



IFFR Alaska Section

Al Clayton, Section Chair

Fireweed (OAK8), Alaska

June 19-21, 2020

Friends and Aviators:

This is an invitation and reminder of details on our upcoming Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF), EAA chapter 42, International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians (IFFR) fly-out/drive-out to Fireweed (OAK8) near McCarthy set for June 19-21, 2020.

Directions for those coming over the road are in the attachments. Pilots, please announce intentions on 122.9 for landing at “Fireweed Airstrip” which appears on FAA chart as (OAK8). Elevation is 1250 feet, packed gravel surface with 2000 feet between the orange cones marking the preferred northern end of the airstrip. Runways 01-19. Right traffic for 01. Park at the south end of the strip with nose pointed NW. For noise abatement on departures to the south on 19, turn left (east) toward the Kennicott River as soon as able. Call me if you plan to fly in and I will share more local information. See attached map for directions over the road.

For the ambitious, we will have work party improving Solo Creek on Park Service land about 30 air miles to the east on Saturday. In the alternative, you may join the work party of the Pioneers of Alaska sprucing up the historic Kennicott Cemetery with the cooperation of the National Park Service.

The itinerary:

Friday, June 19

0800 – 1200 Hosts Al Clayton and Ray Huot depart Lake Hood, arrive Fireweed and opens Gladys the bus, and the buildings/systems

1200 – 1400 Yard preparation for fireside/picnic area for the party (a few early arriving helpers would be welcome)

1400 – 1800 Air boss Ray Huot helps inbound landing traffic park at south end of

Fireweed (0AK8) and Ground boss Bob Waldron gets people and gear from strip to meadow for camping or other lodging

1800 – 1815 Safety briefing for optional Saturday mission to Solo Creek

1815 – 2200 Potluck dinner at fire-pit

2200 Lights out

Saturday, June 20

0700 – 0900 Pancake breakfast and picnic lunch preparation at the firepit/grill (AI will supply the pancake batter, potluck additions to the breakfast menu welcome)

0830 - 0845 Pancake flipping competition (pan only, no flippers allowed)

0900 – 0915 Additional instructions and flight plan briefing for work crew outbound to Solo Creek; discussion of Pioneer cemetery restoration and local historic attractions for those staying in McCarthy/Kennicott

0930 – 1030 Air boss controls outbound flights and shuttle between Fireweed and Solo (additional incoming weekend participants should avoid arriving Fireweed in this window to ease traffic)

1030 – 1530 volunteers at Solo trimming brush/trees and improving surface (bring work gloves/clothes, safety glasses and limb nippers; AI will have enough shovels and rakes)

1530 – 1730 Air boss controls return shuttle from Solo to Fireweed

1800 – 1815 IFFR/RAF/EAA42/C180 – C185 planning meeting at fire-pit for additional 2019 activities

1815 – 2400 Potluck dinner at fire-pit with tall tales, embellishments and outright lies

Sunday, June 21

0700 – 0900 Pancake breakfast and picnic lunch preparation at the firepit/grill (AI will supply the pancake batter, potluck additions to the breakfast menu welcome)

0830 - 0845 Pancake flipping competition (pan only, no flippers allowed)

0900 – 1500 Self-help tour of McCarthy/Kennicott mine and historic railroad features (vans available on the east side of walking bridge over Kennecott R. will take you to Mine buildings, etc.)

1500 - 1700 Clean up, wind down and depart for home

1700 - 2200 Optional Pioneers of Alaska Summer Solstice party with initiation of honorary members and related ceremony

Of Interest to Pilots on Floats:

Mike Collins of Cordova is the owner of the beautiful property with the grass strip which parallels the road at the west end of Long Lake, 20 miles west of my place at Fireweed Strip. He has kindly given permission for float planes involved in this effort to park at his two docks and the beach there at the west end of the lake near his cabins and the grass airstrip. Operations are at your own risk, of course. If you buzz us at Fireweed and radio us on 122.9, I am sure we will have someone on wheels who can come over, pick you up from the grass strip at Long Lake, so you can enjoy McCarthy and Kennicott with us, and shuttle you back in the evening so you can watch over your parked planes.

It would be great to know you are coming and I would appreciate an RSVP in advance of June 16th. I may depart to set up Wednesday and then might be off the grid and unable to provide further local knowledge. Email, Call or text me at 9072501649 and let me know. If you do not want to camp, email me and I can provide several other options for accommodations at B&Bs and Lodges.

Look forward to seeing you there! Safe Travels. My cell phone **sometimes** works in McCarthy (907-250-1649).

Thanks, Al

Al Clayton - Alaska State Liaison
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The Recreational Aviation Foundation preserves, maintains, and creates airstrips for recreational access.