



COLUMBIA VOYAGER

<http://www.TriCitiesMOAA.org>

chapter@TriCitiesMOAA.org

September 2016

September: Bergstrom Aircraft



The September meeting will kick off our next series of meetings. The speaker will be Malin Bergstrom, the President of Bergstrom Aircraft, Inc., located at the Tri-Cities Airport.

Bergstrom's is a family owned, full-service aviation center with a staff of 30 that offers flight lessons, aircraft rental, charter flights, scenic flights, aircraft refueling, and maintenance to customers both locally and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Bergstrom's is celebrating over 45 years of business in the Tri-Cities.

Malin was born and raised in the Tri-Cities, graduated Kennewick High School and attended Columbia Basin College. She grew up on the airport, working many summers washing planes until 1988 when she finally earned a full-time receptionist position. She very much enjoys working with her family. She's OK with working with her brother Daniel - Operations Manager, and with her husband Michel, who is a pilot, aircraft maintenance tech, and aerial photographer.

Malin has served on the Tri City Waterfollies Board for the past 17 years and has been the Airshow Director for the Tri-Cities Airshow and the Over the River Airshow. Malin currently serves on the Northwest Council of Airshows Board of Directors that advises other airshows in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia. In 2012, she gladly accepted the position of Volunteer Board President of the non-profit charity organization working to Save the old Naval Air Station Pasco Control Tower.

In her free time she plays with her two dogs, Ruby and Max and restores historical landmarks.

We will return to the Clover Island Inn for this meeting, perhaps our last chance to see the sunset over the river until next Spring.

HQ MOAA sends . . .

Congress to act on TRICARE, pay, housing, SBP

On September 6, Congress returned from a six-week recess to find a fully loaded plate of big issues to solve before the end of September.

Funding the Government

Number one on their agenda will be finding a way to fund the government for FY 2017, which starts Oct. 1. So far, Congress hasn't passed a single one of the 12 departmental appropriations bills, and it's hard to see how they'll finish in one month what they haven't been able to do in the last eight.

To avoid shutting down the government for lack of funds on Oct. 1, the most likely outcome is they'll pass a continuing resolution (CR). A CR continues funding the government for a specific period of time at the same level in effect during the previous (current) year.

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One option being considered is a short-term CR until mid-December, which would get past the election and give Congress at least some time to work out a longer-term funding deal in a "lame duck" session during November-December. Another alternative would be a longer CR that would run until mid-March, effectively kicking the problem downstream for the next Congress to solve.

That's been done before, but it makes the new Congress do double duty - coming up with and passing one set of appropriations bills for the rest of FY 2017 while also working up new appropriations bills for FY 2018.

As you can imagine, that gets pretty messy.

Defense Authorization Bill

Almost as important for the military community, House and Senate leaders still have to hammer out a compromise between their two different versions of the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill. That's a tall order, because the two chambers' bills have more significant differences than they've had in years.

There are major differences on proposed TRICARE fees, reorganization of military health care systems, housing allowances, survivor benefits, military force levels, and the 2017 pay raise.

You may have read this week the President signed an executive order directing a 1.6 percent pay raise. The executive order is a formality that confirms the budget proposal submitted almost 7 months ago. If House and Senate conferees agree on

the House-proposed 2.1 percent raise and put that in the defense bill, it will render the executive order null and void.

The House and Senate bills also have big differences on issues of total defense spending and where the money will come from. And those are messier than usual, because allowing increased spending for the defense bill will trigger major fights between the House and Senate and between Republicans and Democrats over funding levels for non-defense issues.

Because of the political intertwining of defense and non-defense spending, there's a reasonable chance that final action on the defense bill will also be kicked to a post-election lame duck session, when the political landscape for next year will be more projectable.

Retiree COLA

In short, don't count on it this year.

SecDef Supports Defense Bill Veto

[Note: July 22 item] Just as defense bill negotiations get underway on Capitol Hill, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter sent a letter to House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders threatening a presidential veto over a list of 44 objections to various provisions in the House or Senate version of the bill.

Carter said many proposals "would impact the Department's ability to operate efficiently and effectively in this time of constrained resources and ongoing conflict."

Issues drawing Carter's ire include the House's addition of \$18 billion the

Pentagon didn't request and taking those funds from the wartime operations account, which would require the new president to submit a request for supplemental war appropriations. He also cited the defense bills' proposals to reorganize and downsize the defense department and reduce the number of generals and senior civilians.

MOAA was pleased to see the Pentagon objects to the Senate-proposed housing allowance cuts that would severely penalize dual-military couples and junior enlisted members who take military roommates to save money. MOAA agrees with Carter's statements that the proposal "would reinstate previously failed policies" and "disproportionately affect female service members and military families in which both military members have chosen to serve their country."

However, MOAA strongly disagrees with the Carter letter's objections to the:

- House-approved increases in force levels for all services instead of the Administration-proposed cuts;
- House-approved 2.1 percent military pay raise rather than the 1.6 percent proposed in the Pentagon's budget;
- House's refusal to impose disproportional TRICARE fee increases recommended by the Pentagon; and
- Senate-approved plan to allow more flexibility in moving spouses and families in conjunction with PCS moves to allow for work, education, or health issues.

September Meeting

Tuesday, September 20

Reservations by

Thursday, Sept 15 to

Bob Allen

627-6226

MOAA.TriCities@charter.net

Menu

"Taste of Italy"

Caesar Salad

Orzo Pasta Salad

Bread Sticks

Pasta Alfredo

Steamed Vegetable Medley

Stuffed Manicotti Smothered in

Sausage Marinara

Chicken Marsala

Tiramisu

Coffee, Decaf, Tea, Milk

Clover Island Inn

Clover Island

Kennewick

Social hour at 6:30

Dinner at 7:00

\$30.00 per person

A reservation made
is a reservation paid.