

Idaho Mountain Pilot, Keynote Speaker at Calgary Convention

By: Frank Lester, Safety/Education Coordinator

Against the breathless backdrop of the Canadian Rockies, the Canadian Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) held their 2009 Fly-in Convention and Centennial Celebration of Flight. Mountain flying was a featured topic and McCall mountain flying instructor, Lori MacNichol was the keynote speaker. Lori led two workshops, July 17th and 18th, in which nearly 250 pilots attended each day. The day following each seminar, pilots

and planes staged for a fly-out in the early morning to several predetermined routes that viewed the glaciers while employing ridge crossing and drainage navigation techniques covered in the previous day's seminar. COPA members honored Lori at the Saturday night



Lori speaks to a group of Canadian pilots at the COPA convention.

banquet with a special Calgary Stampede Cowgirl Hat.

Lori, an accomplished mountain flyer in her own

right, operates one of the largest flight training schools in North America dedicated to mountain flying, McCall Mountain/Canyon Flying Seminars. Her knowledge and enthusiasm makes her a regular speaker at seminars and conventions around the country including the AOPA's annual convention.

Initiative

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Pilots may not always take the time to read available FAA-produced literature on runway safety, or study the Runway Safety Office website. Thus, the primary objective of the initiative is to contact as many pilots as possible using multiple methods to highlight the critical importance of runway safety—especially for pilots who do most of their flying during the summer and who may be a little rusty on surface movement best practices.

The summer campaign started with a mass mailing to pilots in specific areas within each of the targeted regions. This will be followed by an e-mail notification with links to further information, pilot's meetings, and briefings to facility and ATC management.

HOW CAN YOU HELP REDUCE THE RISK OF AN INCURSION...

Allow extra time to study the airport diagram when planning any flight to or from a towered facility. Keep a copy readily available in the cockpit. Current airport diagrams are available free of charge online at www.naco.faa.gov.

Develop a good working knowledge of standards for airfield signs and markings to help maintain situational awareness while operating on the airport. The Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM) is an excellent resource for this information. If you are uncertain about your position on the airport surface and are not on a runway or otherwise creating a safety hazard, stop and contact air traffic control. Always remember "if in doubt... ask."

Listen carefully to and read back all air traffic clearances. In particular, the use of any runway, under all circumstances, requires ATC clearance. Take a moment to review and clearly understand the requirements associated

with "taxi to" clearances in Part 91.129. If you are uncertain about a hold short instruction or whether or not you are cleared to enter or cross a runway, stop and contact air traffic control. Always remember "if in doubt... ask."

Practice heads-up and heads-out when taxiing. Avoid any cockpit task that could be a distraction from navigating safely on the airport. Checklists, programming, and other pre-flight activities should be completed while the aircraft is stopped.

In almost all cases, breaking the chain of events that lead to an incursion can result from your efforts to reduce risk and make safety a priority. Through its summer initiative, the FAA is confident that you can help reduce runway incursion risks and enhance the fun of summer aviation.

Although this article is appearing later than originally planned, the information remains extremely relevant. Editor

