

Valley Fliers November Board Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at: 6:30

Present: Morrow, Wildstone, DeWitt, Hewitt, Vader, plus members and two prospective members.

Excused Absent: Pebworth

Approval of October Minutes

Chris moved to approve as written. Kelsey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance Officer's Report

Jonathan says he is preparing a list of stuff to purchase for 117's avionics and he will get that to Alan soon. It will get its annual inspection and new engine at the same time. It will probably 6-8 weeks at least before 117's panel is ready. The interior may get updated at a later time. Question from the floor: how long will the plane be down? Answer: the best case is 2 weeks, but it may be longer. Sean notes Jonathan is saving the club money by doing some of the panel work in his shop. Comment from the floor: 727's interior door handle needs work. Jonathan says he will add it to his list. Another comment from the floor: The rivets on 727's wing underside are weeping and making streaks. Jonathan says they should be dealt with during the annual. He has ordered a backup attitude indicator for 727. He has also ordered a part for 9MA's alternator. Comment from the floor regarding 9MA: The plane leaks a lot of water when flown in the rain. Jonathan asked if it could be coming from the vent. The commenter did not think so. Jonathan says the putty under the windscreen may be the problem. All the rivets or screws would need to be removed to check the putty. Jonathan will add the issue to his list.

Treasurer's Report

See Alan's handout. He said it was actually a pretty good October. Our fuel surcharge went down a little and may be able to go down again. Alan says if fuel prices seem to stabilize we can just adjust the rates and eliminate the surcharge. Kelsey says fuel prices will always vary; perhaps we should keep the fuel charge permanently. Alan says he doesn't see prices stabilizing for the foreseeable future, so we will be keeping it for a while. Membership turnovers have dropped from last year. The dues increase and fuel surcharge are helping our finances. Alan hopes we won't have to increase dues during 2024. October was a light maintenance month. We are down on maintenance costs this year. Alan acknowledges Jonathan's role in helping to keep those costs down. Alan expects that our monthly net will go flat, then negative over the winter months, particularly because we have annuals during those months. Commenter from the floor also highlighted the work Jonathan has done to contain our maintenance costs. Current assets are up by about \$25k over last year even though Alan has made significant payments on the avionics project. As usual, accounts payable is negative because of prepayments. Alan made an error and will need to amend our sales tax report for last month. The unpaid assessments show in accounts receivable. Alan notes unpaid assessments are about \$25000 of the receivables. Regarding cash flow, we are negative on the year, but we have undeposited funds, receivables, etc.

Safety Officer's Report

Chris updated the airplane's databases last week. There are new checklists in several planes. November 15 there is a safer skies presentation on how to crash an airplane. Wrong surface alignments are the FAA issue across the system right now, e.g. airplanes landing on taxiways. Kelsey suggested Chris should email interesting presentations to the club. Several people note the FAA will email them to pilots. Sean suggested Chris send out training on the Dynon. Chris notes he already did. Kelsey suggests we might have a dedicated weekend session training members on use of the new avionics. The planes are now all plugged in for the winter. Chris noted Jonathan has committed to bring in someone to train on the avionics. Commenter from the floor noted the tow bar in the Cherokee is bent up. Chris noted that XPlane has Dynon avionics in several of the simulated planes and that may help with training on the new equipment. Comment from the floor: we won't have new walls in the hangars after they are redone. Could we move 9MA to one of the center hangars to reduce the risk of hangar rash? Sean says we can take a look after the hangar work is done. Chris noted that a Tacoma Narrows based club makes sure members open the hangar doors fully and make that part of the checkout.

Old Business

Avionics Upgrade Question from the floor: what is the timing on the second plane? Answer: we will do it right after the first one is completed. There was some discussion of which plane will be done first. Several commenters note that we don't want both planes down at the same time. The board will get a definitive answer and get that answer out to the members.

Hangar Maintenance This week work started on the other hangar row. Ours will be next. It looks like it will be one week of cutting pavement, then a week to pour concrete and allow it to cure. The planes will need to stay in or out of the hangars for that second week as they cannot cross the curing concrete. Many of them will likely be left out, but with 9MA's leak we may keep it inside. Sean will keep members posted on the plane locations.

Murals Kelsey sent out a link to fundraise to support Valley Fliers being represented on a new mural that will be painted on the end of our hangar. We are hoping to finance a third of the \$6000 cost of the mural. It would then feature 117 and show the Valley Fliers name.

New Business

Tim Mensonides will be at our December board meeting.

Potential New Member - Jenn Sturgill Jae Kim is selling his share. Jenn has heard this is a great club and is looking for an alternative to Alternative Air. She got her private at the end of August and is now in instrument ground school. She ran her own business for several years, but shut it down during COVID. She is looking to become a professional seaplane pilot. The board needs to have further discussion before holding a vote on Jenn. Sean noted the board can vote before the next meeting.

Randy Scott has requested inactive status. Kelsey asked why he requested inactive status? Alan notes that if he is inactive he won't have to pay the minimum flight hours while he waits for a sale. Kelsey moves to grant inactive status. Alan seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Sean says the waiting list is at ten.

Free flight hour won by: Nick Meyer

Meeting adjourned at: 7:40

Next Meeting: The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, December 13, with food available at 6:00 pm and business beginning at 6:30 at Trotters Restaurant.