

Graham Aviation Receives FAA Certification for Private Pilot Course



Graham Aviation Services, LLC at the Salem Airport is pleased to announce they have received Part 141 certification from the Federal Aviation Administration for their Private Pilot Course.

“It has taken many months to accomplish all the elements that the FAA requires,” co-owner Jim Graham said. “But it’s worth it as we are now the only flight school in the Salem area that has achieved this certification.”

The FAA inspected and approved all aspects of Graham Aviation’s flight program including an approved syllabus of training, the chief flight instructor, their facilities and the aircraft to be used in the training. Annual inspections will ensure that Graham maintains or exceeds these standards.

“One of the benefits of this certification for the private pilot is that a student pilot can qualify for their checkride in as few as 35 hours instead of the usual 40,” co-owner Gwen Graham noted.

Very few flight schools nationwide obtain this Air Agency certification. Graham Aviation is now one of just a handful in the state and the only one in the central and southern Willamette Valley.

This certification opens many doors for pilots who want to fly professionally or go into the military. Jim Graham points out that they have the Diamond DA20 which is used in the Air Force initial pilot training. One military-bound pilot flew the 20 in order to get a jump on his initial pilot training. Another young man is flying the Diamond 20 as a jumpstart to a career in the military as well.

Many flagship carriers require a four year degree as a hiring prerequisite. Students have the option of working toward a four year degree through online classes while flying with Graham Aviation. The ratings they earn through Graham Aviation counts as credits toward their bachelor of science degree.

With this part 141 certification Graham Aviation is now able to work with other groups in providing pilot training that includes career retraining, GI benefits and other programs that require a certified school.

Graham Aviation Services opened for business at the Salem Airport in 2005. with a dedication to mentor their students to their goal in a professional yet fun environment. The Grahams bring over 45 years of combined aviation experience and passion for aviation to their family-owned flight school. As the only Diamond Flight Center in the state of Oregon, they have among their aircraft fleet the only Diamond DA40 glass cockpit airplane available for advanced training and rental.

Jim and Gwen look forward to working with future pilots who want to pursue an aviation career or flying for their own business and personal endeavors. Visit grahamaviation.com for more information or call 503-581-4139.