

February
2015 Edition

RUNWAY 15

WEST HOUSTON AIRPORT



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DOES YOUR ADS-B WORK? BY HOWARD DRABEK

posted in IFR Magazine January 2015 Edition

Magical black boxes that supposedly send information to somewhere else with nothing coming back, can leave you wondering if they work. One pilot decided to find out.

Living in the world of email makes life so much easier, but can often be exquisitely frustrating. Each day I receive numerous emails, both from people I know, plus, of course, the unwelcome stuff we all get. Most of these emails are requesting a response from me. The frustrating part is when I respond to them, I'm too often met by silence. What happened to the sense of urgency? Did they get my response? Did they hear me? When flying with a friend in his ADS-B Out-equipped Mooney, we began to wonder the same thing, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

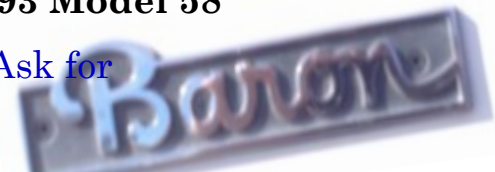
The Basics A few years back the FAA announced its upcoming NextGen project to revolutionize Air Traffic Control and enhance our own safety. The foundation of NextGen is the ADS-B (Automated Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast) system. As you probably know, ADS-B is a cooperative surveillance technology in which an aircraft determines its position via enhanced satellite technology (read WAAS) and broadcasts it, enabling the aircraft to be tracked via ATC ground stations as well as other aircraft. It is supposed to allow more operations in an already crowded system and enable fewer delays. In order to get us to sign up early, the FAA provides some value-added extras, like the ability to receive weather and traffic through the ADS-B In to the airplane. Presumably, this will entice us to equip our aircraft with ADS-B Out. Lately much has been made of the progress on the ADS-B portion of NextGen both on the ground as well as in the air. The DOT recently reported that the FAA had installed 663 of the ground stations required for the ADS-B infrastructure. However, there seems to be issue if this coverage is enough for ATC to hear all the transmissions. Some people have recently taken the plunge in equipping with ADS-B Out in advance of the mad rush that is sure to happen over the next few years to meet the **2020 deadline**, barring some decision change by the FAA (not likely to happen). How is it panning out?

Something Missing? A friend who flies a Mooney Ovation already equipped with ADS-B, recently told me a story. He had taken a flight and noted that traffic 1000 feet above him was not present on his ADS-B In display but was being worked by ATC. ATC remarked that there had been some radar issues in the area, even though ADS-B doesn't work through the radar infrastructure. Since this other aircraft wasn't being "heard" by his ADS-B, my friend wondered about his own installation and how it was performing. If his "In" portion seemed to be faulty, then what about his "Out"? Was it working? Based upon the report by the DOT, and my friend's experience, how would any of us know? Cont Page 3



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FEBRUARY DATES

- 2- Groundhog Day
- 12- Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 - Valentine's Day
- 16-Presidents Day



SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Class start January 5, 2015. Each Class is stand alone come for one or all. 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. "Hank" Henry, Chief Pilot, 281-492-2130.

INSTRUMENT PILOT GROUND SCHOOL

Call to Sign Up for Spring class, 10 week course 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m., West Houston Airport. Call for details **Licensed Jeppesen Video Presentation!** Contact Hank Henry, Chief Pilot, for information, 281-492-2130.

FAA SAFETY MEETING

Fourth (4th) Tuesday 7:00 p -9:00p 2nd Floor Observatory. **New program on ADS-B (sponsored by General Avionics);** Email:carolav8@att.net; 713-301-5407.

99'S MEETING

Second (2nd) Tuesday Every Month, 7:00 p.m., Terminal Building, 2nd Floor. Women's Organization of Pilots! Contact Becky Nickell 281-859-4923 email nickellb01@att.net, website www.ninety-nines.org.

COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE (CAF)

Museum open first and third Saturday of the month 10am-3pm. Meetings 3rd Sunday of the Month at 2:00 p.m., Hangar B-5. Memberships available. Call for tours. Contact 281-579-2131 **OPEN HOUSE April 18 & 19, CAF DANCE February 21st** or email info@houstonwing.org, www.houstonwing.org.

EAA CHAPTER 774 MEETING

Third (3rd) Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m. Terminal Building 2nd floor. For Meeting Information and Announcements Contact Rick Human 281-463-6769. Great Meetings! Join Today.

GHAFI SEMINAR (Greater Houston Association of Flight Instructors)

GHAFI Quarterly Seminar check website for location. Questions or comments contact Carol Brackley at carolav8@att.net, or visit website: www.ghafi.org

Texas Concealed Handgun License Class

NEXT CLASS February 28, 2015 Hour Class plus range time, West Houston Airport, Terminal - Upstairs. Class includes: lunch, classroom, shooting range (indoor range in the area), instruction and all paperwork. Loaner guns available at no extra charge. First time shooters taught how to shoot at no extra charge. You can bring your own ammo (50 rounds) or buy from me for \$20. Cost is \$90. For Reservations call or email (ktwinkle@hal-pc.org) Kevin Winkle 713-252-7006.

COMING SOON IN MARCH

FLYING HIGH FRIDAY NIGHTS IN MARCH: 6pm-9pm Customers Welcome Join Us in March for Drinks, libations, peanut and pretzels . Politics, Religion, and Aviation stories are welcome... **Just Don't Kiss the Bartender...** Single Women that kiss the bartender get free double drinks.



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1981 Conquest I: 1/2 Interest Financing Available

1976 Baron 55: Doctor owned possible 1/2 interest

1970 Turbo Aztec: Beautiful In & Out Priced Right

A36 Bonanza & Baron 58: WHOLE SALE PRICED!

AIRCRAFT FOR RENT AND INSTRUCTION,

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with the Mooney, the owner of the plane I operate has recently installed a Garmin GDL-88 datalink transceiver tied to a GNS 430W (for ADS-B In and Out). Recently, we picked up the plane to see how the upgrade went. The In portion worked to receive traffic (at least that we know of) plus he got weather. However, how were we to know if we are being heard? As far as I know, there is no test an avionics shop can perform to see if it's working. My research led me to discover that there are two ways to verify the "Out" portion is working.

FAA Report on Your ADS-B During the installation, I found out that the FAA has created the means to verify our installations. Upon completing a flight (the longer the better), send an email to 9-AWA-AFS-300-ADSBAvionicsCheck@faa.gov. Include the N#, the type of navigator (in this case a Garmin 430W), the make and model of the ADB-S installation (once again in this case a Garmin GDL-88), the date of the flight, and you might also include the departure and destination airports. Within a day or so you will receive an email with a report attached.

...Or Use Flightaware. Flightaware is a free website that many pilots use for planning, flight tracking and observing traffic flow in and out of airports. One of its features is the ability to track any IFR flight by use of the tail number. When referencing a particular flight, for a particular

plane, a flight map is provided. Along with that is the ability to pull up a track log of ATC 'hits' on the plane. If your ADB-S installation is performing as needed, some of these 'hits' will come from the ADB-S rather than just the radar. This way of checking your ADS-B Out is simpler, but less precise and far less detailed. If you're like me, it's important to know that the equipment in the plane is working. These two ways serve as confirmation that the ADB-S box in the back is more than just ballast. It's still difficult to know easily if someone received our email, but at least there is a way we can be sure that the FAA is hearing our aircraft.

Fuel Price Comparison for January 2015

JET A	High	Low	Avg
Southwest Region	6.99	2.31	4.42
West Houston Airport	4.28	3.12*	3.70
AVGAS (100LL)			
Southwest Region	8.33	3.00	4.88
West Houston Airport	4.32	3.74	4.03

*With quantity discount

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The full article can be found in IFR Magazine January 2015 edition. ADS-B System featured this months FAA Safety Meeting February 24th, Tuesday.



RUNWAY 15

WEST HOUSTON AIRPORT TEAM

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Calkins Aero Service (Since 1985)	Maintenance and Repairs	Hangar #3 Brown East	281-579-6674	www.calkinsaero.com
General Avionics (Since 1995)	Avionics Sales and Service	Hangar #1 White East	281-647-9600	www.general-avionics.com
Air West Interiors	Upholstery	Hangar #1 White East	281-398-3821	www.airwestinterior.com
J & S Detailing (Since 1991)	Aircraft Detailing	On Site	832-202-4198	www.jsaircraftdetailing.com
Dr. Victor Arellano (Baron Pilot) FAA Medicals (by appt. only) 15410 Ridge Park Dr. , Houston, Tx 77095 281-855-2244(o) 281-460-2247(m) ww.tmauc.com				

Airport Based Non-Aviation Businesses

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A.I.C. Security	Total Security System Solutions Hangar B-3	888-242-9777	www.aic-security.com



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 SHELLY LESIKAR deZVALLOS, Corporate Officer, shelly@westhoustonairport.com
 STACY LESIKAR-MARTIN, Corporate Officer, Business Promotion, stacy@westhoustonairport.com
 RICH WHITNEY, Compliance and Safety Officer, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Mon thru Fri; rich@westhoustonairport.com *****
 DON EUTON, AOPA Airport Representative, 281-391-7310, doe@consolidated.net - volunteer
 BOBBY JACKSON, President & Mayor Emeritus, West Houston Airport Subdivision Owners Association, Inc., bobbyj5471@sbcglobal.net - volunteer
 KARL MEDCALF, West Houston Airport IT Support, karl.medcalf@yahoo.com

All comments, complaints, and suggestions are

IWS SUPPORT TEAM:

RENEE STRIPLING, Corporate Officer, Accounting Manager, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Mon thru Fri:
renee@westhoustonairport.com *****
 OLIVIA WATKINS, Customer Service Representative*
 KRISTEN GIBSON, Customer Service Representative*
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C.G. "HANK" HENRY, Chief Pilot, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Mon. thru Fri; hank@westhoustonairport.com * x38
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*Indicates years employed

MIKE WHITE, Lead Line Supervisor, 1st Shift
mike@westhoustonairport.com *****
RON THOMAS, Lead Line Supervisor, 2nd Shift
ron@westhoustonairport.com **
TRAVIS CHATAM, Lead Line Supervisor, Weekend shift;
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All comments, complaints, and suggestions are welcome please send to:
Woody Lesikar, Airport Manager,
281-492-2130

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