



FLIGHTLINE

January 2012

www.aspenflyingclub.com

Volume 30, Issue 1

Welcome to our New Members

Dominic DiFranco
Robert Mertes
Derek Bowers
Davood Manshadi
Colleen Kelly
Michael Hester
Peter Levin
Robert Cory
Mark Reese
Mark French

A warm welcome to all of
our new and returning
members!

Upcoming Safety Seminar

Monday, January 16, 2012
6:00pm

Aspen Safety Seminars are held every month (usually the third Monday) and are approved for credit in the FAA Wings Pilot Proficiency Program (www.faasafety.gov/ WINGS). All Aspen pilots working toward their Private certificate must attend at least one Safety Seminar every quarter. This month's topic is **Airport Operations**.

New Ratings Congratulations to these members and their instructors.

Solo

David Nelson
Don Clem
Arron Moyer
Joe Chipman
Steve Murchie
Kyle Peterson

Instructor

Michael Shannon
Jon Nafie
Doug Batdorf
Spence Mamber
Jon Nafie
Doug Batdorf

Private

Greg Chestnut
Timothy M. Ryan
Jake Danser
Joe Bevilacqua
Scott Curtis

Instructor

Michael Shannon
Jay Silvernale
Doug Batdorf
Doug Batdorf
Michael Shannon

Instrument

Lee Dehmlow

Instructor

Mark Kelly

CFI

Carter Kennedy

Instructor

Jay Silvernale

MEI

Lance Ward

Instructor

Michael Shannon

Chris's Corner

If you read last month's newsletter, or spent much time around the clubhouse over the past several weeks, then you know Aspen Flying Club is coming under new ownership. By the time you read this, the change will have already taken place. I am one of the new owners. Allow me to introduce myself.

My name is Chris Dillis. I am the owner of Skyraider Aviation, a small flying club with two locations (Erie

Municipal and Centennial Airport), six airplanes, and about 100 club members. While over the past 5 years Skyraider Aviation has built a reputation for being the place to go for Sport Pilots and all things Light Sport Aircraft, the type of pilot certificate and aircraft are not really what set Skyraider apart from the competition. Our real differentiator has been our flying club atmosphere... a place where everyone from seasoned pilot to brand-new student comes to fly for fun while enjoying the camaraderie of fellow aviation enthusiasts. *Plane & Pilot Magazine* did a two part series that pretty well describes the Skyraider story. You can read all about it in the October and November issues by following the links on Skyraider's "News" page.

(<http://www.skyraideraviation.com/news.htm>)

While Skyraider is quite a bit smaller than Aspen, the two clubs have much in common. My partner in this new adventure, Greg Garvis, and I plan to bring the best aspects of Skyraider to Aspen, while maintaining the many positives that have made Aspen a success for over 35 years. Our intent is not to come in and make sweeping changes, but there will be changes. Among the most noticeable and immediate will be the addition of Light Sport Aircraft to the Aspen fleet. If you've ever been curious about all the buzz around the Sport Pilot/Light Sport Aircraft revolution, now you'll be able to experience it firsthand.

The addition of Light Sport Aircraft is just the beginning. Stay tuned for more exciting additions and changes! Whether you're an active member of Aspen Flying Club, or have been sitting on the sidelines, we hope you'll be as excited about the future of Aspen Flying Club as we are! And we hope you will join us for an open house later this month (details will be announced soon).

From the Kneeboard of Chief Pilot Michael Shannon

A true leader always keeps an element of surprise up his sleeve, which others cannot grasp but keeps his public excited and breathless. - Charles de Gaulle

By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, the sale of Aspen Flying club will no longer be just a fast-moving rumor jetting across Centennial Airport. Rather, the change of leadership will be complete. Though change is always a bit scary, I can assure you that the new ownership team has fantastic enthusiasm, energy and enough business savvy to guide our Club successfully well into the future.

With that said, I'd like to look back at our "Brave and Fearless" leader of the past 14 years. To many of us, we've only known Aspen under the faithful tutelage of **Larry Ramsdell**. When he purchased the Club, he had been successful in the corporate world but was looking for a change. One day he decided that he would no longer sit through another corporate meeting. He put his shoulder to the grindstone, found a business that he could be enthusiastic about and gave it his all. The Club we know today exists because of his business acumen, hard work, tireless efforts, wise leadership and witty humor.

Nothing great is created suddenly, any more than a bunch of grapes or a fig. - Epictetus

When I came to AFC in 2000, I had flown with clubs in Oregon, Washington, California, Texas, Rhode Island, Mississippi, Florida and of course many others in Colorado. Though most of these clubs were excellent, Aspen had an air about it that was far superior to any I had flown with previously. I could sense it immediately when I walked through the front door. What I learned quickly was that this impression was based partially on the diverse and large aircraft fleet, importance placed on maintenance, emphasis on instructor proficiency and a friendly staff. More than anything though, this special ambiance was that of a unique place for aviators to gather, share stories,

learn from one another and mostly share their passion for the sky. This was Larry. This was Larry's vision for Aspen; it is exactly what it is because of his leadership and guidance.

"What would you call the highest happiness?" Wratislaw was asked. "The sense of competence," was the answer, given without hesitation. John Buchan

The last decade has been a rough one, particularly for aviation. When Larry had just gotten his feet wet as an aviation business owner, the attacks on the World Trade Center occurred. In unprecedented fashion, every form of aviation was grounded for weeks and operations like ours were slowed for nearly a year! Not too long ago, lawmakers in Washington, D.C., created such a negative image of aviation that its effects rippled down to even flight training environments such as ours, continuing to interrupt business. Everybody has seen and felt the effects of this economy, the likes of which have not been seen since the 1930s. Through all of these challenges, Aspen persevered! While many flight schools and clubs throughout the nation have closed their doors, Aspen has flown through the adversity. I fully believe the reason we were able to weather these turbulent times is because of the business skills and ingenuity, the dogged persistence and efforts that Larry brought to bear for Aspen. Without his efforts, Aspen's future would not be as bright.

The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind in other men the conviction and the will to carry on. - Walter Lippman

More than anything though, Larry is a friend. There wasn't a day when a member or an employee wasn't in Larry's office to seek advice, counsel or just an ear to bounce an idea off of. If the thought wasn't logical or the idea sane, he'd be the first to let you know...and suggest another way. With a keen sense of understanding, Larry would diffuse many uncomfortable situations before they ever had a chance to grow. Whether you agreed with his point of view or not, Larry brought to our Club logic and wisdom that has allowed it to fly smoothly through turbulent times. We at Aspen have learned an immeasurable amount from Larry. He has made an

impressive and lasting mark on this organization we call Aspen Flying Club.

Larry, thank you for your faithful stewardship of Aspen Flying Club, your wisdom and patience toward your employees, and your friendship. We wish you fair skies and following winds.

Let me square the yards, while we may, old man, and make a fair wind of it homeward. - Herman Melville, Moby Dick

(Larry, are you *sure* the answer is "seven"?)

Fly safely! We'll see you at the Club!

INSTRUCTOR MEETINGS

Wednesday,
January 11, 2012
6:00pm

Instructor meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month.

All instructors must attend meetings to maintain their currency with Aspen Flying Club.

If you have a conflict on any of the evenings, we will have a video of the meeting, so you can come in and watch it before you fly again.

Contact Jon Nafie
for more info about our
Redbird FMX Full-motion
Flight Simulator!

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