

CHALLIS RIVER OF NO RETURN MOUNTAIN FLYING CLINIC *The Original Mountain Flying Course*



2015 Information

June 11, 12 & 13, 2015 Challis, Idaho

Mountain flying schools are back at Middle Fork Aviation,

To meet the recent increased demand in backcountry instruction Middle Fork Aviation will be hosting the original Mountain flying school, RIVER OF NO RETURN MOUNTAIN FLYING CLINIC In 2015, June 11, 12 & 13 at our Challis facility.

The course is intended to provide the students enough training and information to allow them to navigate land and depart safely at a handful of airstrips in Central Idaho they find interesting, and be able to make safe, sound go no go decisions based on their ability, experience, equipment and conditions. We try to expose the students to as many different airstrips, routes, conditions etc as possible, students can expect to receive 9 hours of flight instruction over 3 mornings from pilots that have flown charter in the backcountry for years. Flying charter in the Frank Church exposes pilots to difficulty's most have never dreamed existed. Weather, gross weight operations, runway conditions, financial and scheduling demands mixed with customer's limited knowledge and over expectations of aircraft performance makes a successful Idaho Charter pilot one the most defensive, well rounded, stick and rudder oriented pilots in existence. One of the most important thing's a true professional can teach a student is when to be passive, and when to be aggressive. Additionally we try and instill the fact that this endeavor has many facets, in order to be truly proficient at a very high level in central Idaho it takes years, literally years of experience. That being said our goal is to send the students that have no experience in this backcountry home with confidence that they can return on their own and comfortably go into 4 or 5 strips, and the understanding that it will be a few years of practicing and more instruction before they can go into others. For individuals that have some level of experience in Idaho we start from that point and build on what they have already mastered. We do not offer instruction at Simonds, Mile High, Vines or Dewy Moore.

In addition to the flight instruction we have 3 afternoons of ground school. The ground school instructors are Pete Nelson and Frank Lester. Pete has been a pilot for 28 years, a charter pilot & instructor in this course, an A&P, an IA for over 20 years, Owned and operated MFA for 18, overseeing all flight and maintenance operations. 18 years of being responsible for moving thousands of people and millions of tons of cargo in and out of the backcountry with different types of aircraft and pilots all times of year on limited budgets sets the stage for instruction on topics that are relevant to this type of flying with practical, efficient, cost effective solutions.

Frank completed the ROTC program in 1969, flew forward air tactical and instructed in Vietnam and flew C-141's in peace time, all told he spent 22 years in the military. After retiring with honors he took a job with the Idaho State Division of aeronautics as the Safety and Education Coordinator. While in this position he got acquainted with Idaho's backcountry and the challenges it presents as a pilot and trainer for the state. Frank was in that position for 15 years traveling the state doing exactly what the title states, improving safety through education. In that position he was exposed to the common mistakes made by pilots unfamiliar with Idaho's backcountry and tailored his instruction as such.

The ground school Schedule is:

Thursday: Navigation, Pete & Frank provide some insight about Navigating by pilot age in mountains when they all look the same and are stacked on top on one another for hundreds of miles

Friday: Aircraft Performance & Density altitude. Frank address's this often over discussed misunderstood topic in a straight forward, to the point process with simple rules of thumb and quick calculations every pilot transitioning into this type of flying should learn.

Saturday: Basic backcountry operations 101, Pete goes over the usual backcountry topics with an emphasis on Airspeed control, ground effect, Canyon orientation, aborted approach procedures, aborted take off procedure, gross weight operation, down wind arrivals and departures, stall/spin awareness, technology dependence etc. This is fast paced information packed session that addresses multiple myths about backcountry flying and aircraft, that's why we present it after 3 mornings of flying in this environment.

Breakfast snacks, lunches and ground transportation are provided. There is also a dinner Friday evening. Jackets with the schools logo and a course tailored instruction manual are also included for each student.

Flight instruction applicants are encouraged to provide their own airplane, a minimum 150HP or STOL type aircraft in very good "airworthy" condition and compatible with our mountainous, high altitude conditions. Pilots must have a minimum of 100 hours in the model of aircraft they are flying. If you're unsure whether you or your airplane meets these requirements, please call us to discuss them.

We have access to a 160 hp 172 that will accommodate 3 students if you cannot provide one, it is rented wet for \$175.00 an hour.

The cost of the course is \$2850.00, a \$900.00 nonrefundable deposit is required to hold a spot, and full payment is due by May 10th. Enrolment is limited to 6, to provide a more personalized experience.

Students will have to make their own motel arrangements. We can provide a list of accommodations. We will provide ground transportation from the local motels.

If the course will not work for you we allow limited amounts of advanced backcountry instruction to individuals at the airstrips that are open in April, May and some years June. Our limitation is the fact that Middle Fork Aviation is primarily a charter company and a Maintained facility. Our charter pilots are also our mechanics and instructors. Our charter season kicks off in June and goes through Dec 1, during that time schedules are unpredictable to give students the attention they deserve. Individual instruction is billed out at \$150.00 per hour. Individuals find they learn more during the course when the company is focusing on instruction.

Please call or email with any questions.

Pete Nelson, Middle Fork Aviation, Inc.
208-879-5728
Email: mforkair@custertel.net

**CHALLIS RIVER OF NO RETURN
MOUNTAIN FLYING CLINIC**
The Original Mountain Flying Course



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June 11, 12 & 13, 2015
Registration

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

AIRCRAFT MODEL _____

FLIGHT TIME IN MODEL _____

REGISTRATION N# _____

FEE ENCLOSED _____

EXPECTED ARRIVAL TIME & DATE _____

WEIGHT _____

JACKET SIZE _____

Make Checks payable to: **Middle Fork Aviation, Inc.**, P.O. Box 656, Challis, ID 83226

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You, as the Pilot in command, will be liable for any damage to your aircraft. Please check with your insurance company to be sure your insurance will cover you for these activities. A liability waiver must be signed prior to flight participation.

SIGNATURE _____

Notes: We advise you arrive in Challis the day before the clinic begins. Day 4 is solely a makeup day for flight time, there are no ground classes. In most cases, you will have completed your flight time by Day 4 & will be able to depart.

For more information, please call Pete Nelson at 208-879-5728 or email mforkair@custertel.net