



Newsletter

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Northwest Bonanza Society members gather around the "0" year birthday cake to celebrate the Inaugural Bar-B-Q event on October 14, 2006.

Bright Spirits Chase Away Soggy Weather

Puyallup, WA – Enthusiasm and good cheer kept gray and foggy weather at bay for the inaugural Bar-B-Q of the Northwest Bonanza Society (NWBS) on Saturday, Oct. 14. Nearly 30 members and guests braved the first cold day of the fall season to help kick off the annual events calendar for NWBS.

The Northwest Bonanza Society was organized in September 2006 to provide social events for all Beechcraft owners, pilots and enthusiasts in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Hosted by NWBS Founding Members Dale Hemman and Jim MacFarlane, the Bar-B-Q was originally scheduled as a fly-in with more than a dozen aircraft expected at historic Thun Field in Puyallup, WA. Unfortunately, persistent fog across the Northwest kept all but one aircraft grounded.

Nevertheless, members drove from across the region to enjoy Beech camaraderie. The day was preceded by 20 days of Indian Summer weather.

“Generally, we’ve organized one-day events monthly through next summer,” says Hemman. “We want to make it as easy and affordable as possible to participate.”

For more information on the NWBS and to check out the coming events calendar, log onto www.northwestbonanza.org. →

Northwest Bonanza Society Organized

A group of Pacific Northwest Beechcraft enthusiasts have just incorporated a new social organization, the Northwest Bonanza Society!

The NWBS is committed to providing camaraderie through social gatherings of Beechcraft owners and aficionados. With the unpredictable cost of fuel and other items associated with flying and mindful of the demands on many aircraft owner’s time, we have decided to emphasize social get-togethers that our members can access in single-day events on a single tank of fuel. Since our members come primarily from the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington we will generally plan our fly-ins and events within this region.

The NWBS invites members of other societies who do not live in our three-state area to join us on any of our events, space permitting. Frequent camaraderie with our fellow Beechcraft owners is the primary reason for our existence and while the location is secondary we have come up with some great destinations and events that I’m sure our most will find enjoyable and exciting. We applaud the good work other societies do with longer trips and encourage our members to join them as well to take

advantage of those opportunities while we focus on destinations in our own backyard.

We've put a calendar on our website (www.northwestbonanza.org/events_page.htm) that has some of our events planned through 2007. They include a Bremerton, WA fly-in; our first annual Christmas Beech party; an annual air parade of Beechcraft airplanes to celebrate the anniversary of first Bonanza flight; a formation flying clinic, Victoria BC fly-in and Butchart Gardens tour; McMinnville, OR fly-in & Evergreen Museum tour; Beechday weekend in Kennewick, WA; Nehalem Bay fly-in picnic and Tillamook Air Museum tour; Two Harbors fly-in (Friday Harbor for lunch, Roche Harbor for dinner); Lake Coeur d'Alene, ID fly-in; Everett fly-in and the Boeing plant tour.

Each of our events will feature an instructional/educational segment given by a CFI, an aircraft mechanic, or other subject matter expert, or an aviation technical forum. This may make all or part of the expenses associated with attendance at instructional & educational events, including travel, lodging, meals etc. tax deductible for those who use their aircraft or pilot certificate in furtherance of their business or work.

Here is our mission statement:

“The Northwest Bonanza Society seeks to promote camaraderie and fellowship amongst Bonanza and other Beechcraft pilots and owners. We encourage social events for the purposes of fellowship and promoting safety and education related to flying Bonanzas and other Beechcraft. Our E-newsletter and website are offered to keep members informed on issues relevant to flight safety and group social activities. Membership is open to any pilot who has flown any Beechcraft airplane regardless of aircraft ownership status. Associate membership is open to any person interested in and supportive of the mission of the Northwest Bonanza Society.”

Even though we have barely been in existence for one month we already have well over thirty members and with their high excitement level I'm sure our ranks will swell beyond fifty very shortly. We invite Beechcraft enthusiasts to visit our website (www.northwestbonanza.org) to see what

we're doing and encourage those who live in the Pacific Northwest to join us as well. →

NWBS Wings Have Arrived

The Northwest Bonanza Society Wings have finally come in! These nickel-plated wings with baked enamel detail are one and a half inches wide and designed to be an exact replica of our NWBS logo.



One pin is provided free with each initial membership and additional pins are available for \$5.00 at events or \$6.00 by mail. Contact Dale Hemman by email (dale@northwestbonanza.org) for details or to order. →

Meet Our NWBS Officers and Directors

Any new organization begins with a simple idea taken on by a few people willing to do the work necessary to make it happen. In the case of the Northwest Bonanza Society we were very fortunate to have several people with extensive social club and Bonanza experience to launch our organization. Here are our startup officers and directors with a very small bit about their background:

President: Dale Hemman - Retired Army officer, Owner of LetsFlyAlaska, current leader of Seattle Hangar, Quiet Birdmen, F33A owner.

Vice President: Jim MacFarlane – Owner of MJM Worldwide, a marketing firm, also serves as our Webmaster, B35 owner.

Secretary: Doug Haughton – Auto Dealer, President of Bremerton Pilot's Association, H35 owner.

Treasurer: Jim Thrasher, PhD – retired Army officer, retired university dean, retired lawyer, served on several school boards, B35 owner.

Director: John Foose – Retired Business Owner, Former WBS board member, contributing author and editor for WBS Magazine, A-36 owner.

Director: Chep Gauntt – Rancher, Organizer of Beechday, A36 Owner.

Director: Frank Lloyd – Spanaflight FBO owner, travel business owner, former Commissioner of Pierce County Airport, B55 owner. →

Volunteers Needed



Would you like to share your talents with your fellow NWBS members? If so, we could use a newsletter editor and writers.

People who are interested in writing any articles about any of our events or places to which they've recently flown, flying anecdotes of any kind, or who just want share a story are welcome to send them in. Photos are also welcome as are aviation related humor.

Send articles or the names of any interested in the editor position to dale@northwestbonanza.org →

Exciting Plans for the Future

While all of our events are designed to be fun social events three coming up are especially noteworthy.



The first of those (chronologically) is something that is still in the developing stages so you'll have to

stay tuned for the details as we go along. This event is the formation-flying clinic planned for March 17th with March 24th as our fallback weather day. Member Jim Posner is working with Larry Gaines who has put on the clinic in conjunction with Bos2OSH. As soon as you see openings advertised for this event you'll want to get your name in because spaces will be limited.

The next event that is very exciting is the Victoria fly-in and Butchart Gardens tour scheduled for April 14th. This one presents just a bit of a challenge because of the border crossing. As of now everyone who crosses the border after January 7th 2007 will have to have a passport for entry back into the US. If this doesn't change you will need a passport to go with us.

Another issue here is the double-decker bus we have set aside for the group's travel from the Victoria airport to the Butchart Gardens and back. The cost of the bus is \$550.00 and garden admission is figured into the cost for the event. If at least 25 people go we will break even. If we don't have at least 20 people planning to go we will have to cancel.



Another exciting event is Beechday on June 2nd in Kennewick. The Gauntt family has sponsored this fly-in event for a couple of years and it has now grown to the point where they will have seminars and displays for the enjoyment of those who come. Last year they generously provided fly-in logo tee shirts, Beechcraft caps, and lunch for all attendees. This is the best-kept secret in aviation. →

