

October
2017 Edition

RUNWAY 15

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WEST HOUSTON AIRPORT

SUMMER of 2017



In September 2016, I flew to Polson Montana with my buddy Mike Spedale, who worked for me prior to his stint with Metro Airlines and Aramco, to look at some aviation properties of interest. I had always been fascinated about flying into the many backcountry airstrips in Montana and Idaho. I had been reading everything I could get my hands on regarding flying into the many strips and discovering the adventures that lay ahead. I had never been gone from the airport for more than two weeks, and even then very seldom, but I made up my mind that I would give it a shot. I also wanted to "test out" my two daughters Shelly and Stacy and see how well the airport would run without me around, leaving them in charge. At 70, I knew that planning ahead for that ultimate flight was important. I let both know well in advance my plans for 2017.



As the Summer of 17 got closer, I positioned myself as well as I could for how I was going to handle the airport, aircraft sales and business in general. I installed security cameras all over the airport so I could see first hand the day to day operations from eighteen-hundred miles away. I did nothing to forward the some five hundred emails that I get daily but did plan on forwarding my land line phone calls to Stacy for her to handle.

Finally the day of departure comes and my good friend John Iisager, a retired Delta Airlines pilot, who I personally taught to fly in 1967, came along to help me drive up for staging out of Polson. Except for a little swaying back and forth of the Jeep I was towing, which I finally fixed, it was an uneventful three day drive in my RV.

After a few days of exploring the area, John took Delta home and later that week I came back on the airline to pick up my Peterson converted and highly modified Cessna 182. I had purchased the plane in Canada and I had Forrest and James and Jenni completely redo the aircraft and had Murmer paint it.

After a couple of weeks back at IWS, I left for Polson with Mayor Emeritus Bobby Jackson, longtime resi-

dent at West Houston Airport and Prez of the Association for over a decade, along as co-pilot. With clear skies and unlimited visibility, we made our way up to Douglas Wyoming and then on around the upper side on our way to Missoula. The last one hundred and fifty miles was hampered by low visibility due to wildfires. At this time I did not know how bad it would get in the next few days and weeks.



Unfortunately while in Montana, the fires got worse and flying was restricted to areas where there was no smoke and no TFRs. We did get a chance to visit Spokane and the fine aviators grill on the airport, which is only an hour and fifteen minutes from Polson and we stopped at Cavanaugh Bay airport which was such a pretty grass strip on Priest Lake. We also landed at Deer Island, a neat, albeit rough grass strip on the Clark Fork River with an aviation community built alongside the river. Later after Bobby had left, a real jewel of a person, Ron Valequette and I flew over Glacier Park and then stopped for breakfast at Kalispell Montana just north of Flathead Lake. The smoke and haze was so bad that no one was flying into the backcountry airstrips.

As the month of August progressed, I watched the weather forecasts for Houston and saw the various tropical depressions that proceeded each other until they became hurricanes. At this time, I had no idea of what lay ahead.



Another friend of mine, Jim Sloane, from DeLand Florida and a former instructor pilot for me in the early 70's when he checked out George W. Bush in my Cessna 172, met me in McCall Idaho, after relocating to that town. There Mike Spedale, Jim and I viewed the total eclipse from Cascade Idaho, which was right in the center of the path of the eclipse. This was

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West Houston Airport Frequencies, AWOS: 125.575, (281) 579-9820

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RUNWAY 15

"As The Beacon Turns" CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

9- Columbus Day, 31-Halloween

QUOTE: Aviation, this young modern giant, exemplifies the possible relationship of women and the creations of science. Although women have not taken full advantage of its use and benefits, air travel is as available to them as to men. Amelia Earhart Read more at: <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/>

PREFLIGHT Breakfast

Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Pilots/Prospective Pilots Invited. Bring Your Plane!

PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL

Every Monday Evening, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Next class mid October call for date. 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 for to sign up, 10 week course 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.. Licensed Jeppesen Video Presentation! Contact Stacy at stacy@westhoustonairport.com to sign up for the Spring class!

FAA SAFETY MEETING

Fourth (4th) Tuesday 7:00pm-9:00pm dsvaughncsp@gmail.com

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., Hangar B-5. Call for tours and flights at 936-697-3237 or the hangar at 281-579-2131 email info@houstonwing.org, 713-266-4492

OCTOBER 21 & 22 WINGSOVERHOUSTON.com

EAA CHAPTER 774 MEETING

Third (3rd) Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m. Contact Rick Human 281-463-6769. Great Meetings! Join Today. OCTOBER 19 World Express Jet.; November 4, PANCAKE BREAKFAST, IWS Terminal building

NBAA Meeting and Trade Show October 10-12 Las Vegas, NV.



Fuel Price Comparison for September 2017

JET A	High	Low	Avg	AVGAS (100LL)	High	Low	Avg
Southwest Region	7.11	2.59	4.07	Southwest Region	7.83	3.24	4.53
West Houston Airport	3.93	2.82*	3.37	West Houston Airport	4.88	4.27	4.56

*With Volume discount

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- woody@westhoustonairport.com

an unplanned once in a life time solar eclipse for which we had a front row seat.

As the last week of August came, a tropical depression formed in the Gulf and its name was Harvey. The forecast looked grim as the massive Hurricane was forecast to come on shore near Rockport. About this same time airports were closing all over the Texas Gulf Coast. Severe flooding was forecast and I saw no way to get home.

Luckily power did not go out at the terminal and I was able to continue communicating with my girls and others.

As the rains subsided I emailed our patrons that all was well and no flooding, but I would soon be proven wrong! The forty inches that IWS received caused no problems for our high and dry airport.

I had asked my daughters to send me pictures of the Bear Creek so I could see the stage of flooding. As the water got higher and higher, I then knew that it was only a matter of time before the bank would be overflowing on to airport property. I did not realize that water would also be coming up from the south.

At my home in Fleetwood, my camera went off at 7:45PM on August 29th. So electricity was off. Not to worry, living there for some forty three years, I never expected that area to flood, and nor was it in the 100 year flood plain. The news from Houston that night was grim. There was flooding all over west Harris County.

Flood waters were rising from the reservoir and Bear Creek, and it was getting closer to the terminal by mid-day. The morning of the 30th came with unexpected worse news, my neighbors had been evacuated with four feet of water in their homes. How could this happen so fast and without any notice?

As the water rose into the terminal and no one could get to or from work, I realized the dire situation the crew was in. This

was so extraordinary and so unbelievable. How could the airport flood at 111' when the dam's spillway is 108'? I had no idea that this could happen. It had never happened before and the airport is outside the 100 year flood plain. When I drove into the airport and through the foot deep water,



I knew this was going to make history and result in misery to many of my neighbors and customers.

I was yet to learn the whole story about the circumstances, and although stunned, I was glad to be back at the airport. My family survived and our employees were there helping to get things back to normal, as much as possible. All our small grounds equipment was under water and cabinets swelled up and sheetrock destroyed in the terminal and on the east side. My home would remain under water for over ten days just like my neighbors.

As the waters reside, numerous class action and individual lawsuits have been filed to recover losses from what the Corp of Engineers did and did not do. I expect to be a party along with most property owners at the airport. Blaming others is appropriate when it's the government. If the COE did what they were supposed to do, perhaps properties could have been saved and the loss of properties minimized. Time will tell, and in the meantime, life goes on. I hope I live long enough to find out. **Woody Lesikar,**

Airport Manager, IWS



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Aviation Businesses:

West Houston Airport (Since 1962)	Flight School, Pilot Supplies	Terminal Building	281-492-2130	www.westhoustonairport.com
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
Sky Aircraft Interiors	Aircraft Upholstery	Hangar #1 White West	281-682-4454	
Fast Freddy Mobile Detail	Aircraft Detailing		281-330-9813	www.fastfreddymobiledetail.com
Dr. Victor Arellano (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

Lone Star Rod & Rifle	Purveyors of Fine Sporting Life Hangar B-1	281-829-3006	www.lonestarrodandrifle.com
A.I.C. Security	Total Security System Solutions Hangar B-3	888-242-9777	www.aic-security.com
Infinity Roofing	Hangar G7	281-855-2331	www.infinityroofer.com
Herndon/Muncey	Plumbing Solutions (Investigative) Hangar D-1	281-579-0515	www.herndonmuncey.com



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Houston, Texas 77084-8789
Phone: 281-492-2130
Fax: 281-492-7028
email:
info@westhoustonairport.com

Improve Groschke Road Call 311 on your Cell phone to City of Houston report needed road repair. (16500 block west of Hwy 6)



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

WOODY LESIKAR, Director of Aviation, Airport Manager, Available 24/7; woody@westhoustonairport.com
 SHELLY LESIKAR deZVALLOS, President, shelly@westhoustonairport.com
 STACY LESIKAR-MARTIN, Corporate Officer, stacy@westhoustonairport.com
 RICH WHITNEY, Compliance and Safety Officer, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Mon thru Fri; rich@westhoustonairport.com *x18
 DON EUTON, AOPA Airport Representative, 281-391-7310, doche@consolidated.net - volunteer
 BOBBY JACKSON, President & Mayor Emeritus, West Houston Airport Subdivision Owners Association, Inc., bobbyj5471@sbcglobal.net - volunteer

IWS SUPPORT TEAM:

RENEE STRIPLING, CFO

Accounting office open, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Mon thru Fri:
renee@westhoustonairport.com *****

COURTNEY NICKELL, Customer Service Representative***

BECKY NICKELL, Customer Service Representative*

TIFFANY GROVE, Customer Service Representative

C.G. "HANK" HENRY, Chief Pilot, 8:00 am to 5:30 pm Mon. thru Fri; hank@westhoustonairport.com * x39

JERRY ALLEN, Certified Flight Instructor**

KEISUKE (K) UEDA, Certified Flight Instructor

PHILLIP KMIEC, Chief Mechanic*****

SAM TURK, Grounds Maintenance*****

JIM WACHS, Anywhere you need me!

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ERIK DITTMAR, Lead Line Supervisor, 3rd Shift*****

SEAN FRITSCH, Line Crew Technician****

TOBY COOKE, Line Crew Technician***

MARK TAMEZ, Line Crew Technician**

JOSE VILLATORO, Line Crew Technician**

JESSE GUTIERREZ, Line Crew Technician**

JAMES FENTON, Line Crew Technician*

MATTHEW KIDD, Line Crew Technician

*Indicates years employed

All comments, complaints, and suggestions are welcome please send to:

Woody Lesikar, Airport Manager,

281-492-2130

woody@westhoustonairport.com * www.westhoustonairport.com

FAA Hotline 800-255-1111