

THE PACIFIC FLYWAY

Cross Country by floatplane can be a simple and enjoyable experience if you plan ahead, otherwise it's a bummer. Here is a list of considerations and suggestions.

- 1. Most airport fuel trucks are un-licensed and cannot legally travel off the airport.*
- 2. Most base operators will figure out a way to service you if you will call ahead and work it out with them.*
- 3. Expect to pay a service charge, while they are fussing with you, they may be inconveniencing a regular customer.*
- 4. Bring your own pump (See Insert) and filter. One drum is easier to locate than 10 gas cans, none of which may be clean.*
- 5. C.B. nuts are everywhere. They like to talk and they need good stories to tell. If you are forced to an unplanned landing, a call on channel 9 will find you a host of new helpful friends.*
- 6. Carry tie down stakes and plenty of rope, throw in a down jacket and a good book, you will probably do a lot of waiting.*

The Pacific Seaplane Flyway consists of three (3) routes from Mexico to Canada. One (1) is up the coast to Astoria or Hoquiam then inland to Puget Sound.

Two (2) is up the inland valley in California to Shasta, then thru the inland valleys in Oregon and Washington to Puget Sound.

Three (3) from Shasta East of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington to Penticton or from Nevada same route.

- 1. Pebbly Beach, Catalina Island, Avalon, Ca. This is private seaplane base also (Western Terminal for Catalina Airlines). The public is not allowed. No avgas or repairs.*
- 2. Los Angeles Area - San Pedro, California - Los Angeles Harbor. Land in the outer harbor inside the breakwater and taxi into the Los Angeles Yacht Club hub Harbor for mooring. This is located northeast of the Federal Penitentiary on Terminal Island. The yacht club people are very friendly and welcome seaplane visits. Gas must be obtained from Torrance or Long Beach Airport and there will be a service charge. Call Joe Lutes, Cal Pacific Charters (213) 421-8201 or (213) 274-2794 for help and advice. If he knows of your arrival in advance, he can have everything ready.*

Another possible source of gas is Catalina Airlines, which operates flying boats to Catalina Island from their terminal just north of the Vincent Thomas Bridge from Sand Pedro to Terminal Island. A phone call prior to arrival would determine availability of 100 octane. This is a commercial airline operation so realize that you may be interfering with their business. Land mid channel south of the bridge and taxi under it. The public is not welcome. They say emergency fuel may be available by prior arrangement only (how do you prior arrange an emergency)?

3. North Shore, California - Salton Sea. Land outside the marine harbor located 1 mile south of the north shore airport and taxi in. Brad Bretting runs the Salton Sea Air Service there and has 80 octane gas available. The north Shore Airport has its south end under water at various times during the year.

4. Santa Barbara, California - Santa Barbara Harbor. Land in the harbor entrance and taxi to the fuel dock for mooring directions. The harbor master is very helpful. Call airport fuel for service. A service charge is to be expected. If problems develop, call Vern Atkins, Atkins Hobby Crafts for assistance (805) 962-7576 or 962-8228. Vern is a USSPA member and past director.

5. Kernville, California - Lake Isabella. This lake is not yet open (Corps of Engineers however it is a very strategic lake providing the only fueling site between the San Francisco area and Las Vegas, Nev. south eastern California area. As an emergency fuel stop, it has few equals. The airport is at the northern end of the northern fork (see the Los Angeles Sectional Chart) 80 and 100 octane avgas and minor repairs are available. CAUTION: The area is subject to strong winds, check with the FSS prior to your departure for this area. The paved runway gets flooded out during the spring and land planes have to use the dirt strip higher up on the shore. Tree stumps and a concrete diversion channel exists in this branch of the lake.

6. San Carlos, California - San Carlos Airport. Land in the slough east of the airport and tie up to the dyke. Fuel will be from a truck. They have 80 and 100 oct. and major repairs. CAUTION: Tower controlled airport T.C.A. tidal salt water, unknown obstructions in slough at edges. This is none-the-less in common use. The tower has good experience with floatplanes without radios.

7. Sausalito, California - Command SPB Robert Davis has gas, major and minor repairs available. 80 and 100 octane.

8. Yuba City California - Sutter Co. Airport. Land in the Sacramento River next to the airport and taxi to the shore. You will be fueled from truck, most likely from the dyke. The airport is adjacent to the river. Major and minor repairs as well as 80 and 100 octane gas are available. CAUTION: Debris in river and usual rocky river bottom.

9. Homewood SPB, Lake Tahoe, Homewood California. Full service operation. Avgas repairs, mooring food and lodging are available. Homewood SPB located on the north western edge of the lake. Mike Brown has 80 and 100 oct. avgas and minor repairs available. CAUTION: Lake elevation is 6200 feet. More than one seaplane has had to be trucked out. Mike has also ferried passengers and baggage down to Washoe Lake (5000 elevation) for departure.

10. ClearLake California - Bayless Point. Eastern shore of lower lake south of Konacti. Look for wind sock in the water at the end of the point. Bob Hansons house has a floatplane in front of it. (707)994-5350. He or his son Chriss (707)994-951 have 80 octane gas and may do minor repairs. Neighbors will give help if needed. Also, assistance is available from R.H. Smith at Pearce Field (707) 994-2589 end of Clearlake. Smitty has the best float/amphib maintenance shop south of Portland Or.

Alperth, Lake Pillsbury, north of Clearlake, BEWARE: of this one !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Pacific Gas and Electric Co. owns this lake and they have no intentions of allowing seaplanes to land. No avgas or repairs are available. Although seaplane pilots has landed and had lunch at the restaurant, all run the risk of receiving a citation. Apparently sometime in the past a P G & E official used to visit the lake in his seaplane and put the symbol on the sectional chart. This symbol too will be removed in the near future.

Skylark, northwest Clearlake, Lakeport Calif. No avgas or repairs available. This is located at a motel with a cafe next door. Several years ago a previous owner of the motel had a Lake Amphibian which he based on the grass at the motel. The present owner welcomes seaplane visitors.

Ferndale-Resort west shore Clearlake. No avgas or repairs available. An airport permit has recently been issued for this resort. A Grumman Goose is being operated for sightseeing rides and charter. Other seaplane visitors are welcome. This is a pretty resort area with food, mooring and lodging available. Several years ago avgas was available here, primarily used in boat engines.

Since the price difference was significant, fewer and fewer people bought it. It is no longer available.

11. Oroville California - Thermolito Afterbay 1 mile south of Oroville Airport. Land secure plane and walk to airport or call on unicom. 100 oct only available except on Oroville seaplane flyin weekend. CAUTION: The water level fluctuates about 2 feet over a four hour period so do not leave aircraft unsecured.

12. Eureka, California - Murray Field. Land in the slough on the south east edge of the airport. It is tidal salt water although long enough for most aircraft. Taxi to the dyke and tie up. Select the most favorable site since some of the dyke is rock rip rap and some is normal dirt. Walk to the fuel truck who will drive onto the top of the dyke and fuel you from there. Low tides may create a problem, we fueled at high tide. This airport is subject to summer fog. Land at Ruth Lake about 50 miles south east and wait for the fog to burn off. This site is often used by floatplanes. The fuel operator is Eureka Aero, Eureka, Calif. 80 and 100 oct gas and major repairs are available. Go to the western end of the road on top of the dyke. A wire rope restricts vehicle traffic. The north end of this wire rope is looped through the padlock but is safety wired back to itself. Carefully remove the safety wire and pull the wire rope out of the padlock. Back the fuel truck down the dyke road.

13. Shasta Navigation, Bridge Bay Marina Lake Shasta near Redding Ca. This facility has no avgas or repairs, food, lodgin and mooring are available, as are boat type repair facilities. Sometime ago a sightseeing operation existed at this location which had avgas but no more. The symbol may be removed from the charts in the future.

14. Red Bluff Calif. Here the operator, Bob Jones of Red Bluff Aero, needs 2 days advanced notice. His gas truck, like those at most airports does not have a vehicle license, so he must have a police escort to drive from the airport thru town to the river. Bob has obtained permission from the city for landings and refueling. Seaplanes should land on the river at Red Bluff above the diversion dam between the two highway bridges, taxi and tie up to the Marina. Call by radio or telephone to let him know of your arrival. He has 80 and 100 octane gas available. His telephone number is (916) 527-6211.

15. Eagle Lake, located in northeastern Calif. near Susanville, has been open for seaplane operation. There are no fuel or services available on the lake. On the other hand, the trout fishing is good most of the year and outstanding in the spring and fall. Campgrounds are located at the north and south ends of the lake; a marina with supplies is located at the south end.

16. Imigrant Lake, Ashland Oregon. Beach plane at boat ramp on north end, call Southern Oregon Airways on unicom or phone (503) 482-5676. 80 and 100 available. Prefers to be phoned ahead of arrival.
17. Gold Beach Oregon where the Rogue River goes into the ocean. Land in the river above the highway bridge and taxi into the boat harbor on the south side of the river. The airport is right next to the boat harbor.
18. Klamath Falls Oregon - Klamath Lake. Land at the south end of the lake and tie up to the marina. Call the airport (phone or unicom) to arrange for gas delivery. Expect a \$10.00 service charge. Lake is fresh water but sits at 4100 feet elevation. 80 and 100 octane gas and minor repairs at site.
19. Chiloquim - Land in Agency Lake (north of Klamath Lake). Go to Agency Lake Marina. Call Wynn Hescoek 783-2333, Chiloquin Standard Distributor for fuel.
20. Lost Creek Reservoir, about 15 miles up the Rogue River from Medford Or. Land on the lake and taxi to ranger station on the south shore (avoid the swimming beach area). Beach on the dirt road 1/2 mile west of the swimming beach, walk to the ranger station and use the pay telephone to call Lark Aircraft Services (503) 878-2558 or (503) 878-2433 at Shady Cove Oregon 5 miles down river. Ray Lewis will bring gas in a 55 gal. drum. Ray has 80 oct available and says that he will put in 100 oct. A call to verify the status would be well advised. Ray is an Alaskan seaplane pilot now operating the fuel and maintenance facility at Shady Cove Airport. He understands seaplanes and their problems.
21. North Bend- Fuel truck will service seaplanes from end of runway. Rocky shore tide and boat wakes. Not a good beach. Salt water.
22. Florence Oregon - Woahink Lake. Floyd Doland operator 3 miles south of Florence. Fresh water. Floyd has 80 octane. Will get 100 from local airport if you call ahead (503) 997-3501.
23. Fern Ridge Reservoir - Eugene Oregon. Public dock and boat ramp. Contact McKenzie Flying Service. Phone 688-0971 or Henderson Aviation 688-4777, or Eugene Airport to arrange service.
24. Madras Lake Billy Chinook or Lake Simtustus. Elevation 1860 and 1573. Respectfully both in narrow canyons. Land in open water taxi to boat ramp. Contact Ron Berg (503) 475-2360 at Madras Airservice for service. No problems but it will take awhile.
25. Portland Portarbor (The Anchorage) 100 octane available. Good restaurant no overnite. Phone (503) 231-7255
Jantzen Beach (Harry White) temporary docking, 80 octane. Minor repairs Phone (503) 285-4407.
Wileystiedown ramp or dock. Courtesy car. Repairs can be arranged. Phone (503) 636-4930 or (503) 234-5361. Motel nearby.
26. Astoria - Fuel truck will service seaplanes from end of runway. Mud flat at low tide, salt water. Not easy!
27. Umatilla - Stanfield Hermiston Area. Contact USSPA member Ralph Zimmerly (503) 567-7688. There are no convient facilities in the area but if you need help, you can count on Ralph.

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28. Pasco Area - Land between bridges, taxi to Metz Marina on Clover Island, contact Dale Metz Hotel and Restaurant available. (509) 582-8709 or 582-8383. or beach at Columbia Park boat ramp. Kenivick (509) 783-2423. Call ahead to arrange for fuel.

29. Seattle - Lake Union - Kurtzar Seaplane Base. Close to downtown. Phone (206) 284-1234, all services including customs (NO step taxi-phone (206) 284-1234 Traffic 122.9

Kenmore Air Harbor, north end of Lake Washington. One of the biggest and most complete seaplane bases in the U.S. (206) 486-1257.

30. Lake Chelan- Airways (509) 682-5555. Ernie Gebson. 100 octane available. Cash only. Transients welcome. May be gone on a charter from Sept. to May. Call to be sure. Summer is no problem. N.E. shore of Lake Near S.E. end. Bathing beach next door, watch swimmers.

31. Coeur 'D Alene - Idaho Brooks Seaplane Servie (208) 664-2842 after hours 772-5649. 80 and 100 oct available. Walking distance from motels and restaurants.

32. Bedwell Harbor - Customs (north bound) south pender Island. Seaplane dock. No fuel. No flight plan or notice required.

Friday Harbor Customers (south bound) file with Nanimo or Comox. One hour notice. Phone in customs office to close required flight plan with Bellingham. FSS will notify customs (206) 378-2080.

33. Vancouver BC (Northbound) Land in river as directed by control tower. Custom fuel and FSS available, flight plan required. Service poor.

34. Float Haven Bellingham (southbound) (206) 733-1223. Fuel major repairs. Dock tiedown and hangar courtesy car. Customs available on 1 hour notice. They may refuse or delay due to workload. Phone (206) 734-3520.

35. Penticton (Northbound) Land on lake at south end of airport. Taxi to first dock just inside river inlet. Customs will meet you there. Fuel is no longer available. Be sure to talk to tower to close flight plan, (required) and have them notify Canadian Customs, they will not call U.S. Customs.

36. Orville (Southbound) File, open and close flight plan with Penticton. In addition, you must call U.S. Customs one hour in advance. They will meet you on beach on west side of lake about 1/2 mile south of border. Have him describe area to you when you call him (509) 475-3514.

37. Port Hill Customs - On Kootenay River north of Bomers Ferry, call on unicom. Both U.S. and Canadian Customs on hwy. Beach on river bank near customs office. Phone (208) 267-5309.

38. Sechelt- Good Seaplane base north of city, on inlet. All services.

39. Kamloops - Good seaplane base on river beside airport.

"You are now in seaplane country. From here on north there are lots of seaplanes and facilities. You are no longer anything special. You will be expected to act like the professionals. No one will pay any attention to you. They will not help you dock or depart unless asked. They are however, very friendly people and when asked will give you more service and advice than you can use."

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