



MARCH

RUNWAY 15 2011 EDITION

Save An Airport
Quiet Flying is good business!

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“WHY DO IT YOURSELF?”

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Innovative Aviation Leadership since 1962



BEACON LIGHT ON—COSTA RICA

Costa Rica Bound!

My trip to Costa Rica was more than picking up a few charts and drawing a line between fuel stops. It involved planning and preparation. And in the end, this all paid off.

My friend Jim Sloane and I had planned on going to Costa Rica last year but were unable to because of unforeseen circumstances. This year we almost encountered the same problem, particularly as it pertains to the weather which icing conditions kept Jim grounded in DeLand, Florida, his home base. Only after three attempts to catch an airline to Houston was he able to get to West Houston Airport for our early morning departure to Costa Rica.

Several months in advance of the flight, I began checking off items that needed to be done. I decided to take my trusty 42P, a 1979 Beech B55 Baron I have owned longer than any other plane. It has been retrofitted over the years with a Garmin 530 and a 430 WAAS, weather and traffic. Its KFC 200 Autopilot was one of the best I have used. As a member of Baja Bush Pilots Association (BBPA), which I highly recommend, I was able to review international operations both going and coming from Mexico and Central America and their checklist and Letter of Permission which I obtained in advance from each country I overflew was extremely helpful. All of this can be done for you by one of the Flight Planning companies at a cost of about \$1500, which I declined.

I ordered the Customs decal for the aircraft, obtained Mexican Liability Insurance, registered for the eAPIS departure and arrival notification procedures, obtained an endorsement on the existing insurance policy to extend coverage, for which they wanted \$750 but didn't get, as my agent talked them out of it. I ordered the Jeppesen 8Trip Tic8 approach and enroute charts for the route and reviewed my old ONC charts (VFR charts) to make sure they were still the latest publication available. WAC and Sectional charts are not available south of the Border. I

sent requests to overfly Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and land in Costa Rica. I received permission from all countries prior to leaving.

My flight prep included getting a few hours of simulator time, mainly shooting all of the approaches to all of the airports I expected to land. San Jose has such unpredictable weather, and besides it sits in a bowl. I wanted to feel good about my proficiency.

Using weathermeister.com for flight planning on the morning of departure, I was able to obtain all my weather enroute, along with TFRs, Notices to Airman and other information pertinent to flight. Amazingly all the weather was reported as clear, but this does not mean there are no clouds. Departing at 5:00 am right on schedule, I had called flight service and obtained what briefing I could and filed an IFR flight plan for MMTM (Tampico, MX). The first leg was a little less than 500 miles, well within the range of 42P. The morning skies were clear and the temp was in the 40s as we departed and climbed up to 9000.

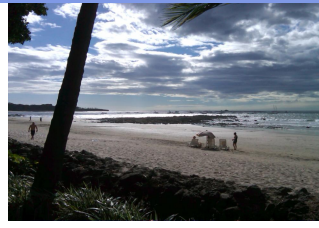
Our T.O. weight was less than gross even though we had two pilots, full fuel, overwater gear, oxygen, extra headsets standby radio, food, gifts and much more. We took everything that we wanted to! Not shortchanging our luggage and necessities. Nice to know this because we are private flyers, not flying on the airlines.

Arriving on time at Tampico due partly to a tailwind, we cleared customs, filed a flight plan to MMTP (Tapachula, MX) filled our tanks with \$5.30 per gallon fuel, after paying our landing fees, entrance fees, and tipping. Fuel attendant said he did not take credit cards. I asked him if he knew what an 8I owe you8 was and he said he would take our credit card for the fuel.

Off we went with a 35 mph wind on the ground which made for a pretty bumpy climb up to 3000 feet. Headed South to Veracruz, Minatitlan, Tuxtla Gutierrez, over the mountain ridge at 12000 and then into Tapachula.

Located on Mexico's furthest southwest corner, the airport is quite a distance from town and it sports a small terminal building with a neat little restaurant which we used on our return flight. Dropped off our papers in MMTP, filed an IFR flight plan to Liberia, Costa Rica, filled up with \$5.50 per gallon fuel and left Tapachula behind without ever getting to see what it was all about.

The weather had been great except for about 500 miles of 8undercast8 between Nautla and Tuxtla Gutierrez. The solid 8undercast8 did not have any impact on our clear skies at 12000 feet except that in the back of my mind, I thought about the engine out procedures and



Looking out over Tamarindo Beach Resort

single engine service ceiling and what I would do if an engine failed. That's another story. And since that did not happen and we were on our last leg, I was pleased that everything had been and looked to be clear sailing.

We reported over Guatemala, the only communications enroute that we had a hard time understanding. I think it was actually the controller's radio. We reported in to ATC over San Salvador and then abeam Managua, all with no problems, another thirty minutes and we were in sight of MRLB (Liberia, Costa Rica), our POE for Costa Rica, cleared for landing at Liberia with temps in the low 90s. A designated parking space overnight was waiting for us. We were about 9 hours in the air. We had a great night's sleep in the Hilton Garden Inn, which I recommend, and a fantastic dinner of grilled shrimp at the City Plaza Rio Restaurant and a visit to the AD ASTRA ROCKET COMPANY, we filed our flight plan for San Jose, Costa Rica, Pavis Airport, the GA airport in the capital. Our departure went smooth and we had indicated on our flight plan that we might be landing at other airports.

We passed over Tamarindo, where we would later stay several nights, and over the Nicoya Peninsula, which is by far the best area for beaches in all of Costa Rica, over Carrillo a neat little grass strip within walking distance of a beautiful beach then over Tamarindo where two Pilatus PC-12s set on the tarmac. We crossed the coastline and flew over Puntarenas, a major CR port where cruise ships and tankers are seen daily. The Puntarenas Airport is right in town within walking distance of nearby restaurants.

We contacted San Jose approach one of the almost consistent radar equipped facilities on the way down giving them our position and they cleared us to land via the localizer approach into San Jose, with a field elevation of 3300 feet. We sidestepped the missed approach point as the weather was good and turned to Pavis about ten miles to the east. The winds again were gusting in the 30s but we had no problem as we settled down on the 7000 foot runway ending a trip to the final destination of San Jose Costa Rica.

Next month: our stay and return to the USA!

Special points of interest:

- BEACON LIGHT ON— COSTA RICA
- SAFETY MEETING — MARCH 22
- CHECK OUT THE AIRCRAFT FOR SALE — PAGE 3

“Adventure is worthwhile in itself.”
—Amelia Earhart

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~Woody Lesikar, Airport Manager

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Commemorative Air Force
West Houston Squadron
Spring Open House**
April 2-3, 2011
10AM-5PM each day
See aircraft from WWII, Korea and today, on
the ground and in the air!

Special Guests -
B-17 Flying Fortress "Texas Raiders"
and
the World's Only Flying SB2C Helldiver

Fighters...
Bombers...
Transports...
and more!

Aircraft Rides Available!

West Houston Airport
(Just north of I-10 between Hwy 8 and
Barker Cypress Road)

Visit
www.WestHoustonSqdn.org
for more information!

To support the activities of our 450+ member 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, a portion of the proceeds will be donated.

PREFLIGHT Breakfast

Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Pilots/Prospective Pilots Invited. Bring Your Plane! Discounted, full service fuel. ALL week-end at the Terminal. Windshields Cleaned and Tires Aired. CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!

PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL

Every Monday Evening, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., West Houston Airport. No prior reservations needed. Licensed Jeppesen Video Presentation! Bring a family member for *half-price*. Don't miss this new and exciting learning experience! Contact C. G. Hankö Henry, Chief Pilot, 281-492-2130.

INSTRUMENT PILOT GROUND SCHOOL

Every Tuesday Evening, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., West Houston Airport. Call to verify course availability Licensed Jeppesen Video Presentation! Contact Hank Henry, Chief Pilot, for further information, 281-492-2130.

FAA SAFETY MEETING

Fourth (4th) Tuesday Every Month, 7:00 pm. Special Fuel Prices in affect for all Fly-ins/Taxi-ins. Contact Carol Brackley 713-301-5407 or email carolav8@att.net. March 22, 2011 Safety Meeting will be 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Speaker will be Carol Brackley. Program: Aeronautical Decision Making.

99'S MEETING

Second (2nd) Tuesday Every Month, 7:00 p.m., Terminal Building, 2nd Floor. Women's Organization of Pilots, Men welcome! Contact Sophie Thibodeaux 281-391-2958. See website www.ninety-nines.org.

CIVIL AIR PATROL U. S. AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

Disaster Relief, Cadet Training, Air Space Education. Every Tuesday, 7 p.m., white hangar, Eastside of Airport. Membership open to Boys and Girls, Men and Women. THUNDERBIRD COMPOSITE SQUADRON; Contact Val Rose, 281-513-7189, email val.rose@tx179.org. See website www.tx179.org.

SABRE SENIOR CAP SQUADRON

Meet every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in Hangar B-5. New members both Pilots and non-Pilots are welcome. Contact Ric Walters, Commander, 281-384-8437 or sabrecc@sbcglobal.net. See website www.whsabre.com.

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

Historical Aircraft Preservation, rides and meeting facility. Meetings 3rd Sunday of the Month at 2:00 p.m., Hangar B-5. Memberships available. Contact 281-579-2131 or email info@westhoustonsqdn.org, www.westhoustonsqdn.org.

EAA CHAPTER 774 MEETING

For Meeting Information and Announcements Contact Rick Human 281-463-6769. Great Meetings! Large Turnouts! Join Today.

WOMEN IN AVIATION

For meeting information contact Vicki at 812-989-6653 or email vicki@houstonwai.org. See website www.houstonwai.org.

CUTTER TEXAS PIPER

West Houston Airport hosts the new PIPERJET ALTAIRE Executive Aircraft touring Texas March 16—17th, 2011. Join Factory Representatives for lunch as they answer your questions.

OSHKOSH AIRVENTURE 2011

Going to Oshkosh? July 25th through 31st. Let us know so all West Houston Airport flyers can meet for dinner and fun. woody@westhoustonairport.com.



AIRCRAFT FOR SALE

1979 Beechcraft B55 Baron: Garmin GPS, Bendix Color Radar, Loaded. 500 SMOH.

1978 Beechcraft F33C Bonanza: Luxury Aerobatic 4-Place. Loaded and Beautiful!

1999 Diamond Motor-glider: Rare & Pristine. 190 TTAE

2001 American Champion Scout: 350 TTAE, Loaded, Hangared!

2003 Cessna 172SP: Very Clean. Well Maintained! Under \$100,000!

1954 Piper Super Cub: Beautifully restored. One of a kind!

AVIONICS (Yellow-tagged) King KX155(28) NAV/COM, King KI-209 VOR/ILS Indicator, Collins ADF 650, Indicator and ANT-650A.

Have leaseback opening for G1000-equipped Cessna 172S. Deduct total cost of plane in 2011. Monthly income!



2001 American Champion Scout: Loaded!

- COMPLETE FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT IWS:**
- COMMUNITY HANGARS ▪
 - T-HANGARS ▪ T-COVERS ▪ TIEDOWNS ▪
 - LARGE HANGARS FOR RENT ▪
 - SMALL OFFICES FOR RENT ▪

PRIVATELY OWNED HANGARS AT IWS:
(Available Space for Rent)

Circle J. Aero, C-7
281-647-6681

RE Aviation, D-2
281-414-8870

Evermore Holdings, B-4
2000 sq.ft. office space
281-828-8888

AOP Supply, G-12
J.C. Reddersen
281-829-1050

Terra Holdings, A-1/3
281-994-5400

Pale Orb, LLC, G-2
www.pale-orb-llc.com
512-363-9417

LOTS FOR SALE:
Lot: E14. Will Finance. Call 281-492-2130.

Buying an airplane? Basing it at IWS? Free comprehensive advise on tax issues, pre-buys, depreciation and more! For a consultation and support materials call Woody Lesikar at 281-492-2130. Check with your professional licensed provider, then call me for money saving ideas that you won't get anywhere else.

AIRCRAFT FOR RENT/INSTRUCTION

On Line Scheduling at: www.westhoustonairport.com

FOR RENT

CESSNA 172S SKYHAWKS
CESSNA 172 S - G1000/Air
BEECH F33C BONANZA
BEECH B-55 BARON

- PILOT SUPPLIES •
- GIFT CERTIFICATES •

Based Customers:
Free Use of Life Raft,
Life Preservers & Oxygen
Bottle/Masks and Parachutes.

GIVE A DISCOVERY FLIGHT!

FAA Registration,
Bill of Sale, Affidavit of
Occasional Sale and Other
Forms Available Here!

Free: Coffee, Ice, Popcorn

Authorized AeroNav
FAA Chart Dealer!



1999 Diamond Motor-glider: Rare & Pristine.
190 TTAE

WEST HOUSTON AIRPORT

“WEST HOUSTON AIRPORT TEAM”

West Houston Airport (Since 1962)	Flight School, Pilot Supplies	Terminal Building	281-492-2130
Joe Galindo Aircraft Service (Since 1984)	Maintenance and Repairs	Hangar #2 Blue East	281-492-6749
Calkins Aero Service (Since 1985)	Maintenance and Repairs	Hangar #3 Red East	281-579-6674
General Avionics (Since 1995)	Avionics Sales and Service	Hangar #1 White East	281-647-9600
AeroWest Interiors (Since 1997)	Upholstery	Hangar #1 White East	281-398-3821
Aero Clean (Since 1980)	Washing, Waxing & Detailing	Mobile	713-644-6200
The ðHö Company (Since 2003)	Aircraft Management Service	Terminal Building	281-829-0020
Aviation Services, Inc. (Since 2003)	Pilot Service/Aircraft Management	Terminal Building	281-829-0020
Energy Aviation (Since 2010)	Energyaviation.com/Charter	Hangar F-3	281-664-7917
Dr. Edy Hollenberg	Unique Eye Care	Hangar D-2	281-492-8018
Lone Star Rod & Rifle	Purveyors of Fine Sporting Life	Hangar B-1	281-829-3006
Dr. Victor Arellano (Baron Pilot)	FAA Medicals (by appt. only)	15410 Ridge Park Dr. Houston, Tx 77095	281-855-2244-office 281-460-2247-mobile
Houston Light Sport Aviation (Since 2010)	LSA Instruction	Green T-Hangar	832-447-4572



P.O. Box 941789
Houston, Texas 77094-8789
18000 Groschke Rd.
Houston, Texas 77084-8789
Phone: 281-492-2130
Fax: 281-492-7028

ðThe Wright Brothers created the single greatest cultural force since the invention of writing.ö
~ Bill Gates



AIRPORT CONTACTS: 281-492-2130 Fax: 281-492-7028

WOODY LESIKAR, Director of Aviation, Airport Manager, Available 24/7; woody@westhoustonairport.com
SHELLY LESIKAR deZEVALLOS, Corporate Officer, Ext 203; shelly@westhoustonairport.com
STACY LESIKAR MARTIN, Corporate Officer, stacy@lesikarmartin.com
C.G. “HANK” HENRY, Chief Pilot, Ext 211, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Mon. thru Fri; hank@westhoustonairport.com * x36
TERRI ROBASON, Executive Assistant, Ext 202, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, Mon thru Fri; terri@westhoustonairport.com
RENEE STRIPLING, Accounting Manager, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Mon thru Fri; renee@westhoustonairport.com ***
RICH WHITNEY, Compliance and Safety Officer, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Mon thru Fri;
rich@westhoustonairport.com*****
ORLANDO HERNANDEZ, Airport Maintenance Director, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm Mon thru Fri
SAM TURK, Airport Building/Grounds Maintenance, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Mon thru Fri.*****
DANIEL RENTERIA, Supervisor Line Services, 1:30 pm to 7:30 pm Thurs, 7:30 am to 7:30 pm Fri, Sat, Sun.;
daniel@westhoustonairport.com*****
JEREMY DUDLEY, Supervisor Line Services, 7:30 am to 7:30 pm Mon, Tue, Wed, 7:30 am to 1:30 pm Thurs;
jeremy@westhoustonairport.com *
DON EUTON, AOPA Airport Representative, 281-391-7310, doehe@mail.ev1.net - volunteer
BOBBY JACKSON, President & Mayor Emeritus, West Houston Airport Subdivision Owners Association, Inc.,
 281-647-6681 - volunteer

IWS SUPPORT TEAM:

STEPHANIE GUAJARDO, Customer Service Representative
STACY MARTIN, Customer Service Representative
TAMI CLAYTON, Customer Service Representative
BRIAN PADAR, Pro-Pilot, Certified Flight Instructor*
TYLER YURCHEVICH, Pro-Pilot, Certified Flight Instructor
BRYANT ELKINS, Pro-Pilot, Certified Flight Instructor
JACOB SANGSTER, Pro-Pilot, Certified Flight Instructor
THOMAS LONG, Linecrew Technician****
MIKE WHITE, Linecrew Technician****
EMILY SEYMOUR, Linecrew Technician****
SCOTT BEAUDOIN, Linecrew Technician****
CODY DOWNES, Linecrew Technician*
JEFF HIGLEY, Linecrew Technician
RONNIE BOLES, Linecrew Technician
STEVE COLE, Linecrew Technician
JUSTIN WILLIAMS, Linecrew Technician
STEPHEN CALVILLO, Linecrew Technician
MARTIN VENTRESS, Linecrew Technician