



TROY OAKLAND PILOTS FLYING CLUB, Inc.

Oakland / Troy Airport, Troy MI. (VLL)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE... November, 2012

Hello everyone,

I hope your holiday season is off to a good start. The year is ending with our fleet back up to four aircraft; we have new members; and we even have a freshly painted center line on the runway. Overall, I would say that our club has a lot to be thankful for. I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season and that you find time to get out to the airport and keep your skills sharp over the winter.

I know that I need reminders for the simple things. I'm including a message on winter operations that you may have seen before at this time of year. We talk about the flying aspect of being a club member, but I would also like to remind everyone about the good neighbor part of being a TOPS member.

- We share our hangar row with several other VLL residents. Please remember to park your car in a position that allows airplanes to get out of the hangar and onto the taxiway. If you park on the grass at the north end, please pull up beside the hangars so low wing aircraft can get out.
- When starting the aircraft in the hangar row, please be mindful of your prop wash. The best method is to line the airplane up parallel to the hangar row so that you are not blasting any open hangars behind you.
- You will see this one on the list below, but I really want to emphasize the importance of plugging the heater in before you leave the hangar. I have personally experienced unplugged aircraft five times since the wash and wax. Each time it caused a cancelation or delay. It takes a few seconds to look back before leaving the hangar to make sure you have done everything needed. The next member will appreciate the effort.

It's time to think about how we treat ourselves and the fleet once the temperatures turn cold. Here are a few tips to keep you and your passengers comfortable and the airplane engines humming:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued....

Pilot and Passengers:

- ♦ Use the torpedo heaters to warm the hangar and airplane while doing a thorough preflight. Open the passenger door and place the heater about six feet away pointing at the instrument panel.
- ♦ Wear extra clothing for the preflight, enroute and refueling. These are Cessnas, not climate controlled Cadillacs. Layers are a good idea. Bring a blanket for your backseat passengers.

Aircraft:

- ♦ Once the extension cords have been set out for use they should be plugged in regardless of the forecast temperature. The heaters are thermostat controlled and will turn on as needed. Do not assume it will be warm outside the next time the aircraft is used.
- ♦ Make certain that the engine is warm when the temperatures are near or below freezing. The heater should be plugged in and you should feel the warmth of the engine compartment. A cold engine will start, but cold oil will not circulate efficiently. Starting a cold engine can rapidly destroy the bearings, cylinder walls, and all moving parts.
- ♦ If you arrive at the airport on a cold morning and find that the engine heater is not plugged in you will need to adjust your plans. Plug it in; put the blanket on; turn on the kerosene heater about six feet away from the cowling; go to the terminal and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat with your friendly airport manager. If in doubt on how long to wait you should call the plane captain or a board member.
- ♦ Take the extension cord and moving blanket with you if you are planning a flight that includes a layover at another airport. You never know when you might need it for keeping the airplane engine warm.
- ♦ Give the engine ample time to warm up before performing the run up. Make the mag check the last thing on your before takeoff checklist on a cold morning.
- ♦ We have four torpedo kerosene heaters and four five gallon cans of kerosene. If you see an opportunity to refill some of the cans, please do so. Meijer has kerosene - fill up the cans; put your name and member number on the receipt; put the receipt in Jack Walton's folder.
- ♦ To avoid engine compartment fires (sparks) please remember to plug the extension cord into the aircraft first, then into the wall outlet. Unplug at the wall first and then at the aircraft.
- ♦ Remember your fellow club members and always plug the airplane in before you leave for the day.

Enjoy the increased performance and beauty of winter flying in Michigan.

Dave Starnes



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Proudly Presents an Evening with **J. Mac McClellan**



EAA Director of Publications

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**Mac will discuss current happenings in and
around EAA and general aviation**

Tuesday, January 29, 2013

6:30 PM Reception

7:00 PM Program

Larson Middle School - 2222 East Long Lake - Troy, MI 48085

**For More Information Contact
joeass@gmail.com – 248-321-7934**

From the Flight Surgeon

The FAA continues to be concerned with the issue of Obstructive Sleep Apnea or OSA. This condition involves stopping breathing during sleep and is a risk factor for other conditions including heart disease. It is treated in various ways including a positive pressure mask (CPAP) which is worn at night while sleeping.

The FAA's concern with this disorder is the daytime sleepiness which can result from untreated OSA. When diagnosed they want documentation on a yearly basis to make sure the OSA is controlled and that there is no excessive fatigue during the day from poor sleep.

A new policy may come out soon where pilots over a certain Body Mass Index (BMI) may need to be screened for OSA before medical certification even if OSA has not been diagnosed. This is due to a strong correlation between obesity/elevated BMI and OSA.

Bottom line? Keep your weight down and if you have problems with excessive snoring or are told you quit breathing at night you should probably be checked out for this disorder as it can be a killer!

Fly Safe!

Gregory Pinnell, MD

Senior AME/ Senior Flight Surgeon USAFR

www.AIRDOCS.net

Dr. Scott Grant , TOPS member, can now provide examination services for your aviation medical. Dr. Grant is located in nearby Birmingham (Maple and Old Woodward).

His contact information is:

Dr. Scott Grant
Birmingham Medical
180 East Brown
Birmingham, MI 48009
248-645-1000

Same day appointments are possible. Make sure you mention that you are a TOPS member.

2012 Club Officers & Appointees...

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Skylane TR182 737LM

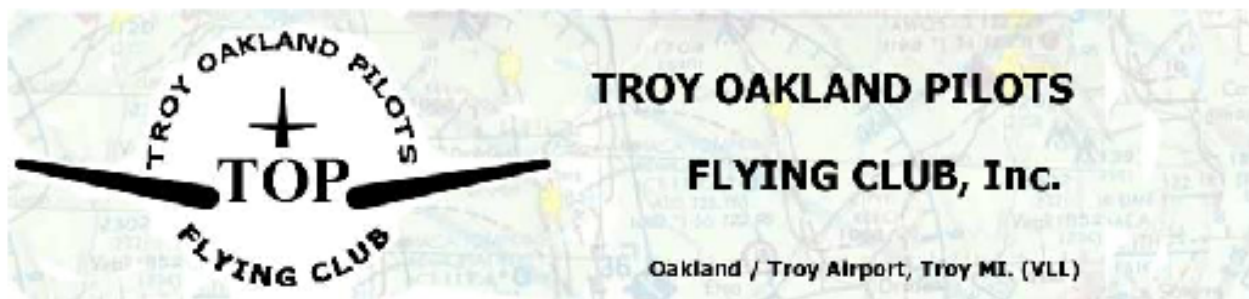
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Skyhawk C-172 64477

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- **Flight instructors** are Club Members.
- **Seasonal** Wash 'n Waxes, Free BBQ's and club meetings with training videos and guest speakers.
- **Great** group of friendly people!



Contact:

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TOPS FLYING CLUB
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
REVISED 03/08

LAST NAME _____ FIRST _____ MI _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ MARITAL STATUS M S SPOUSE'S NAME _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL _____ WORK _____

IN AN EMERGENCY PLEASE NOTIFY _____

PILOT CERTIFICATE TYPE _____ NUMBER _____ DATE ISSUED _____

MEDICAL CLASS _____ DATE ISSUED _____ ADDITIONAL RATINGS _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: SINGLE _____ FAMILY _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

MEMBER # _____

REFERRED BY: _____