how many hours you have, safety should always be first. I have flown with many pilots both new and experienced and have seen lots of complacency in the cockpit.

As we learn what happens in the following months from this tragedy in Kewanee lets all try to learn one thing from it. The report may show absolutely no pilot error. Even if this is the case there is always something to learn.

For the deceased woman, let our hearts be with her for she died doing what she loved. For the husband, let him not hold

himself in judgment and for the grandson, let him not fear the air, for it is there where he may find solace in his loss.

We Need Air Time

Just a reminder to all pilots that the club's day to day operation depends on all of us. If we don't fly we don't pay our bills. Just an hour from each pilot a month will greatly help our financial stability. So do your part, take advantage of your pilots license. Fly **your** plane!!

Night Flying

As winter approaches the sun dips below the horizon a lot sooner than it does in the summer. Night flying can be very safe and very rewarding if done correctly. Don't let the setting sun end your flying for the season. Here are some tips for a successful night flight.

1. Arrive early and preflight the airplane in daylight.
2. Don't bring a flashlight; bring two.
3. Organize the cockpit prior to takeoff so you aren't trying to find things in the dark.
4. Be familiar with procedures for radio, alternator and electrical failures. You won't enjoy reading the pilot's handbook by flashlight.
5. Practice locating and operating cockpit controls and switches with your eyes closed.
6. Review tower light gun signals (14CFR 91.125). There's a flashing green light on short final – what do you do?
7. Use your flashlight to check engine gauges. It's no excuse to fly along without oil pressure just because the gauges are poorly lit.
8. Remember: taxiways are blue, runways aren't.
9. Practice night proficiency landings with the landing light off (occasionally).
10. On a 'pilot-controlled lighting' runway, click the lights again when turning final. Having the lights go out during your flare is a poor way to end your flight.

Additional common advice for night landings:

- Don't look down where the landing light is pointing. Instead focus your vision at the end of the runway.
- When the far runway lights appear to be rising above the airplane, begin your flare.
- With peripheral vision, use the runway edge lights as your artificial horizon.
- Continue a normal flare until the airplane settles between the lights and onto the runway.

These are all good tips, at night just like daytime you have to 'fly the aircraft' until you have it secured in the chocks. Since your vision is greatly diminished at night remember to taxi on the yellow line and keep extra vigilance for obstacles. And that taxi/landing light? Be considerate and don't shine it into other pilot's eyes.

Annual Christmas Party

This year's annual Christmas party will be held at Sweet Peas Grill in Geneseo on December 13. For those who are not familiar with the location, take I80 to the Geneseo exit, go north under the overpass and you will see Subway on the left. Sweet Peas is at the far end of the Subway building in the strip mall. Use the Sports Bar entrance. All are welcome so bring your family (kids included) and friends.

Time will be 4:00-7:00 on Sunday afternoon 13 Dec in the sports bar. TV's will be on for the game.

There will be special prices for Bud Light and Millers Lite Draught beer and Appetizers (wait until you have tasted the deep fried Pickle Chips) will be provided. It is a full bar so other items can be purchased.

At 4:00 we will start serving a buffet that will include items normally on the menu like pulled pork, brisket, pork ribs, beef short ribs, jambalaya, Red beans & rice, and some other sides. The price will be discounted, the chef is still working on the costs. For those who would like something else, items can be ordered off the normal menu as well. Please RSVP to Joe Gallagher at joeg@geneseo.net so the correct amounts will be made available. All the meats are smoked and take time to prepare.

Sweet Peas opened this past summer and is doing very well. They want to introduce the restaurant to the Quad Cities and are giving us these special prices to help bring you in.

From Your Board of Directors & Staff

Gene Fildes, President **Mark Conner, Director**
Joe Gallagher, Treasurer **Gary Hardy, Director**
Dennis English, Secretary **Tim Leinbach, Alt.**

Webmaster & Newsletter – Scott Latham

Plane Captains

N5103L - Mike Smith N80213 – Richard Husson
N6231F – Dick Kvach N8114F – Tim Leinbach
N2516V – Scott Latham

Flight Instructors

Gene Fildes CFII **Richard Hebbel CFII**
Tim Leinbach CFII **Jerry Lowry CFII**
Ben Sorgen CFII