

September 2009



Safety is our most important Product!

President's Soapbox

There's a lot to talk about, so let's get started.

Field Search:

First up is we may have found a new home for Fly-A-Ways! This site is a keeper! By a 5:1 majority vote on 8/26/09, the board has approved moving forward to secure this site as our next home. The next step is to come to final agreement with the landowner on defining the physical area of the club site, and working out terms and conditions for a lease. We already know that one of those terms will be that the club comply with all Federal, State, and local laws...that means we are required to apply for a Washington County land use permit. More details after the photos.

Figure 1: Aerial view.



Figure 2: Center of field facing north



This property is just to the SW of the HWY26-Dersham Rd exit. There's over 100 acres. The club site (shown in the aerial photo) is roughly centered along the southern edge of the property. The proposed site is about 3.5 acres, larger than any other site in the area. Our runway would be oriented E-W with pilots facing north. The distance from the flight line to HWY26 is approx 1000ft+. There's almost unlimited distance for lateral approaches from the E and W. The closest house is about 1200ft behind the flight line. Irrigation is possible, but the irrigation box is way out. The club site is out of the flood plain. There may be some standing water (aka puddles) in the western portion of the site under flood conditions. The landowner would place no restrictions on size or type of aircraft that we fly. The field site would be large enough that we could consider setting up dedicated flight areas for helicopters and/or small electrics/park flyers. We would be allowed to hold events. *(President's note: Most local clubs have an annual event that everyone associates with that club...OMAS has*

the RC Air Show...Duster's has Bigger Bird. Well, North Plains has an annual Garlic Festival...FAW may be able to establish an annual event based on the Garlic Festival and in that way participate in the local community.)

If we are fortunate enough to lease this site, we will need to keep the site gated and secure. Also, family members (of the landowner) duck hunt on the property in the winter. One concession the club might have to make to lease this site is to restrict flying until after noon from November through January, or possibly close the field to all flying during those months. The site is close to the Glider Park on the north side of HWY26 and East of Dersham Road. The site *IS NOT* in the path of any critical flight operations at the park. We will still need to notify flight operations at the park once we establish our club site as part of FAA and AMA guidelines and work with the glider park to avoid full scale aircraft overflying the club site at low altitude.

This site could be home to FAW long into the future. It's doubtful that the urban growth boundary will expand to include this property in any of our lifetimes. And it's not that far out. Check out a map....looks to me that if you're in Lake O or Tualatin, it's about equidistant to Duster's or this site. North of Tualatin this site is closer. This site is very convenient, with access right off of HWY 26.

What's next? ***The general membership has already responded with a vote of confidence.*** 49 of you have responded to the club wide survey regarding possible site locations in the North Plains and Cornelius areas. 40 of you (82%) have said you'll remain a member of FAW with a site in these areas. ***So, next is to work out full details with the landowner, then submit an application for the required Washington County permit.*** This will take time. The permit process could take as long as 6 months. After the permit comes the lease. Anticipating that we will be able to reach an agreement with the landowner during September, the timing for the permit places us in the Feb-March 2010 timeframe for signing a lease and being able to start development of the field. We can hopefully be flying at this site by June of next year.

I know many of you are anxious to be flying again, and probably have lots of interest in viewing this site. Its location is obvious from the aerial photo. PLEASE!!!! The club does not have a lease. ***The property is posted "NO TRESPASSING"...that means "NO TRESPASSING".*** If you want to see it, please drive by on Dersham Road and view from the road.

Thank You Don:

After 6 years as Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, Don Shultz is hanging up his 6-guns. He intends to have some fun, and he's more than earned that right. Please join me in thanking Don for all that he's done over the last 6 years. ***He's been there for absolutely EVERYTHING!...*** every meeting, every event, every work party. It's difficult to think of FAW without Don as part of the club leadership, but that's the way it's going to be.

It will be difficultmake that impossible.....to replace Don with one person. I suspect that we may end up breaking out Don's contributions into 4 separate positions... Secretary...Treasurer...Newsletter Editor.... Webmaster (*President's note: Mike Carty has already offered to become FAW Webmaster...thank you Mike!*). If you would like to volunteer to fill any of these positions on either an interim or long term basis, please contact me (Scott Enochs, 503-662-3398, scottenochs@aol.com, president@flyaways.org).

Club Operations:

When we lost the field at Harlan's, club operations went on hold....business planning, dues, elections. After all, we didn't know if we would find a new site or if we would have to dissolve the club. All the energy we had went into finding a new club site. That prospect is certainly looking better, but we're not totally there yet. Once we get a new site under lease (or once a lease is a certainty) we'll need to pull the club back together and get on with business. We'll need to reinstate our annual club elections. We'll need to select a Field Develop-

ment Committee to develop plans for what to do and how to phase the development. I think we need to be realistic and understand that developing a new field will likely be a multi-year effort. From the development plans we can construct a budget, and from the budget we can arrive at a plan for club finances over the next few years. I hope we can keep dues the same or only require a slight increase. We may need to ask for a onetime assessment to re-build the club treasury. We will apply for AMA site development assistance. We can solicit donations from members and local businesses. Some members may be willing to provide financial assistance to the club in the form of a no interest loan. There will be a club wide vote for any dues increases or assessments.

All of these ideas need to be developed and refined. I'll try to get into more details of what I think we need to do, and the schedule, the main subject of next month's newsletter. For the moment, club operations are still on hold until that new home is a certainty.

Scott E.

Fly-A-Ways
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