

Throttle Forward...

LEFT HAND - RIGHT HAND

My mother always said, "His left hand doesn't know what his right hand is doing." That sounds like the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the most recent "screw-up-fan-buscisco." Aviation currently relies on the old 121.5 MHz Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT). There is no doubt that the newer 406 MHz is EXTREMELY better. The older 121.5 Mhz ELTs hardly ever seemed to work in a crash, but will go off during a hard landing or while the plane is just sitting in the hangar. The number of Civil Air Patrol hours wasted hunting a false 121.5 MHz ELT would be insurmountable.

Many of us still use the outdated 121.5 MHz ELT, legally. All of us will upgrade in time. Thanks to the recent ruling by the FCC, we would have to do it before August 15, 2010. August 15th, you say??? Not possible to get over 200,000 planes in the U. S. to upgrade before that date. Not possible, not enough ELTs, not enough avionics shops, not enough time.... But that is what government is all about, "hurry up and wait." It is apparent that the FCC didn't take into consideration that what they DECLARED is impossible. Yep, sure is.

What it means is that 200,000 planes could be flying illegally after August 15th. I have no doubt that someone in one part of our government (the FAA) will explain to the other part of our government (the FCC) that they may have screwed up. But wait! The government NEVER screws up. What am I thinking?

The FCC announced that they **forbid**, as of August 15 2010, "...the certification, manufacture, importation, sale, or **continued use** of 121.5 MHz emergency locator transmitters (ELTs) other than the Breitling Emergency Watch ELT." One would look at this as if the Breitling watch is the only safe ELT that we should use. Unfortunately, mine wasn't made by Breitling. As with many government screw-ups, we should just sit back and wait for someone to slap their head and say, "you could have had a V-8." They may have had a V-8 with Vodka... called a "Bloody Mary." To read more about this recent event, go to page nine of this issue in the Texas Pilots Association News.

RACING NEWS

We're very fortunate to have Pat Purcell reporting racing news for *FLY-LOW*. It seems that racing, which started in the early 1900s and grew until the 1960s... then slowed down a bit... is now making a comeback. One of our letters to the editor by Ron Peters suggests that one thing which promoted aviation back in its early days was air racing. Without doubt, it could do the same thing today during a time when aviation needs a friend and much promoting.

Pat Purcell not only writes about racing, but she is very instrumental in putting on the various races across the country. Her talent for "making a race happen" is amazing. She has been association with racing for many years and has a bunch of race events under her belt. Who knows she might be convinced to help you put one on in your "neck of the woods." You can contact her at ppurcellk@aol.com.

She lives in Texas, but moves across the country from race to race like a gypsy. We appreciate her effort for racing and for FLY-LOW. So, my hat is off to her and a big "Atta girl." Keep up the good work...

We, at FLY-LOW do all we can to promote pilots, aviation, air shows, and safe flying in general. I, personally, make sure that promoting aviation and kids in aviation are Number One on our list of things to do. We support those who do the same. Want to start a kids camp... call me... 479.970.1001. Together we can make it happen.

JOIN TODAY

We are proud to have all the members of the Texas, New Mexico, Arkansas, Iowa, and United States Pilots Association as subscribers and to be the source of their state news. Along with our regular subscribers, they are in the front when it comes to making things happen. By belonging to a state pilot association, we help by keeping our strength in numbers. If you don't belong to one, seek out your state pilot organization and join. Be active in it and help protect our free sky. Join today.

Throttle Forward and Fly-Low.....

