

Throttle Forward...

OUT OF THE CLEAR BLUE OF THE WESTERN SKY....

Over the years there have been special stories that we have produced and enjoyed doing so. The Sky King story is one of them. To be able to go back in time and re-live some of those episodes was great. Seeing the Songbird at AirVenture in Oshkosh (shown on front cover) several years ago planted a seed that one day I would follow up on the lives of those actors who, perhaps without knowing it, influenced so many young kids of my generation to become pilots. I have no way of knowing what number of us would have become pilots without the show, but there were many of us that saw how easy and fun it was – thus prodding us to keep going toward aviation.

This story required me to go to the sites where the episodes are offered free to view and “fly” back in time to my teenage years (without the pimples). We were not able to find out much on the later years of some of the actors. It appeared that Kirby would have liked to have seen his Sky King return for another generation. In fact, it would be nice to see a similar role be placed before our kids, today. That clean wholesome image, plus the adventure of one of life’s real thrills would be good to pass on to the youth today. This is why we started the Kids Aviation Camp, to “pay it forward” or “plant that seed”. During two years of the air camp, we have passed the torch on to almost sixty kids. We hope you enjoy our Sky King story and urge you to be a mentor to a young (no matter how old) person today.

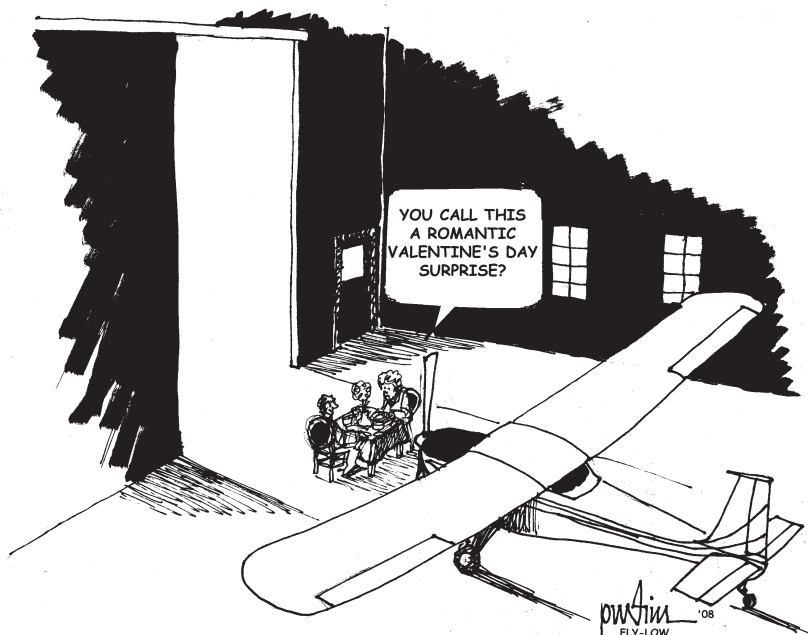


LOVE ISSUE

With Valentine’s Day in February, this issue should have a Love Theme. Several years ago we had a real cute cover of a boy and girl holding hands walking through the crowds at a fly-in (pictured on 25). It was a touching moment for a photographer. I snapped the photo from behind them... they never knew that they were on the cover..... I didn’t know they would be on the cover at the time I shot the photo. That is often the case. As a photographer, I shoot quite a few pictures at events. Until I get back home that evening and transfer them from the camera to the computer, I never know which shots will be cover quality. To be honest, often a shot that I felt would be blurred or not good – will be one of my best and end up on the cover. This issue we have an article (page 33) with love advice from Dr. Goodlove (I am not sure I want him to give me a Medical).

COMING ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

In March, FLY-LOW will celebrate our eighth year in publication. For February and March you may extend your current subscription or subscribe for the first time and include a friend to receive a free subscription equal to the one you purchase. COOL DEAL... BOGO... By One – Get One. See the application (page 31) in this issue.... This is a limited time offer, so hurry. We do thank you for your continued support to our advertisers and to FLY-LOW.



GROWING PROBLEM

There is a growing problem which we report on each month and that is the Air Traffic Control System. We try to provide both sides of the situation, fairly. The ATC Controllers provide us with their view on the need for more controllers to work the system. The FAA provides us with information that shows they are trying to get the system updated to full staffing. The ultimate question is, “Will there be a mid-air crash due to the shortage of controllers before staffing is up to ‘snuff?’” We certainly hope not, but the several near-misses that we have reported on in the past six months indicate there is a need for more experience within the ATC system. Let’s hope it gets there, SOON.

Throttle Forward and Fly-Low.....