

Throttle Forward...

COMPLAINTS ABOUND

One of the most interesting topics of discussion among pilots today is the new and UNIMPROVED Flight Service Station (FSS). After years of being under control of the FAA, it now out of control. Everyone who calls FSS for data and weather progs finds long waits... some for hours. It is reminisce of the days after the firing by President Ronald Reagan of all the ATC controllers in the 1980s. IFR traffic came to a halt; one had to get a "reservation" to file for IFR back in those days. The NEW AND "IMPROVED" FSS hasn't come to pass.

Today's FSS doesn't have the speed, concern or good manners of the "old" FSS employees. That wonderful Lockheed Martin's new system lacks the professionalism and quality of the old FSS. That is too bad. We were promised "equal to or better than" service the old FSS offered from Lockheed Martin ... **Buddy, we ain't there.**

The question is, "Will we ever be there?" If I were a wagering man, I would bet that it will be back up to the old FSS standards in about ten years. In the meantime, a solution might be to reduce the money going to Lockheed Martin. That is the old American way.... Bad quality... no pay.

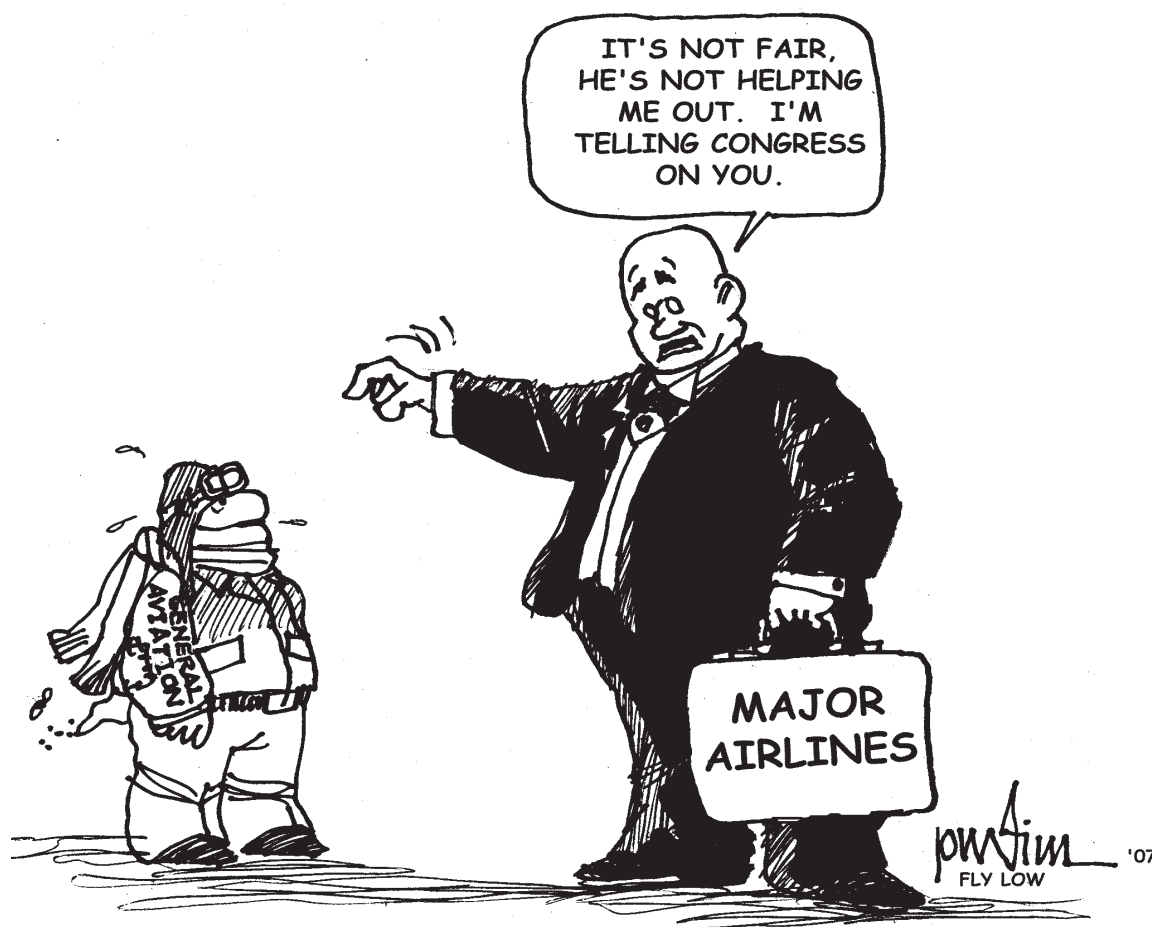
I recommend that you read the story on page thirteen of this issue. There is a FSS comment line (888-358-7782) now available for those who wish to make their problems with FSS known. Your congressman might be a good source to vent your frustrations.

IT AIN'T OVER TILL THE "HEAVY" LADY SINGS....

Everyday there is something coming out of D.C. about user fees. No one knows where it will end. It is important that all pilots keep in touch with their congressman with your concern about any change. There is no doubt that the government decision to change the FSS was made by a 'drunk bureaucrat' after a bar fight. If we plan to win any battles with D. C., it would be good not to bring a knife to a gun fight. So drag out your heavy guns and keep informed.



Photo by Jim Edwards



GOT A STORY?

We're always looking for good aviation stories. You don't have to be a Chuck Yeager to have a famous and exciting event in your life. We'll give you your 10 minutes of fame (15 minutes for the very best) – if you can put your thoughts into a computer and send to us. We have had several great stories about an unusual one only airplane, a supersonic turtle named "Sputnik", a pilot who has a license issued to him with Orville Wright's signature, and many more. We like to bring attention to those who have lived aviation in some fashion that others might find interesting. So, warm up the keyboard and send the info (with photos if possible) to airmail@fly-low.com.

AND THEY GO WEST....

This weekend (July 29, 2007) has been most disastrous for aerobatic and air show performers. Two P-51s collided at AirVenture and the last surviving member of the "Masters of Disaster", Jim LeRoy was killed while performing in Dayton (OH) today. One story is on page three and the other one is on page thirty-one. Our prayers go to the family and friends of those who died in air events this weekend.

Throttle Forward and Fly-Low...