

# EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

July 15, 2021

**Cinco De Mayo Mexican Dinner and Tequila Tasting** sold at last year's auction will be changing. It's still a Mexican style dinner but served by Bon Appetit. And since we're being hosted by Meraviglioso Winery it will be wine instead of tequila (liquor license restrictions).

It will be held August 7 from 4:30-8:00 pm. There may still be two tickets available for \$50 each.



Allison Plummer, General Manager of Precision Flight School, was last week's speaker.

She opened with the quip/adage, "You're either a bold pilot or an old pilot."

Allison grew up in Newberg and graduate Newberg High in 2000. Her mom and sister are both educators but Allison had bigger plans to escape Newberg to do cool things in California.

So here she is, back in Newberg, educating.

Precision Helicopters began with Dennis and Nancy Sturdevant back in the 1983.

As a side note, Dennis' parents, Mike and Peggy, were friends of my parents from way back. The whole family is good people.

Dennis died over ten years ago but Nancy continued and partnered with the then-president of Evergreen Helicopters to grow the business.

Allison joined Precision in 2012 and served as Program Manager for eight years before becoming Flight School General Manager last year.

Precision's operating entities include Operations (fires, tree harvesting, wine tours, etc.), Heliskiing, Maintenance, Unmanned (biggest part being overseas), and Training.

Precision has locations in Newberg, McMinnville, and Klamath Falls (contracted provider for Klamath Falls Community College).

The military will pay their vets' way through flight training as a high value trade. But, for most, the idea of learning how to fly is a blur. "How do I become a pilot?"

Well, it's time consuming, requires a fair degree of intellect and common sense, and can be expensive.

It takes at least 40 hours of flight instruction to get a license but 1,500-2,000 hours' flight time to fly a firefighting helo or LifeFlight.

What does that mean for neighbors of Precision in Newberg and McMinnville? It means there simply must be time to make noise over us. Even at night, especially at night, because nighttime experience is mandatory.

Why can't they just fly to where it's less populated? Well, they could, but the fuel cost would be a serious hit for students already on a budget.

Precision recently made a significant upgrade to their aging training chopper. They invested in a Guimbal Cabri G2 which represented about a \$400,000 investment.



Its appearance is, well, a little underwhelming considering the cost. But, like most things in life, you can pay for the best up front with a high cost of entry or you can pay for it in the long run with vastly higher maintenance and repair costs.

The Cabri is super safe, super reliable, and really easy on fuel.

<https://www.trainprecision.com/helicopter-flight-school/>

What does Precision offer for training?

Private, commercial, and instrument training. Instrument is an augmentation to private and commercial and makes instrument trained pilots in a much more

favorable position for hiring and just makes for a more rounded "old pilot."

Turbine Transition to machines with superior power to weight ratios considered the workhorses of the industry.

External Load/Long Line for 50' and 100' lines and how to rig and fly with a load.

The same are available for airplane training. Well, maybe not hanging a 100' cable out the bottom, but flying with other souls on board is a big deal.

Precision can teach you to become a flight instructor, an instrument flight instructor, or even become certified for airline transport.

Learn multi-engine flight, learn how to



navigate a storm, fly high altitude and flying mountain courses, even survive an emergency landing.

