

Plane makes emergency landing on Interstate-84

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

A 34-year Oregon State Police (OSP) veteran thought he had seen it all until he saw an amphibian-style airplane in his rearview mirror after it made an emergency landing Sunday morning on Interstate 84 about 15 miles east of Baker City. The plane, landing because of poor weather conditions, was able to take off about three hours later with the assistance of OSP troopers and Oregon Department of Transportation personnel.

An amphibian plane with a 48-foot wingspan became "socked in" by weather and made an emergency landing on Interstate-84 near Baker City Sunday morning. The pilot and his passenger were not injured. OSP photos.

OSP Senior Trooper Robert Hereau (pronounced "hero") was stopped on Interstate 84 eastbound near milepost 320 at the scene of a non-injury traffic crash about 10:50 a.m. February 25 when he heard a loud noise. According to Sergeant Darin Helman, the senior trooper looked in his rearview mirror and saw an airplane taxiing on the eastbound lanes coming up behind the patrol car. Hereau allowed the 1952 DeHavilland DHC-2 Mark I "Beaver" amphibian plane to go past the patrol car and continue eastbound until it found a wide area on the side of the freeway to pull over, allowing other traffic to go around the aircraft's 48-foot wingspan. The pilot, Jerry Alan Scudero, 55, of Ketchikan, Alaska, told OSP that he was flying the plane to a Pendleton-area airport while enroute to Alaska when weather conditions began to "sock in" the plane. Scudero said he had to make an emergency landing on the freeway and had been taxiing for about two miles to find an area wide enough to pull over when he saw the OSP trooper. Neither Scudero or his passenger, 58-year old Jerry Foresyth, a 58-year old Saanichton, British Columbia resident, were injured. When weather conditions improved, the plane was moved back onto the eastbound lanes with help from ODOT and a local tow company. The plane took off about 1:30 p.m. to resume its trip.

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