Cherokee Flyers **March 2024 Safety Bulletin**

Advanced Preflight After Maintenance

Since the club aircraft are constantly undergoing maintenance, it is critically important to conduct an advanced preflight after each maintenance operation. Maintenance related problems are one of the deadliest causes of accidents in general aviation. Contributing to this is a pilot's failure to identify maintenance discrepancies because of lack of knowledge and improper techniques used during the preflight inspection of the aircraft. A significant number of general aviation fatalities could be avoided if pilots were to conduct more thorough preflight inspections of aircraft that have just been returned to service. Stay vigilant and document anything that seems abnormal or out of the ordinary.

What Can You Do?

- Conduct an advanced preflight inspection that goes beyond your normal checklist items.
- Put yourself in the right mindset! Assume something is wrong and look over items that had maintenance performed.
- Always check the recorded logbook entries prior to flight to ensure proper documentation.
- If you see a warning tag on the aircraft, **DO NOT FLY**! Always double check with maintenance.
- Pay attention to trim positions. Check for unimpeded flight control surface deflections.
- Make sure all inspection panels are secure and control fasteners are tightened.
- Check for Foreign Object Debris (FOD) like wrenches, screws, rags, or other equipment left by the mechanic.
- Most importantly be situationally aware and use your senses. **LISTEN** to the airframe and engine. Do you **SMELL** anything abnormal, possibly a fuel or oil leak? **FEEL** the control surfaces, do they vibrate or are they not free and correct? **LOOK** for anything that doesn't seem right, visually inspect the entire aircraft prior to flight.