

## Riverview Airport Pilots

# Fall Backcountry Trip

Herb Harney - 616-401-3637  
hharney@sbcglobal.net

**September 13 - 15, 2013**

### **Friday September 13**

	Meet in Hailey, ID KSUN	<a href="http://www.airnav.com/airport/KSUN">http://www.airnav.com/airport/KSUN</a> Tie down fee - \$12 single / \$30 twin
	Hotel - Airport Inn	<a href="http://www.airportinnailey.com/Reservations.htm">http://www.airportinnailey.com/Reservations.htm</a> 208-788-2477
7 PM	Dinner	Wood River Valley - Power House Pub <a href="http://powerhouseidaho.com/">http://powerhouseidaho.com/</a>

### **Saturday September 14**

8 AM	Meet at the Hailey Airport	
8:30 AM	Morning flight to Smiley Creek, U87	<a href="http://www.airnav.com/airport/U87">http://www.airnav.com/airport/U87</a>
	Breakfast / Lunch	<a href="http://smileycreeklodge.com/">http://smileycreeklodge.com/</a>
12 PM	Depart Smiley Creek for McCall, KMYL	<a href="http://www.airnav.com/airport/KMYL">http://www.airnav.com/airport/KMYL</a>
Hotel - Best Western McCall -1-800-780-5733 <a href="http://www.airnav.com/reserve/hotel?tnid=5HAN&amp;near=KMYL">http://www.airnav.com/reserve/hotel?tnid=5HAN&amp;near=KMYL</a>		

7 PM	Dinner – Steamers Steak and Seafood	<a href="http://www.steamersrestaurant.com/">http://www.steamersrestaurant.com/</a>

**Sunday September 15**

	Breakfast at hotel	
9 AM	Meet at the McCall Airport	
9:30 AM	Mid-morning flight to Johnson Creek	<a href="http://www.airnav.com/airport/3U2">http://www.airnav.com/airport/3U2</a>
	Bring lunch or snacks for picnic	
	Depart Johnson Creek – ON YOUR OWN	

Have a safe flight home or wherever your destination is .....

\*Overnight camping is available at both U87 and 3U2

# Riverview Pilots Backcountry Trip 2013

\*\*\*Important Information – You Must Read and Agree\*\*\*

Be proficient in slow flight, short field landing and takeoff. Practice local on some grass runways in the area. In the Grand Rapids area some good grass is available at Newman's Field (4N0), Triple H (2H4), Wilderness (24M), Hastings (9D9), Plainwell (61D), Lowell (24C) and of course Riverview 32R (08C). If you do not feel comfortable with landing at these grass strips then ask an instructor to go with you to familiarize yourself with your airplane on these runways.

\*\*\*\*\*

This is Real Mountain flying and requires knowledge of circumstances that can be encountered with terrain, density altitude, wind, downdrafts, turbulence, weather and other hazards. You must know your airplane; it's performance, capabilities in high altitude environments. These are high country, grass, and unimproved runways. Hazards exist, if you do not feel comfortable landing in these environments take a backcountry lesson or hire an instructor to go with you. Please ask if you have any questions about mountain flying.

\*\*\*\*\*

For best routing from Michigan to Idaho contact Herb for details. If you use Foreflight on your iPad the route can be e-mailed from the Foreflight program.

\*\*\*\*Arrival at KSUN on Friday, September 13 by no later than 4:00 PM is critical.

If you plan to camp Smiley Creek U87 on Friday, September 13, it will be optional to stop at KSUN to join us for dinner. Although stopping at KSUN before proceeding to Smiley Creek to camp is very doable. Please ask Herb if you have questions

You are responsible for HOTEL RESERVATIONS for you and those traveling with you. Please see the agenda page for all information pertaining to the hotels suggested. Other hotels are available but are not within walking distance to the airport. The two hotels suggested are very close proximity of the airport. Walking distance is acceptable or FBO service provided. If you open the agenda on your computer all the websites and phone numbers are listed.

Meal costs are your own responsibility. Dinner in Hailey Friday night is within walking distance from the hotel. Dinner in McCall Saturday night is downtown McCall. We will ride the bus downtown as it stops right at our hotel / airport. Both hotels offer free breakfast.

The Saturday mountain airport is Smiley Creek – U87. This is a very benign grass runway that is 4,900 feet long and 150 feet wide. The elevation is 7,160 ft., therefore density altitude is a major concern. The airport is situated in a gigantic valley and trees, canyons, etc. do not restrict the approach and departure. Other than your aircrafts performance at possibly high-density altitude, it is an easy airstrip to use. Hailey (KSUN) is 5,320 ft. elevation, so you're going to get a taste of the high mountain altitudes when you depart Saturday morning to go north to Smiley Creek. Temperature will be monitored closely and will dictate our departure out of Smiley Creek that morning. At 75 degrees F density altitude is almost 10,000 ft. Based on the

calendar time selected for this trip temperature typically is not a factor until mid afternoon.

\*\*\*\*\*

This is Real Mountain flying and requires knowledge of circumstances that can be encountered with terrain, density altitude, wind, downdrafts, turbulence, weather and other hazards. You must know your airplane; it's performance, capabilities in high altitude environments. These are high country, grass, and unimproved runways. Hazards exist, if you do not feel comfortable landing in these environments take a backcountry lesson or hire an instructor to go with you. Please ask if you have any questions about mountain flying.

\*\*\*\*\*

The trip from Smiley Creek to McCall can be done one of two ways:

1. Over the mountains
2. Back to Hailey and south through the desert

Weather could eliminate route number 1 and then everyone would go south through the desert. Of course flying a twin engine always makes option 1 an easier choice. The desert route will take an hour or so longer but allows flights through the wide valley to McCall via Boise.

The Sunday mountain airport is Johnson Creek – 3U2. Johnson Creek is in the Idaho Wilderness Area. The Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness Area is 2.4 million acres in size. No powered vehicle is allowed in the area except for aircraft. You either walk in, horseback, float or fly. It is the second largest wilderness area after Death Valley. Johnson Creek airport is one of the premier airstrips in the wilderness area.

Maintained by the State of Idaho, it is like landing on a golf course fairway. It has an underground sprinkler system. It offers camping at your airplane. Fishing in the Johnson Creek River. You will never land at a destination like this again. It will be extremely satisfying and leave a precious memory.

Johnson Creek airport is 26 nm west of McCall and at 4,933 ft. elevation. The runway is 3,400 feet long and 150 ft. wide. Density altitude is a major factor when arriving and departing this airport. Approach is through a tight narrow canyon that is on the east side of the airport. During the approach you hug the east side with the airport on the left making a left downwind for runway 17. Landing to the south and departing to the north is recommended unless winds dictate otherwise.

The Tour is concluded at Johnson Creek. You are on your own to go or stay depending on your plans. Some of you may be returning to McCall to gather passengers. Others may wish to camp at Johnson Creek and take in all the glory of the Idaho Wilderness. There are several other backcountry strips that are accessible from Johnson Creek airport. Using Johnson Creek as base camp is very common in the Idaho Wilderness. Some of the other locations that you may want to visit from Johnson Creek are:

Big Creek – U60

Indian Creek – S81

Bruce Meadows – U63

Warm Springs – 0U1

Stanley – 2U7

Some of the locations can be stops on the way out of the mountains or destinations. Refer to the appropriate information about these airports as they each have their own character. You

are already in the most prestigious backcountry area in the country so enjoy it while you are there.

\*\*\*\*\*

This is Real Mountain flying and requires knowledge of circumstances that can be encountered with terrain, density altitude, wind, downdrafts, turbulence, weather and other hazards. You must know your airplane; it's performance, capabilities in high altitude environments. These are high country, grass, and unimproved runways. Hazards exist, if you do not feel comfortable landing in these environments take a backcountry lesson or hire an instructor to go with you. Please ask if you have any questions about mountain flying.

\*\*\*\*\*

Riverview Airport, or any pilot, or Herb Harney is not responsible for any part of this trip. This is not a guided tour or is not implied to be. All risks are the responsibility of the pilot of each aircraft that has joined this group to fly to these destinations. No training, certifications, preparedness, acknowledgment or any other implied recommendations have been endorsed by anyone associated with this trip.

Riverview Airport Pilots

# Fall Backcountry Trip

September 13 - 15, 2013

**This is what you dreamed of doing,  
and we're going!**

Join us for an adventure to the Idaho Wilderness Area that you will never forget. Over 2 million acres of mountainous terrain accessible only by foot, horseback, raft or AIRPLANE.

**REGISTER ON-LINE at  
[www.riverviewairport.com](http://www.riverviewairport.com)**



For additional information call 616-401-3637