



***Support General Aviation in Washington State  
Join the Washington Pilots Association  
through a chapter near you!***

The four main missions of the WPA:

***ADVOCACY***

General Aviation (GA) critically needs a strong and effective advocate for its interests at the national and state levels. That's the ONLY way it is going to regain its health and stay vibrant, safe, fun and affordable. GA needs ALL of the pilots in Washington to support that advocacy mission.

The WPA exists for the purpose of and has an impressive track record of being just such an effective advocate to defend against the constant threats of loss of freedom (unnecessary restricted airspace, capricious enforcement of incursions, etc.), increased costs and dwindling resources (airports under threat of closure/redevelopment, onerous medical certification process, inappropriate distribution of taxes, etc.).

As examples, the latest effort at the state level is to undo the legislature's allocating 90% of the aviation excise taxes to the general fund instead of for aviation purposes. These funds could be used to leverage federal money to get access to over \$9.3MM to improve and maintain Washington State airports.

The WPA is a partner in the new Washington State Aviation Alliance that includes the State Department of Transportation Aviation Division, Washington Airports Managers Association and the Washington State Community Airports Association.

All of this effort is being done on behalf of the pilots in our state. All the pilot has to do is be a member to provide the headcount that underpins the clout needed for these advocacy activities to be effective.

The underlying bases of the threats to GA exist because of the general ignorance of the public as to what GA is all about as a community transportation resource and source of income and jobs and not the "rich folk's toys" playground.

The message is: "If you are NOT a part of the solution, you ARE part of the problem."

Anyone who uses the GA infrastructure in the United States and in particular the state of Washington and doesn't actively participate in the preservation of the ability to freely use that infrastructure is being naïve in the belief that it will forever exist in its present form without their help. Anyone who observes how effective the NRA is in preserving gun rights should realize that they are effective because of the sheer number of their members, not how brilliant they are in articulating their message. Legislators respond to them because they represent so many voters.

We have a good track record of airport preservation, user fee suppression and relationship with the WSDOT. We are active politically and vigilant as to any activity that threatens either our freedoms or our costs of flying. That sort of activity and vigilance takes effort, money and dedi-

cation. We are fortunate to have members who are good at this and have the time for and commitment to such activities, but they can only be effective if decision makers know that they have the full support of a large voting membership behind them. Only then will they have an attentive audience.

***If all Washington pilots get involved and become active in the support of the WPA as their advocate, we will have the clout needed to be heard and paid attention to.***

## ***OUTREACH***

Our outreach mission is accomplished in many ways including the Washington Pilots Association Youth Aviation Scholarship Foundation [a 501(c)(3) corporation]. The WPA is very active in funding and managing youth aviation scholarships in various chapters to assist young adults interested in aviation to get their license, many of whom go on to professional flying. Chapters fund up to half of the cost of a private pilot license. Your membership supports that program and makes you a part of ensuring the future health of General Aviation.

The Association's "WINGS" bi-monthly magazine is a quality publication with chapter news and events, GA news, airport news and other Washington aviation related articles.

## ***EDUCATION***

Chapters hold seminars on a wide-range of aviation-related subjects such as weather, maintenance, tips on safe flying, cross-border procedures and tablet computer EFB apps. All seminars are open to all chapter members and a great excuse to fly to where it's being held. Most seminars are approved for FAA WINGS credit.

## ***SOCIAL***

As if that's not enough, it's fun to be a member! Chapters host hangar parties, fly-outs and other social events. There is a weekly "Flyday" on Fridays – lunch in Friday Harbor – which is growing in popularity and includes participants from several chapters. Plus, all members have free access to a cabin on Stuart Island, a short walk from the airport, as well as merchant discounts.

***Join now if for no other reason than to support the WPA's advocacy mission. Enjoy the other benefits of membership as your budget, schedule and interests dictate. The price is certainly right – your minimal membership dues (\$31 per year) make you a member of both the chapter and state organizations. A clear win-win if there ever was one!***

Go to the WPA website: [www.wpaflys.org](http://www.wpaflys.org)

Click on "Join or Renew On-Line Today" in the upper right-hand area of the home page.

## ***Thanks!***

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