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December 2025 Newsletter

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## Hourly Rates

Gas is up just a little to \$6.05, too little to adjust prices. No change in hourly rates for this month.

- 172 \$96
- Archer \$106
- 182 \$164
- Lance \$185

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## Big news about the Lance!

This month the board approved the upgrade and financing plan for the Lance. Instead of typing out all the details, the Lance upgrade team gave a great presentation which you can watch below:



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## Flywell Winter Social

Mark your calendars! We will be holding our winter social and general session on **Sunday, January 25th at 5pm.**

More details to come.

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## Fly with Zach

In Zach's next episode, he takes us over the top of MSP working on proper phraseology and radio technique.

Watch:

[Episode 2: Vectors over the Top](#)

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## Ambushed by Ice

It's cold outside and our CFIs have noted that icing is a real and present danger in these conditions. Here is a sobering reminder of the risks of winter flying.

Watch:

[Ambushed by Ice](#)



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## The \$1,000 Dipstick

I'm not referring to any members of our club but the insane cost of a recent repair to the 182.

The handle of the dipstick on the 182 broke and the stick slid down into the



was \$1,000.

Thanks to Tom, our all-star mechanic, we were able to find a replacement for just \$400.

Paul walks us through how we can save the stress on this awkwardly placed but critical part of our pre-flight.

Watch:

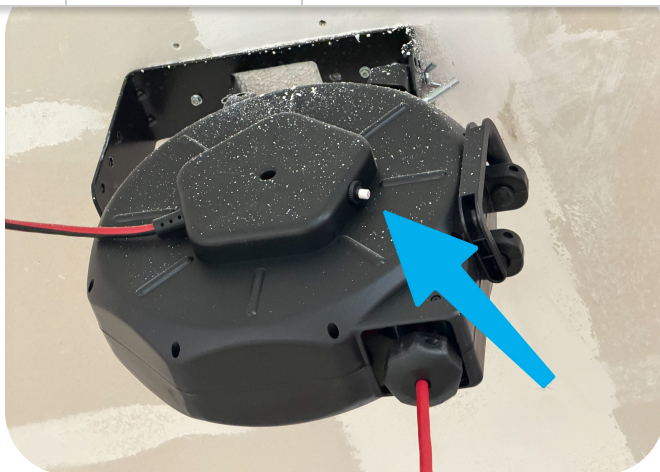
[How to care for our dipstick](#)

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## Updated Binders

Paul W has been on a volunteering spree at the club this month. In addition to the Lance and maintenance issues he also update the binders in each aircraft. The binders have been re-organized to remove out-of-date material, and make the binders consistent across all aircraft. If you have any suggestions for further improvement let Paul know.





## Overhead power fuse reset

With heaters running we can sometime blow a fuse. The overhead reels seem to be particularly sensitive. The reset switch on those can be hard to see and reset. It's that little white knob on the side. A broom handle works well.

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## New Aprons

The new aprons and concrete are amazing. The 182's heated apron seems to be doing the trick evaporating the ice.

Be careful around the 182's moisture sensor seen in the bottom of the picture not to damage it if you are clearing snow or ice.

Also, we have been advised to NOT use any salt or chemicals on the new concrete for this season.

Thanks to Mark C, Avram S, Kurt O for getting the heating elements wired up.



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## Tree of Hope

Tree of Hope is collecting gifts this year. We have a collection box in the





amazing cause.

More info can be found on [here](#).

“We want to help put smiles on the faces of children over the holidays. Spending time in the hospital is not the way for any child to spend their holidays. A gift can show the child and their family that there are others that care. Lengthy hospital stays can cause financial constraints for families. Many of the children with major illnesses.”

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We have a lot of open slots for hangar ace and snow patrol. We all need to pitch in and help, it's part of the Flywell culture and how we keep the hangar nice and the cost of flying low. Please sign up and take a turn.

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## Flywell Volunteers



**Snow Patrol**

Our snow patrollers this month are:

**Slot 1 - No one!**

**Slot 2 - Mark Hapka**

Sign up...

**Hangar Ace**

Our hangar ace this month is:

**Mat Terwilliger**

Sign up...

*Thank you to all our volunteers for helping control our costs  
and making Flywell an amazing club!*

**Board**

- JJ Parker, President
- Mark Bakko, Treasurer
- Lawrence Foley, VP
- Kurt Olson, Director
- Mark Hapka, Director

**Maintenance Officers**

- 172 - Mike Blanness
- Archer - Tim Hawkes
- 182 - Avram Scheiner
- Lance - Steve Schwister
- Hangar - OPEN!
- Supplies - Mark Hapka
- Data - Mat Terwilliger
- Plane Wash - Jeff Fjeld

**Club CFI's**

- Paul Wikstrom
- Kurt Olson
- Jim Schultze
- Norm Lindsey
- Zach Knapp

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**Maintenance Reports**

**C172**

**Aircraft is grounded**

- Grounded, prop is getting examined

# Archer

- Winter plate is on
- One muffler was replaced because of a pinhole leak

# C182

## Aircraft is flying well

- Time to rotate the tires
- Dipstick is fragile and expensive
- Oil cap is still engine over torqued

# Lance

## Aircraft is flying well

- Oil leak off the engine fixed
- Boost pump failed, fixed
- Alternator failed, fixed
- Alternate air does NOT cause RPM drop, looking into it.

# Hangar

Now we are just moving snow around!

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## Upcoming Events

- **Winter Social & General Session**  
Sunday, January 25th, 5pm





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