

PYFC News

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March 2011

Quiz

How many flights did Orville Wright make on December 17th, 1903?

Answer: Two, and Wilbur also made two.

Next month's question:
What type of airport has a beacon sequence of green, white and white?

Weekend Manager

Jesse Cramer 3/6

Ron Decracker

Pieter DeHond 3/13

Phil Deitsch

Al Eagle 3/20

Vanessa Carlson

Bob Fitzgerald 3/27

Keith Frum

David Garber 4/2

Tim Gibson

Jim Gray 4/9

Harvey Greenberg

Dave Hamlin 4/16

Eric Havill

Geoff Heath 4/23

Dave Holly

Karla Holly 4/30

John-Paul Holubek

At the Clubhouse

Our combined Board of Directors meeting and regular meeting will be held on March 17th, so before celebrating St. Patrick's day stop by the clubhouse at 6:30. The mini-safety meeting topic will be preflight planning presented by Lance Ward.

Congratulations go out to PYFC pilots Vanessa Carlson for passing her Commercial Pilot check ride and Chris Vaughn for completing the Cirrus VFR transition training.

Congratulations to Lieutenant Matt Abraham for completing his officer training in the United States Air Force. Matt will be entering Undergraduate Pilot Training at the end of the month.

While John Bradley is traveling for the month of March, Craig Thorpe will be handling the maintenance duties, contact Craig if you have any questions regarding the status on any of our airplanes.

And speaking of maintenance, N6374H is back after an extensive annual. A number of squawks were addressed and it should be flying as good as new (since the bill for the annual just about matched the cost of the aircraft when it was new).

Another aircraft maintenance related item. Engine heaters. Please remember to plug the heaters back in after you fly. You don't have to worry that as we move into warmer weather the heaters will be on unnecessarily, they are all thermostatically controlled. Also, when you preflight, check to see if the cylinders are warm.

Are you interested in an instrument ground school? If so, contact me at secretary@pyfc.org.

At the clubhouse - continued

Also, a gentle reminder that with the approved budget for this year dues for active members will be going up by one dollar per month.

Finally, a sad note, PYFC member and past Treasurer June Phillips passed away on February 19th, our sincerest condolences go out to her family.

Cirrus successes

The Cirrus certainly hasn't been sitting in the hanger over the winter. As a matter of fact it has been out flying more than all the other airplanes combined. Currently we have two club members completely VFR checked out and several more are working on their checkouts. All the members who have flown it say that it is fun, challenging and really appreciate the automation available in the aircraft. We are looking forward to more members getting checked out as the weather turns nicer.

From the Vice President

Although this may be a huge coincidence, the club has decided to hold the July 4 breakfast this year on July 4. Please plan ahead to help out and (seriously) enjoy yourself. As I walked the grounds last year and introduced myself to people, I was amazed at how much they enjoyed the event and how complimentary they were to the Penn Yan Flying Club. And suffice it to say, if you compare our flying rates to the market, you will appreciate what this means.

Since I have not yet started on the duty roster, now is a good time to reach out and volunteer for a specific duty. My priority will be doing a better job of laying out the setup and teardown, and I appreciate that at times last year I had more people available than could provide meaningful direction to. July 4 is on a Monday, so we need to think through whether to schedule setup the previous week or on July 2. We will make a decision at the next board meeting.

Standard Briefing - Runway safety

Here is the continuation of the runway safety article from last month. We pick up with the taxi safety tips.

9. STOP aircraft on the taxiway and request ATC clarification if there is confusion regarding aircraft position or ATC taxi clearance.

10. Prior to crossing any runway during taxi, ensure you have a clearance to cross. Visually check to ensure there is no conflicting traffic prior to crossing the runway.

11. If there is any doubt that the runway is clear, reconfirm crossing clearance with ATC.

12. Be aware that hold short lines can be as far as 400' from the runway due to new Precision Obstacle Free Zone (POFZ) requirements.

13. Maintain a "sterile cockpit" when taxiing.

TAKE-OFF

1. If cleared to "Line up and wait", turn on all exterior lights except take-off/landing lights. If you have been holding in position on the runway for more than 90 seconds, or upon seeing a potential conflict, contact the Tower.

2. When "Cleared for take-off", turn on all exterior lights, including take-off/landing lights.

3. Note that if you see an aircraft in take-off position on a runway with take-off/landing lights ON, that aircraft has most likely received its take-off clearance and will be departing immediately.

4. When assigned a departure at an intersection versus a full length take-off, state "intersection departure" at the end of the take-off clearance readback.

5. Conduct "Clearing Turns" prior to entering ANY runway.

LANDING

1. Wait until you have exited the active runway and you are sure of your taxi clearance prior to beginning an after-landing checklist

2. Follow the same TAXI Best Practices above.

REMEMBER: When in doubt, ask!