

NINETY-NINES, SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION
Spring Business Meeting, May 18, 2013
San Antonio, Texas

LEGISLATION NEWS

\$100-per-flight User Fee: Once again, a \$100 per flight user fee has been proposed by President Obama in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget released on April 10. 223 members of Federal House of Representatives signed a letter opposing the fee. AOPA [Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association], EAA [Experimental Aircraft Association], NBAA [National Business Aviation Association], GAMA [General Aviation Manufacturers Association], along with various airline groups such as National Air Transportation Association and Airlines for America, are all opposed to a user fee.

Funding of Air Traffic Control Towers: Due to sequestration, many air traffic control towers with low numbers of traffic were at risk of being shut down as of June 15. On May 1, the "Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013" was signed by President Obama which both keeps all controllers on the job and keeps all towers open. Money for these comes from the Airport Improvement Program. However, this legislation is only effective through September 30, as the current federal fiscal year will end. So stay tuned. Be sure to brush up on non-towered operations. Some resources include the FAA Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM), Advisory Circular (AC) 90-66A, CFR 91.113 (Basic Right of Way Rules), CFR 91.126 and CFR 91.127 (Traffic Flow Rules at Non-Towered Airports).

Circling Approach Minimums: On May 2, the FAA began publishing instrument approaches that use larger circling-approach airspace dimensions. U.S. terminal procedures approach charts will have a "Negative C" circle icon and Jeppesen charts a "Negative C" diamond icon to identify circling minimums that use the new expanded circling area dimensions. Circling minimums without these icons still use the smaller circling area dimensions. Under the expanded minimums, circling radii could be up to 1 nm larger than they were previously.

For more information:

<http://www.nbaa.org/ops/airspace/issues/20130418-faa-expands-size-of-protected-airspace-for-circling-approaches.php>

Legend Page information:

http://aeronav.faa.gov/content/aeronav/safety_alerts/ChartingNotice_TCP_12-09.pdf

Third Class Medical Exemption: There was a joint proposal from AOPA & EAA that would allow pilots of four-place, 180-horsepower fixed-gear aircraft and smaller to fly in day VFR conditions using only a driver's license as a medical certificate. It also included a requirement that pilots regularly complete online training courses that educate them on their health and how it relates to flying safely. This appears to be on a "back burner" with the FAA at this time and it is unknown when the FAA might address this proposal.

Special Issuance Medical Certification: Special Issuance medical certification has gone through some changes. It is abbreviated as "CACI" = Conditions AMEs Can Issue". The certification policy was amended, versus having to change any regulations that allow applicants with arthritis, asthma, glaucoma, chronic hepatitis C, hypertension, hypothyroidism, migraine and chronic headache, pre-diabetes, and renal cancer to receive their medical certificates directly from their AME. More information at www.eaa.org and www.aopa.org.