

Throttle Forward...

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

There is no question that we get a little 'persnippity' and sometimes heavy on editorial comments. We are guilty as charged. I try to not be a name-caller or throw slurs. This time I think I will be a name-caller, only for informational purposes. There are people in Washington who assist general aviation and there are folks who would shut us down. I feel that the listing of those on both sides below will give you the opportunity to vote for or against the person whom you believe would do damage to the quality of life that we, as pilots, enjoy.

The user fee failed (for the moment). There will be more attempts... Here are some of the players in this on-going battle. You choose which way to vote the next time one of them comes up for election.

Eleven members of the Commerce Committee deserve special recognition from pilots for their tremendous work in supporting the fight against user fees. First of all, Sens. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) and John Sununu (R-N.H.) did excellent work in stepping forward to sponsor the amendment. Sens. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), Mark Pryor (D-Ark.), Tom Carper (D-Del.), Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine), Gordon Smith (R-Ore.), John Ensign (R-Nev.), Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), and David Vitter (R-La.) all supported the amendment.

On the other side, there were 12 senators who supported user fees: Sens. John D. Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), Trent Lott (R-Miss.), Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), John F. Kerry (D-Mass.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Frank R. Lautenberg (D-N.J.), Claire C. McCaskill (D-Mo.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), John McCain (R-Ariz.), and John Thune (R-S.D.).

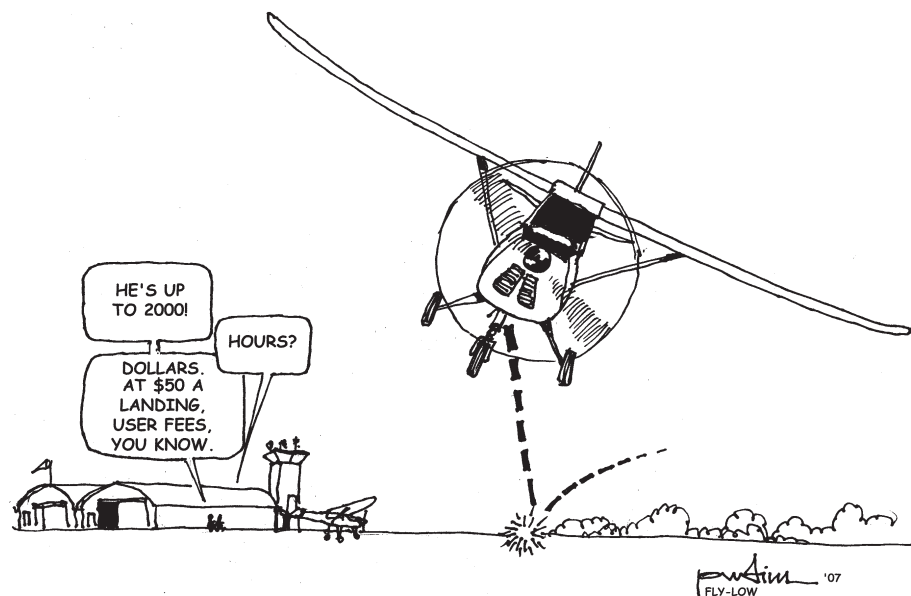
Again, remember these people when it is time for them to run for office... especially...**JOHN McCAIN**. This is a very serious issue for General Aviation. And the war is not over.... We just won the first battle.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

As I have mentioned for years, our only hope for success in a fight against Washington is a united front. That united front ends at AOPA headquarters. When I first started my crusade against Washington, AOPA was under 400,000 strong. Today, they are around 411,000 strong. I think that many of you feel that they are our NRA to pursue the fight to protect our free sky.

As you can see from the list of the non-supporters, they are power-hitters on the Hill, mostly Democrats but it does include some Republicans. This is not a fight that draws lines along party lines. It is a fight from which our strongest voice is AOPA. Most licensed pilots belong to AOPA.

Keep informed on these issues. FLY-LOW passes on information from major organizations about the progress or attacks on General Aviation. We do so by the paper issue and via e-mail. If you would like to be placed on our notification list, simply send that request to airmail@fly-low.com. That list will also get random notices of TFRs in the country.



Ralph and Sarah McCormick

SUMMER FLYING

Can summer be around the corner? Who knows? This last week of May, it snowed in Colorado. Two weeks ago, I was at our western office in Colorado and got over a foot of snow on my car while staying at eight thousand feet. I didn't expect that event. There is one thing positive about spring/summer snows in Colorado – it doesn't remain on the ground long.

When one flies there is always that weather factor. If you plan on flying the mountains, we have advertisers that provide mountain flying training. The Colorado Pilots Association and New Mexico Pilots Association have a couple of mountain flying training weekends scheduled... Check www.fly-low.com for those dates..

Throttle Forward and Fly-Low.....