



2024
IDAHO AVIATION FOUNDATION (IAF)
(and Big Creek Lodge)
NEWS

Hello IAF Supporters and Lodge Patrons

Hey! It's spring! The weather seems to have finally cleared the debris of the snow left behind from winter's annual visit. Here at the Idaho Aviation Foundation, we are busy planning for another season at Big Creek Lodge and numerous other projects that we have ongoing, which I'd like to share with you.

This winter we've added a few new faces to the team! With John Blakley stepping down from the board to pursue other projects, we've welcomed Jamie Boesiger, who brings a love and experience of back country flying, corporate flying and administrative airport management to the table! We've also brought on board Brenda Lamott, as secretary, who will now be manning the phones at headquarters – so when you call for your reservations – hint, hint – you know who you are talking to! And finally, we've added Jana Knoll as our trusted bookkeeper, who brings years of experience to keep the books in the “severe clear” 😊

While the Lodge, with its magnificent presence in the back county, tends to take up the spotlight, the Idaho Aviation Foundation has several other noteworthy projects that are growing and thriving in its shadow. Thanks to the generosity of our patrons and donors, we have been able to contribute to the re-opening of the Hoodoo Meadows airstrip! Built in 1936, it was rarely used in later years and fell into disrepair. It's a high-elevation runway at 8200 ft, is 1900 feet long and about 100 feet wide. With cooperative efforts from the US Forest Service, the IAA, the Idaho Division of Aeronautics, RAF, IAF, and Idaho Fish and Game, among others, Hoodoo Meadows will be airstrip #32 this summer!

Another behind the scenes project that we continue to fund is the airstrip web cams that run year-round to keep an eye, literally, on these back country beauties and weather. If you haven't seen them, now's the time! There are also weather stations with the cameras that offer real-time information in 15 minute intervals. They can be viewed from the following addresses:

www.map.eye-N-Sky.net
www.Idahoaviationfoundation.org/webcams
www.Idahoaviation.com/iaa-webcams

Another project that we are proud to fund is the Wilderness Within Reach (WWR) program. This is a labor of love that allows us to take groups of physically challenged

people out to experience the back country. For the past 30 years we have worked with Boise Parks and Rec to take and children to stay at the enjoy the sights and otherwise be able to access. to achieve this, and it has are planning on hosting both Disabled Veterans retreat at none-other than Big Creek Lodge! We are looking forward to that, and if this is something that strikes a chord with you, know that you can help sponsor Wilderness Within Reach adventures, which are gifted to our participants at no cost to them!



groups of disabled adults, veterans, Flying B for a 3-day getaway to activities that they would not Pilots donate their time and airplanes been a great success. This year we a youth WWR at the Flying B, and a

BIG CREEK LODGE OPENING May 25

As the days warm up, there's a group of people who are putting on their Game Day hats and getting ready to head out to the Lodge and wake her up in early May. It's no small undertaking, and it takes a crew to get it all dusted off and set up for our guests this season!

Our opening day this year will be May 25th, so mark your breakfast calendar! We'll be serving up our amazing breakfasts again, with a few additions to the menu and no rate changes from last year! Yes...you read that right!

Our occupancy rates have been going up every year since we opened in 2018, so be sure to book your reservations early! The easiest way to book is online at www.bigcreeklodgeidaho.com/book We are all looking forward to seeing new and old friends this year!

Of note to pilots, specific to our airstrip at Big Creek, we had some winter visitors take down the big tree south of the runway. (You regulars out there will know just the one (the one we all wince at during landing north!) There is discussion and plans in the works for a few more trees to be taken down on the north end of the runway. There is also a plan for improving runway watering and maintenance in place with the Forest Service and Idaho Division of Aeronautics.

This year we will see some new faces at the lodge! I (Sally, here) will be back for my 5th season. It's been my honor and privilege to be the manager of the lodge for this re-



birth of a legend, and it's my hope to continue as long as the fates allow me to see this place become all that it can be once again. Joining the team this year will be Katie Brown from Donnely as well as Greg and Julie Warren coming in from Washington State. We hope



to be on-site May 11, hearts and hands all in, to make this a fantastic season for everyone!

As a non-profit enterprise, we rely on the generosity, vision and support of our friends and patrons across the board, from pilots, ATV adventurers, hikers, campers, hunters, and local people alike. YOU are what make Big Creek the destination that it is.. Last year, we were able to fund the upgrade of the old general store into staff living

quarters. Finishing touches will be added this spring! This year, the steps on the lodge will be repaired to keep them safe and stable. They are made of wood, and the winters are hard on them, so that will be a top priority.

Many of you have asked if we had a list of the things “Most Wanted/Needed” that we need to keep the lodge running as smoothly as possible. Things that are on the list would be:

1. A side-by-side. It is for staff and as a courtesy vehicle to get things from the runway to the lodge or visitors to trailheads.
2. New or Used 4wd pick-up truck- Our current pickup has been a critical part of the lodge since 2018 and has served us well, but mountain life is hard for a pick-up, and back and forth to Yellow Pine and to the trail heads has taken a toll.
3. Emergency medical supplies. The Lodge has a medical jump bag that will need to be replenished with appropriate medical tools and supplies to stabilize any injuries that may occur.
 - a. New last year, one of our generous supporters donated an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to the Lodge for emergencies. This was an important thing, because while accidents and injuries have been rare, if and when they do occur in the back country, first aid becomes critical since a 911 call will mean a helicopter rescue which can be an hour or more away. This year, after seeing the need for trained medical personnel, the Foundation agreed to put me, Sally, through EMT training and certification, so that we would not be unprepared in case of emergencies. I am happy to report that I passed the NREMT on April 1st. 😊 If this is something that resonates with you, we would appreciate any donations to that end.

Please know that we appreciate your support more than mere words can convey! And remember that as a 501 (c)(3), your donations are tax deductible!

We are hoping to keep up with a regularly updated newsletter, to keep those who are interested in what the IAF is doing, what’s going on at the Lodge and who are interested in partnering with our efforts to keep the back country safe, accessible and enjoyable!

Thank you again for your support! We hope to meet as many of you as possible at the Lodge this summer!

Thanks for “flying” with us!

Jim and Sally