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APRIL 2012

HAPPY EASTER!

EDITOR C. ROBINSON



WHAT'S UP? RANTING ABOUT SMO LANDING FEES

Several years ago, SMO instituted landing fees for general aviation aircraft. The fee is \$2.12 per 1000 pounds gross landing weight, which works out to \$4.14 per occurrence.

The "profit" margin for rental aircraft is abysmal, in the neighborhood of \$5.00 per hour if all goes well. The billing, done by Vector Airport Solutions, apparently goes out after the end of the month, so we are notified as much as four weeks in arrears that the expense has been incurred.

In the beginning, we attempted to determine the renter pilot responsible, based on cross-referencing the schedule book and the monthly hobbs time logged for each aircraft. The capture rate for us to re-bill the correct pilot was less than 100% as the occasionally there is not an accurate correlation between the two documents. The administrative expense was upwards of \$25 per occurrence. Add to the internal complications of balancing the checkbook for a check for \$4.14; we had an early check returned because it had been already paid by parties unknown between the time we were billed and we sent in our payment. Additionally, much of our customer base is from outside the area, so often we would not be able to collect the landing fee for Vector.

Why isn't the landing fee being collected at the time it is incurred?
Is there an implied contract that we do collections for Vector?

If we absorb the SMO landing fee, we lose money with each rental that goes to SMO. We have been hesitant to discourage use of Santa Monica Airport as, we are sure, that part of the intent of the landing fee is to limit the use of the airport. Additionally, if other airports in the LA basin follow suit, office support expenses would never be able to keep up with the paperwork.

A main source of the problem is with our leaseback aircraft. Vector is being more aggressive with their collection efforts, threatening one aircraft owner that his aircraft will be banned from the airport. We're not sure how that threat will be carried out – when reporting downwind, will the pilot be advised that landing is denied based on his n-number?

The expense of Vector's collection efforts must far exceed the amounts being pursued. At this time, the amounts are \$30 to \$60 each aircraft. We are fine having the aircraft that are not on leaseback continue to tally up the fees; if Vector continues the harassment then at least we'll have our day in court.

JETBLUE PILOT FLIPS OUT, IS SUBDUED BY PASSENGERS

The newswires were abuzz last month after Jet Blue Capt. Clayton Osborn's midair breakdown, which happened to take place on a flight packed with burly New Yorkers traveling to an international security conference - several of whom tackled Osborn and sat on him until the plane made an emergency landing in Texas an hour later. According to witness accounts, Osborn appears to have had some sort of breakdown inside the cockpit about two hours into the 7:28 a.m. flight from John F. Kennedy Airport. When he left to go to the restroom, the co-pilot locked him out of the cockpit and wouldn't let him back in. The crazed captain battered the door, then started running up and down the aisles screaming about bombs, witnesses said. Meanwhile the co-pilot changed the course so that they could make an emergency landing in Amarillo, Texas. They touched down safely at about 11 am, local time. JetBlue will only say, basically, that it was a medical situation. The captain in question was taken to a local hospital for evaluation.

Blog sites went berserk, with rapid-fire comments such as, "You'd better tell the copilot we've got to land as soon as we can. This captain has to be gotten to a hospital. A hospital? What is it? It's a big building with patients, but that's not important right now...", alluding to a quote from Airplane The Movie, and, "Uh oh: now those passengers will be charged with a "Captain Freak Out Fee", a "Potential Terrorist Incident" surtax, and a "Subduing a Crew Member" charge...", a takeoff of the recently-proposed TSA fees for delaying pre-boarding security procedures.

The incident will begin to fade from memory by the time the post-incident analysis is concluded. But, at a minimum, it serves as a reminder that pilots must be vigilant to their aeromedical state. We preflight the aircraft before we are about to fly with it. But how about the pilot? Did you take a good look at yourself before and are you able to do the intended flight? Pilot self assessment is very important to make sure you are safe for flight! Developed especially for this purpose is the:

I'M SAFE CHECKLIST:

- I**llness? Do I have an illness or any symptoms of an illness?
- M**edication? Have I been taking prescription or over-the-counter drugs?
- S**tress? Am I under psychological pressure from the job? Worried about financial matters, health problems or family discord?
- A**lcohol? Have I been drinking within eight hours? Within 24 hours?
- F**atigue? Am I tired and not adequately rested?
- E**ating? Have I not been eating and drinking adequately?

Preflight yourself as carefully as you preflight your airplane before any flight, if one of the questions above can be answered with yes then reconsider the flight. If you have any doubt, do not go!

For more information, the Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (FAA-H-8083-25A) has an entire chapter dedicated to aeromedical factors.

FOLLOWUP: MARCH 2012 NEWSLETTER

The hapless pilot who meandered into a presidential TFR in February while transporting a load of marijuana was released after posting bail following his arrest on February 16th. He was arraigned on March 21st and released on his own recognizance by Long Beach Superior Court Judge James Otto, according to the Los Angeles Times. An initial hearing in the case is scheduled for April 12.

The pilot, flying a Cessna 182, was intercepted by Air Force F-16 fighter jets because he entered the same Los Angeles airspace as President Barack Obama's helicopter and has been charged with possession of marijuana and transporting it for sale.

The fighters forced the Cessna to land at LGB and the marijuana was found during the subsequent search of the plane. The pilot could face up to three years in prison on the possession allegation and up to four years on the transportation count. Federal officials determined that the flight did not present a threat to the president and turned him over to Long Beach authorities.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, pilots who use an airplane to transport illegal drugs can face the permanent revocation of their licenses.



CONGRATULATIONS!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS			
RAMADHAN DHAFIE	First Solo	C-152	ABISHEK MUDGAL
EVERT VERDIN	Private	C-152	THOMAS MARTINEZ
MICHAEL VERKAIK	Private	C-172	CHRIS ROTH
SUMESH VASANDANI	Private	C-152	CHRIS ROTH
MIN HO LEE	Commercial Multi	SEMINOLE	RYAN DAVIS & RAND STERRETT

CONGRATS to RYOTA SUZUKI, top CLUB CFI for March, logging the most hours of dual given in club aircraft! Runners-up were RICHARD GARNETT and ABHISHEK MUDGAL!

TOP GUN AWARD goes to JO WON SEO for logging the most flight hours in club aircraft in March. Runners-up were ADELOA AJIBOLA and BING-HENG HSIEH !!!

ALUMNI update from Captain Roehrich! "I came by yesterday morning to say hi, but you were not there. I had a 2 hour stop at Signature. I'm currently flying the Lear 55/35 for Aerojet. The Westwind was sold a year ago and they made me CPT on the Lears. I don't like them at all. It's like a C172 on steroids and soooooo small. Well as they say 'only the squeaking wheel gets the oil.' After a lot of complaining it's off to Hawker 800 school this weekend. Straight into the left seat. I hope everything is well at the club and I kind of miss it..... All the best to you and you families. Joey"

POSTCARDS: "Hello everyone @ LBFC, this is Sarah Walter here saying hello and touching base all the way from Texas. I just graduated bootcamp it was tough but I did it "hooray! I'm now currently in tech school in Virginia and return home sweet home May 11 and soon after I then start my IFR rating with Tomas so I'm psyched and can't wait. Well miss you all and hope all is well. Happy safe flying from the Air Force Reserve! Aim high, fly, fight, win!!!

+

--()-()-()-- Airpower!!!"

NOTAM: Club pilots wishing to write safety articles for our monthly newsletters would be greatly appreciated!

NEW & REJOINED CLUB PILOTS! WELCOME!



- MATTHEW LAIRD
ACRED
- MARK ADAMS
- ADELOA AJIBOLA
- KYUNG SUNG BAE
- JOHN BURKE
- HERBERT GUINNESS
- KEITH HEELEY
- DANIEL KEMMETT
- MICHAEL MCALISTER
- JORGE MORA
- TAKESHI OGASAWARA
- SEYOUNG PARK
- DANIEL PITTS
- ALEXANDER WAHER
- RUL YACOB



- HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS**
- TALAL ALWANNA
 - WILLIAM H. ARMET
 - ALBERT CHOLICO
 - JOE DEL RIO
 - DWIGHT L. DENNIS
 - KISHAN DHARMARATNAM
 - RICHARD GARNETT
 - HERBERT GUINNESS
 - KEITH HEELEY
 - BRIAN HERSCHER
 - TERRY JOHNSON
 - GARY LAZENBY
 - AARON URI LEVY
 - KENNETH ODEH
 - BANDISH PATEL
 - RYAN ROBINSON
 - ALEXANDER SHOWMAN
 - PREET SINGH

CALENDAR

May 19:	Flabob Airport - 3rd Saturday Aircraft Displays & Car Show, www.flabob.org .
April 25:	Long Beach Flying Club and the Long Beach Airport Association GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING will be held at the AirFlite facility on Taxiway Bravo at the end of Wardlow Road. A buffet will be served, sandwiches, fruit and dessert, beginning at 6:30 PM with the program beginning at 7:00 PM. Everybody is welcome to attend -- we hope to see you there! This meeting will count toward CFI credit for this month!
May 13:	Brown Field 2nd Sunday Fly-In, San Diego Flight Museum, www.aerospacemuseum.org
May 6:	Santa Paula - Aviation Museum of Santa Paula First Sunday Open House and Vintage Aircraft Fly-In. Contact: 805 525 1109 www.amszp.org .
May 12:	Catalina Aero Club Display Day. DISPLAY DAY FLY-IN Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm Aircraft built 1961 and earlier land FREE! Historical aircraft display sign-offs. Buffalo Burgers at DC-3 Grill! Meet other pilots and Aero Club members. Contact: 714.751.9420.
May 13:	Whiteman Airport Second Sunday Open House, Whiteman Airport Association. Contact: www.whpsafety.org/display.html
June 2-3:	2012 Wings Over Gillispie Air Show. Contact: www.ag1caf.org
May 20:	Brackett Field (POC) Third Sunday Antique Aircraft Display — classic cars, and biplane rides. FREE. Fly ins welcome, historical sign offs. Restaurant on-site. Plenty of airplane and vehicle parking. 10-3PM. Contact Yvonne, 626-576-8692.
April 28-29:	Pacific Coast Dream Machines festival of vehicles, planes, cars, trucks, more at Half Moon Bay, Calif. Call (650) 726-2328 or see www.miramarevents.com/dreammachines
April 29:	Agua Dulce Airport BBQ & Fly-In from 1100 am to 2:30 pm. A wide range of modern and vintage aircraft often fly into Agua Dulce Airport (L70). All planes welcome -- Fly over for some great Texas style barbecue, the trimmings, friends and fun. Awards to aircraft in antique, classic, contemporary and homebuilt classes. Cost: \$5.00. Info: www.airnav.com/airport/L70 or dulceair@sbcglobal.net .
Apr 20 - 22:	Torrance, CA. Torrance (ktoa). EAA B-17 Flying Fortress "2012 Salute to Veterans". , Once-In-A-Lifetime opportunity to fly in an authentic WW-II B-17 Bomber from 10 AM-2 PM, contact www.b17.org or call 800-359-6217 for a reservation, 2-5 PM walk-through tours of the bomber for a donation, Veterans free, No general admission, B-17 Bomber souvenirs and great barbecue, free parking Robinson Helicopter Company and Torrance Airport General Aviation Center. Contact Torrance Air Fair Association, 310-325-7223, nancy.clinton@sbcglobal.net
May 5:	Chino Monthly Event includes seminars and, weather permitting and whenever possible, flight demonstrations by appropriate aircraft. Seminars start at about 10am and last till about 2pm and occur on the first Saturday of every month. Contact 909.597.3722.

See Page 2 for an update on the adventures of Sarah Walter!



**"2012 Salute to Veterans"
Torrance Airport, KTOA**

Once-In-A-Lifetime opportunity to fly in an authentic WW-II B-17 Bomber

**APRIL 20th-22nd
10 AM-2 PM**

**Reservations:
www.b17.org
or call 800-359-6217**



2-5 PM walk-through, tours of the bomber for a donation, Veterans free, no general admission. B-17 Bomber souvenirs and great barbecue!!!

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We stock a host of aviation books, shirts, charts, and other pilot supplies, along with aviation-themed Christmas tree ornaments, mugs, clocks, . you name it!

GIVE THE GIFT OF FLIGHT!

A Long Beach Flying Club gift certificate for any denomination you wish, be it for the first flight, pilot supplies, or aircraft rental, makes a great gift for any occasion!

There are three ways to obtain the gift of flight:

1. Stop by and pick up a gift certificate during our office hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm daily). You can purchase accessories to go with the gift certificate such as a visor, aviation mug or LBFC logo shirt.
2. We can send you a preprinted gift certificate for any denomination you wish -- just give us a call! We'll charge your credit card and get the gift certificate in the next out-going mail.
3. We can email you a gift certificate. Send us or call us with a credit card number to activate it for any denomination you wish. You will be given a Gift Certificate number to fill in at the bottom of your printout.

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DISCOVERY FLIGHT

\$89 for one, two or three in a C172 or Warrior
Fly with an FAA Certificated Flight Instructor - you fly the aircraft!

AERIAL TOUR OF LA'S FAMOUS LANDMARKS

\$195 for a 60 minute tour for 1, 2 or 3 people
HOLLYWOOD TOUR:
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