



Night Landings

C .G. Hank Henry, Chief Flight Instructor

Every couple of days, I am asked “When are the runway markings going to be repainted?” One pilot asked this question and I answered, “When you get good enough that you don’t need them.” I would not blame him, if he didn’t appreciate such-an-answer.

After the new sealant was applied to the asphalt, it had to cure for several weeks and it needed time for the rains to rinse the oils from the surface so the paint would hold.

The striping was further delayed because of some difficulty obtaining a needed part for the striping machine, although now we are back to the rain issue again.

Now, about that smart-alec answer I gave – here’s some food for thought.

All of the experts tell us to allow at least 30 minutes in a dark environment to permit our eyes to become adjusted to operating in very little light conditions.

In practice- begin by adjusting all cockpit and instrument lights from “off” to just barely enough to read the instruments and to locate your charts, clip board and other necessities. Make a habit of placing loose

objects where you can always locate them in the dark. Use a shielded flashlight for chart and computer reading. Protect your eyes from all bright lights.

Many airports have Pilot-Controlled runway lights. Some of them, including West Houston Airport, have high intensity lights available. Some pilots will click their mic switch 7 times and flash them to full bright, while you are on final approach. If you are not ready for something like this blinding affect – you should go around and give your eyes time to adjust before landing.

When landing at night, utilize the runway lights as a reference when judging the height above the runway. Don’t focus too long on a light, as our eyes are focused on an object too long, myopia takes effect, making the object seem to be further away. Shift your eyes back and forth between lights to avoid contacting the runway earlier than expected.

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Woody reminded me of a practice I used when working at the original Pearland Airport. On a student’s first night flight, fly to just west of Galveston Scholes Airport. I would assign a heading of about 150°, then sit back and observe. On this heading we would cross the beach going out over the

ADSB REBATE IS BACK

FAA restated the ADS-B Rebate Program. Program ends on 10/11/ 2019 or when the available rebates are all claimed, act soon! General Avionics 281-647-9600 generalavionics.com

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JANUARY

1 - New Years Day

QUOTE: The shortest distance between two points is blocked by a TFR
 (C.G. "Hank" Henry)

Aviation Acronym: TFR Temporary Flight Restriction

PREFLIGHT Breakfast

Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Pilots/Prospective Pilots Invited. Fly Your Plane! Weekend fuel prices in effect! Fuel up on donuts and kolaches to start your journey.

PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL

Every Monday Evening, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., (12 week class series) Next session starts in January, 2018, Each class a stand alone class. No prior reservations needed. Licensed Jeppesen Video Presentation! Bring a family member for *half-price*. Start learning to fly today, don't procrastinate.

INSTRUMENT PILOT GROUND SCHOOL

Call to sign up, Licensed Jeppesen Video Presentation! email stacy@westhoustonairport.com to sign up for the Spring class! 50% off dual instruction in your plane with top off.

FAA SAFETY MEETING

Fourth (4th) Tuesday, 7:00pm-9:00pm for more information email Scott Vaughn at dsvaughncsp@gmail.com. "Fly the Aircraft First" by Scott Vaughn

99's MEETING

Second Tuesdays 7:00pm more information Meetings International Organization of Women Pilots! Email Kathyclark99@prodigy.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. Contact email for tours and flight information at rides@houstonwing.org or the hangar at 281-579-2131, info@houstonwing.org. Volunteers and donations welcome.

EAA CHAPTER 774 MEETING

Third (3rd) Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m. Contact Jeff Clarke 832-425-8277 or email: clarkeandco@aol.com for EAA interest. Jan 17th @6:00Pm Annual Banquet Spring Creek BBQ,

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RUSTY PILOT SEMINAR

Saturday, January 19, 2018 AOPA's Pat Brown, Getting Back To Flying: Easier Than You Think.

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Fuel Price Comparison for December 2018

JET A	High	Low	Avg	AVGAS (100LL)	High	Low	Avg
Southwest Region	7.17	2.88	4.38	Southwest Region	7.63	3.35	4.69
West Houston Airport	4.54	3.15	3.85	West Houston Airport	5.06	4.50	4.78

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AEROVILLAS

Gulf of Mexico. Soon, there would be no lights ahead. In another couple of minutes, he/she would show signs of anxiety. I could tell that they thought something was wrong. Some of them would say something about, "something is wrong." I would ask, "What do you think it is?" Sometimes, I would receive an answer and sometimes I would just wait until he/she would start heading into a flight condition beyond their control.

Then, I would say, "Check your attitude indicator and level the wings. Now level the nose and re-establish cruising air speed by adjusting the throttle." That is my one, two and three steps for survival.

The student would then take a deep breath and exhale about a bushel of air. This was a convincing and very memorable experience. Get some good instruction and enjoy your night flights. The air is usually cooler and smoother.

During Final Approach, the airspeed should be steady at recommended Glide Airspeed. Flaps should be set for landing. Adjust the trim to establish 200 to 250 ft. per minute rate of descent. Further, fine adjustments of power may be necessary and maybe trim adjustments. Keep a little power until touch-down.

If you have an instructor with you, landing without landing lights is a good skill to develop for the time you may have landing light failure.

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IWS is creating a list of plane owners that will fly for fuel to help other IWS plane owners who are stranded, needing specialized services elsewhere, giving back to area needs and or to trade out necessary rides point to point. If interested or for info contact Woody Lesikar. woody@westhoustonairport.com or 281-492-2130

West Houston Airport,
 P.O. Box 941789, Houston, Texas 77094-8789
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 Phone: 281-492-2130, Fax: 281-492-7028 email: info@westhoustonairport.com



RUNWAY 15

All comments, complaints, and suggestions are welcome
please send to: Woody Lesikar, Airport Manager,
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WEST HOUSTON AIRPORT TEAM

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RICH WHITNEY, Compliance and Safety Officer, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Mon thru Fri; rich@westhoustonairport.com *x18

RENEE STRIPLING, CFO renee@westhoustonairport.com *11

DON EUTON, AOPA Airport Representative, 281-391-7310, doehe@consolidated.net - volunteer

BOBBY JACKSON, President & Mayor Emeritus,

West Houston Airport Subdivision Owners Association, Inc.,

bobbyj5471@sbcglobal.net - volunteer

* Denotes years of service

Please see website for contact and email information

www.westhoustonairport.com

FAA SAFETY MEETING Scott Vaughn

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