



The Great Northwest Sport Rotorcraft Association

PRA CHAPTER 73

www.pra73.net

September 2002

Chasing Wind Towers by Dan Darling

My flying time this year has been really limited by the weather mostly, but not entirely. I have flown, but not as much as usual. On the days that I would have come down to Scappoose for the meeting, the meeting was elsewhere, or the weather just wasn't right for the trip. Two weekends the firefighters were in control of both Hood River and The Dalles airports. Officially only half of the Hood River airport was closed, but they did not allow any flights east of the airport.

About a month ago, I made two attempts to fly around the wind turbine generators out by the John Day river. On both trips I went out to Morro, Oregon to fly by Orville Blaylock's house. He is building a Vortex machine, and it is nearly done. He has a grass strip, across the road, from his house. I have yet to land on his strip, but I did land at his son's place several times. His son, Keith has a grass strip too, but I usually land on the blacktop highway, and roll right up to their grain elevator. He comes up the road on his 4 wheeler, and we chat for a bit, before I head off to harass his other neighbors.

On the first trip I had not filled up with gas when I left The Dalles, and after going by Morro, I saw those huge white towers in the distance. It didn't look all that far, so I headed that way. They are like a magnet, always there in your sight, and I kept going, and going. After a while I decided unless I wanted to walk back, I better head back west. What a disappointment.

On the next try I filled all the gas tanks to the brim, and headed straight for those elusive tow-

ers. It turns out they are not that far away, if you have a full tank of gas. :-). They are about eight miles east of Wasco, Oregon on Klondike ridge, and they are on the sectional.

When I got back several people had questions. How many were there? How tall are they? Do they generate a lot of power? There are 16 turbines, and vary in height, with the tallest ones being 329 feet tall. (the height was on the sectional) There were no signs telling how much power they generate, only KEEP OUT, authorized personnel only signs, and at 60 mph that is hard to read.

I know most of you will never see them because they are not visible from Interstate 84, so either take your car straight east of Wasco, on a scenic cruise along the tour route, or hitch a ride in some type of flying machine for a close up look.

Because I forgot my camera.

Sorry about that.



NEXT MEETING

PRA CHAPTER 73
September 14th, 2002
In Albany... check at the PRA
booth for time and place.

Send your pictures and text for
the newsletter via electromail to:
ovni@hydrophilus.com



**THE GREAT NORTHWEST SPORT
ROTORCRAFT ASSOCIATION**

PRA Chapter 73
34012 Skyway Drive
Scappoose, OR 97056



Meeting Minutes
by Tammi Jordan

The meeting for August 10, 2002 was called to order by our Vice President Bob Johnson at 1:20pm. We had many visitors, including Brian Krotzer and Gary Blevins. We always welcome new people. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Earl Brown, Kenneth D Krotzer, Rick Hicks, and Bill Granewich as new members.

As reported by Bob Johnson our button machine is not available now so sorry newer members on getting your buttons to you. We will work on getting them made as soon as we can.

As treasurer, I reported that we have \$1,755.81 in the checking account. There was no meeting the month of July since there were so few who showed up at the Airshow at Arlington. We did have a good time and it was a learning experience for me working at the booth for the PRA.

OLD BUSINESS: Brad Crenshaw suggested that any changes of meeting location should be voted on at a regularly-scheduled meeting ahead of time; it was voted and passed. Bob Johnson discussed on how we as a club can get more club members and keep the ones we have. Wally Foss was appointed to be head of the hospitality committee.

NEW BUSINESS. Next month's meeting has been changed to occur at the Oregon Airfair on the East side of the airport - check at the booth

to find where and when the meeting will be held. You can contact Dave Riley at 541-636-4930 or Ray Bruce at 503-463-7386 to help out at the Oregon Airfair.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

REMINDER: ASTORIA AIR FAIR SEPT. 21



Check out this Paint Job!
This very special Mi-24 helicopter is presently flying in Afghanistan.

This Newsletter
is also available to all current
members at
<http://www.pra73.net>