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Upgraded ATC, Mailbag, FL300 Etiquette, Body Scanners, Newsfeed

Issue #17

March 29, 2011

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Thank you for taking the time to read this safety message. If you're a regular reader you know that I only send this newsletter every 20-40 days.

This month starts a few design changes. In addition to the social media links provided, I've added an unsubscribe button at the top if you feel that you're getting too much mail. While I hate to lose someone from the list, I'd rather have satisfied subscribers who are interested in the newsletter.

Less Advertising - Another change you'll notice this month is the reduction in the amount of advertising. Those longtime readers of the newsletter will notice there isn't an ad between each article. Instead, pictures have moved to the side and I've limited myself to one 'special' of the month. My hope is that the newsletter can use the space to provide more information rather than ads.

Daily News? - If you want aviation related news, pictures, videos, check out my facebook page where every day I post news of the day. Facebook link is to the left. See the facebook newsfeed below for a sample.

If you want to change the way I use your email address, click "Join Our List" and uncheck any of the boxes. **You can also subscribe to FREE updates to publications you already own.**

Thanks for your continued support,
Darren

From the Mailbag

I'm working on my IFR ticket. Found an instructor that owns what seems to be a successful flight school - 11,000 hours, former military pilot, formerly director of a college aviation program. He's no doubt a good pilot, BUT the picture of complacency. I say, "Don't you teach GUMPS?" He says, "Don't like it, just don't forget to put the gear down". Your thoughts?

Program

IFR Checkride
Reviewer

Pilot's Rules of Thumb

Quote of the month

"The only time an aircraft has too much fuel on board is when it is on fire."

Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, sometime before his death in the 1920's

Hit reply and send me your favorite quote.

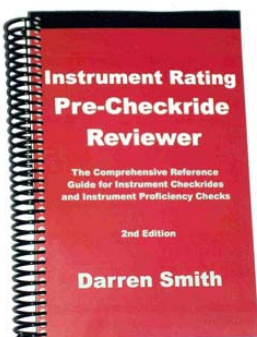
Flight Attendant
Vocabulary Translator

Gate lice: The people who gather around the gate right before boarding so they can be first on the plane. "Oh, the gate lice are thick today."

Sorry, not a very good one this month...

PRODUCTS

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Reply:

Checklists are everything - you've got to have one & use it. Everything we know about human factors says that in an emergency everything goes out the window except the checklist. In other words, under stress, we can forget simple things except those most imprinted upon us. One of the things that most flight instructors almost universally teach their students is... follow the checklist. While there's always a chance the checklist doesn't work, isn't right, etc, it's always the most prudent to start with a checklist. Hope this helps.

**Last Chance - March \$5 Special - Visi-Hold™
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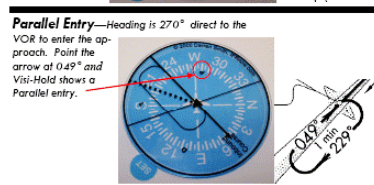
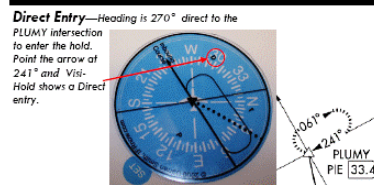
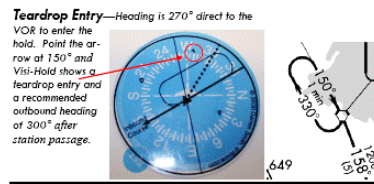
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Never wonder about holding entries again! Works with standard holds and non-standard holds (left turns). The Visi-Hold™ package comes complete with Visi-Hold™ template, directions, and two articles on holds:

All About Holding and Holding Simplified. You'll pay no less than \$14.95 for a complicated sliderule holding pattern calculator made by ASA. That's not even including shipping! Those of you who know what real IFR is like know that you can't fool around with a sliderule while the airplane is bouncing around. Instead, get the original Visi-Hold™, helping pilots know the holding pattern entry since 2000. Regular Price: \$9.95 but this month its \$5 + postage. [Buy online](#) or click this buy now button:

[Buy Now](#)

Examples:



FAA To Install New ATC System At 11 Major Centers

Raytheon is set to begin replacing the backbone system at some of the largest U.S. air traffic control facilities under a new agreement with the FAA, with work starting next week at the initial sites to receive the new technology.

Under the deal, Raytheon will install its Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS) at 11 major terminal radar approach control (TRACON) facilities by 2015. An initial goal calls for five systems to be operational by the end of 2013, says Raytheon Director for Domestic Automation Michael Espinola. Dallas/Fort Worth will be the first of the 11 to receive STARS, and the New York, Chicago, Atlanta and Northern and Southern California facilities are also among this group.

This is the latest chapter in the turbulent history of the FAA's effort to replace the automation systems at its Tracons, which dates back to the 1990s. The original plan was to deploy STARS at all Tracons, with the largest facilities toward the end of the list. But the FAA subsequently decided to limit the deployment, and to date STARS has been installed

Pilot's Radio Guide

Pilot's Radio Communications Guide

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Safer Approaches

at about 50 mainly small and medium-sized FAA facilities.

The FAA wanted to reassess its options for the remaining sites-including potentially going with a different system. After looking at other alternatives, the FAA late last year decided to go back to the original plan and introduce STARS at the 11 large TRACONS. This was achieved through an extension to the existing contract with Raytheon that was signed in December. The contract value is not being revealed.

Raytheon executives say the FAA was encouraged by last year's successful implementation of automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) at the Philadelphia Tracon, which uses a STARS system. The agency wants to have Stars in place at the larger facilities before they receive ADS-B.

Site surveys at DFW are scheduled to begin Monday, says Espinola. The system is scheduled to be declared operational there by October 2012. The second site is expected to follow in February 2013, and the next three at one-month intervals.

After this deployment, there will be about 100 smaller TRACONS that do not have STARS. The FAA is still determining how it will proceed with these facilities. Source: <http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/>

Interesting Aircraft: [Vought V-173](#) (aka. Flying Pancake)



Its nickname says it all. This propeller driven contraption with a wood and fabric frame, developed by Charles Zimmerman, was first flown on November 23, 1942. It never had much success though in the 131 hours of flight time it accumulated, and it now sits in the Smithsonian Institution's Air Museum.

Man With 4th Amendment Written on Chest Sues

Aaron Tobey, 21-year-old Virginia man who wrote an abbreviated version of the 4th Amendment on his body and stripped to his shorts at an airport security



Safer Approaches

Use CANPA to perform safer, stabilized approaches

A table titled 'Feet/Minute Descent Rate Table' for an approach speed of 90 knots. The table has columns for 'Altitude (ft)' and 'Descent Rate (ft/min)'. The rows show a linear relationship between altitude and descent rate, starting from 1000 ft at 1000 ft/min and ending at 0 ft at 0 ft/min.

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Nip Holding Problems in the Bud

screening area is demanding \$250,000 in damages for being detained on a disorderly conduct charge. He was handcuffed and held for about 90 minutes by the TSA at the Richmond International Airport after he began removing his clothing to display on his chest a magic-marker protest of airport security measures.



The University of Cincinnati student didn't want to go through the advanced imaging technology X-ray machines. Instead, when it was his turn to be screened, he was going to opt for an intrusive pat-down - and remove most of his clothing in the process. Tobey was on his way to Wisconsin for his grandmother's funeral. Despite his detainment, he made his flight.

Meanwhile, in the 3/14 edition of USA Today: Maintenance records on full-body scanners used by the Transportation Security Administration show that some scanners emit radiation levels 10 times higher than expected. The TSA says the records are incorrect and reflect math mistakes. However, the errors are prompting the TSA to retest all of its 247 scanners, which are operated at 38 airports, out of "an abundance of caution to reassure the public,"

Airplane Etiquette... Who Gets the Armrest?

By [SCOTT MCCARTNEY](#)

Where else but on an airplane are people jammed into limited space and forced to share re-circulated air, not to mention bad behavior? One person leans back and encroaches on another. A neighbor's large belly or long legs extend into the space you paid for. One passenger's onion rings are polluting an entire row.

Travel in coach these days and expect to be infringed upon somehow. Stress, fatigue, thin air and the yearning to stretch out bring out the worst manners in many. Travelers do things they'd never do at home or in the office. Among strangers, they elbow each other over arm rests or spay legs to grab as much real estate as possible.

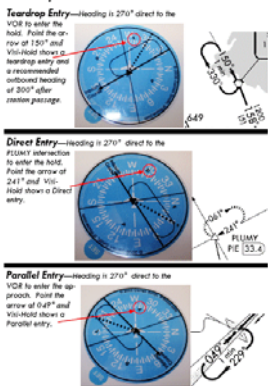
Frustrated and fatigued parents watch with resignation as their children kick seats or pound tray tables. Game-players and music listeners leave the volume up, never thinking that those around them must listen to their beat as well.

To some, the decline in civility aboard passenger jets coincides with a decline in airline service and comfort and an increase in airline rules and fees. By pushing seats closer together, filling middle seats far more frequently and replacing amenities with fees, airlines have helped bring out the worst in their customers.

There are six case studies of troubling behaviour and responses from six travel experts. Here are the problems you'll read about when you go to WSJ and [read the article](#):

1. You're in the middle seat, between two strangers. Who gets the armrests?
2. A tall man sits down and his knees jut out wide, encroaching on

Examples:



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FAA Watch

If you're an aircraft owner, registration now expires. FAA did this to improve its information on aircraft owners (many had bad addresses). If the original certificate was issued in March of any year, it now expires at the end of this month. The FAA wanted you to re-register by Jan 31st to ensure you would receive your new registration before expiration.

[More Info](#)

your space.

3. You're in the window seat and two strangers in the middle and aisle seats are asleep. You have to go to the bathroom.
4. On a long flight on a full plane, some kids are getting restless, speaking loudly, and kicking seatbacks.
5. Your seatmate brings a smelly meal on board and loudly starts munching.
6. Do you recline your seat?

Write to the author, Scott McCartney at middleseat@wsj.com

Newsfeed

Here is a 10 day synopsis of my daily news feed which you can find on Facebook. To get this on your facebook wall, click the logo and "Like" what you see. You'll find news shorts, pictures, and videos. It's a quick and easy way to stay current with interesting aviation topics such as these:



3/25/2011 FAA Controller Incident at Reagan National: The NTSB and the FAA have not said whether the controller was asleep, got locked out of the tower as has occasionally happened or suffered some other problem. The unnamed supervisor has been removed "from all operational duties" while the FAA investigates the incident, FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt announced in a statement Thursday.

3/24/2011 The world's first smartphone geared specifically towards airline pilots and cabin personnel. The device is running Android, has a 3.8-inch touch screen, physical-keys dialpad, Bluetooth compatibility and an integrated port for wired headsets. What makes it different? It's enabled with GoGo In-flight Internet

3/24/2011 Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is directing that 2people be on duty overnight in the Reagan Washington National control tower following reports that an air traffic controller fell asleep on the job. 2 planes reportedly landed at the airport without tower clearance Wednesday night because they were unable to reach the lone controller. "It is not acceptable to have just one controller in the tower managing air traffic in this critical air space," LaHood said in a statement. AA1012 was on final approach to the airport at 12:10 a.m. UA628T coming from Chicago faced the same experience fifteen minutes later. From: [Jerry Allison](#) I believe we can find NTSB accident reports in which a single local controller was a causal factor in the crash (Comair - LEX comes to mind). Not good.

3/23/2011 FAA Knowledge Tests: 93,000 new questions in all test banks (up from 7000), questions are not being released to the public anymore. Failure rate has increased on the tests that have changed. 50% failure on CFI, FOI. Instrument rating has 12% new questions, private and commercial knowledge exams remain unchanged... FOR NOW.

3/23/2011 65 million Americans, or 1 in 4 adults, have a criminal record. Employers, including major companies like Bank of America, Omni Hotel, & Domino's Pizza, routinely post job ads that explicitly exclude such applicants. While the practice appears in some cases to be against the law, a criminal record is incompatible with aviators who must pass a background check (no felonies or misdemeanors) for an airport ID.

3/23/2011 Texas lawmakers support legislation that would make the TSA pat-down procedure illegal. Bill sponsor State Rep. David Simpson, said that under the proposal, a TSA agent who conducts a pat-down could be charged with a felony. Experts said such a law would be difficult to enforce and weaken security. TSA spokesman declined to comment on the bill but noted that the agency is working to improve passenger privacy.

3/21/2011 Getting your flight training free! Alex Das is one heck of a Tennis player and wants to learn how to fly. In his native Spain, that's about \$100k. Answer: scholarship at a college with a Tennis program and an Aviation program -- Eastern Kentucky University. Das says, "it's all about the good of the whole, rather than the individual." Coach says, "He's a leader."

3/17/2011 Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen has added a restored Russian-made MiG-29 fighter jet to his collection of vintage airplanes. The jet had been restored by another Washington aviation enthusiast and is currently on display at Allen's aviation museum at Paine Field in Everett. The manager of the Flying Heritage Collection says the jet is not expected to stay in Everett.

3/17/2011 Joke's on you: Man on Delta flight brags he's an air marshal to fellow passenger. Trouble is... there was a real one on the plane. "The individual is in law enforcement custody and the matter is currently under investigation," the TSA said in a statement. TSA spokeswoman Ann Davis said "I really can't speak to his intent."
Source: www.boston.com/news

3/17/2011 AOPA report: 17% of GA accidents are due to mechanical failure. The annual Nall report on GA safety found an increase in accidents due to mechanical failure. According to the report, a record 17% of non-commercial fixed-wing accidents in 2009 were attributed to mechanical failure. However, the fatal accident rate of 0.07 per 100,000 hours flown set a record low for fatalities in 2009.

3/16/2011 Consultant Brian Foley is assembling a counter-offer for Cirrus Aircraft to keep the aircraft manufacturer in the U.S. A Chinese company had agreed to purchase Cirrus in February. "Cirrus is an American success story that started in a humble dairy barn, introduced important new technologies and rocketed to success," said Foley.
Source: AIN Online

3/16/2011 Yes, even girls build planes. Barbara Gibert's latest goal is building her own plane. "This is my dream," Gibert said. "I've always wanted to own my own plane. But I never thought I would be building one myself." Gilbert, 50, is a private pilot.
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2011/mar/06/anderson-woman-50-building-her-own-plane/>

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