

## March 17, 2019 - Saint Paddy's Day and my ADS-B Performance Fly-off over West Palm Beach

I had mentioned, in a previous blog posting, that the FAA's Air Traffic Control system depends on aircraft installed transponder hardware to keep track of one's flight with information as to the airplane type, altitude, direction and speed. Well, by the end of this year that equipment is required to be updated to ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast). Without going into technical detail this means that I will have to spend a bit over \$2,500 in order to comply and to be allowed to fly in most airspace. This is more than I spent to purchase my second car, a brand new Triumph TR-3A, back in 1960. However the FAA is temporally offering a \$500 rebate to those who do so early. I applied for and was granted this rebate so long as I completed the installation and mandatory fly-off performance evaluation prior to April 6th of this year. This fly-off must be done in accepted airspace. For me this meant flying in and around the West Palm Beach commercial airport. When I used to fly my twin-engine Piper Comanche down from Hilton Head Island to visit Miriam (a 2 hour and 20 minute flight in most cases) I would routinely land at Palm Beach International. Back then I had a fast plane, all avionics and electronic equipment to handle most any weather conditions along with the mental sharpness and manual dexterity to make this trip a "piece of cake". Now my plane is slow, I am even slower and its equipment is minimal. It is whole different type of flying. And while I still go into many tower controlled airports, even to those that have some limited airline or business executive jet arrivals, they are nowhere as busy as is PBI. However this fly-off had to be successfully completed in order for me to claim my half of a grand \$\$.

I scheduled the flight for this past Sunday, which also happened to be Saint Patrick's Day, and just 3 days after doing the equipment installation. For the hour that I was to spend in the Palm Beach Class "C" airspace I would be doing various maneuvers including 3 landings at the adjacent Lantana (Palm Beach County Park) airport. It was relatively slow day so Palm Beach Approach Control seemed more than happy for the work. While doing my maneuvering between 1,000 and 3,000 feet altitude I had the opportunity to take some photos of the area in which we once lived. While we still return to the West Palm Beach area, every once and a while, we tend not to tarry. It has gotten to be less safe in some communities and way too easy to get into difficulty without even being aware. But the downtown area is still very charming and a lot more high class than I remember it to be. It was also a thrill to be able to cross over the approach end of the active runway and watch as the jetliners traveled a thousand feet below me on their landing to Runway 28L, all while being under positive control and safe. The downtown marina was full, as it is every winter, with boats from all around the US and even several from foreign countries. A 100 foot long yacht will garner an annual dockage fee of \$50,000 for a year while shorter stays over the winter months will be at \$400 per night for that same boat. There is an additional fee of between \$60 and \$200 per day for electrical shore power for either stay.

**Ah, to be a 1 per center.**

I also had the opportunity to fly over the Whitehall of the Presidents condo complex where we lived for many years in Miriam's 4th floor condo overlooking the golf course. It is located right next to Lake Mangonia, one of the larger lakes in the West Palm Beach area. West Palm is also the summer training site for the Houston Astros and the Washington Nationals baseball teams and I was able to photograph their ballpark. In all, it was a good flight except for the fact that I failed the performance monitoring due to an equipment problem yet to be resolved. It shows up as red highlighting in an otherwise Report Sheet of Kelly Green. Obviously on that day I did not have **"The Luck of the Irish"!!**

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration  
ADS-B Performance Monitor

**GA Incentive Requirements Status Report**

ICAD: A05986 (50055620) Tail Number: N122ET Flight Id: N122ET Equipment: UAT  
Operation ID: 71688736 Period: 03-17-2019 13:05:04 to 03-17-2019 14:37:16 Rule Duration: 00:59:14

Category	Status
<b>Rebate Status</b>	<b>FAIL</b>
<b>Aircraft Registration Status</b>	<b>PASS</b>
<b>Detection in Rule Airspace</b>	<b>PASS</b>
<b>ADS-B Rule Performance</b>	<b>FAIL</b>

Prepared March 17, 2019  
Requested by Francis T Caruso

By submitting this report, the requester named above certifies that to the best of their information and belief, the information contained in this report is true and accurate.

The information provided herein is subject to the terms of 31 U.S.C. 3729 False Claims, which holds that the knowing submission of any false or fraudulent information will result in the individual's liability to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000, as adjusted by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1996 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note; Public Law 104-410), plus 3 times the amount of damages which the government sustains because of the act of that individual. An individual violating this subsection shall also be liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000, as adjusted by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1996 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note; Public Law 104-410), plus 3 times the amount of damages which the government sustains because of the act of that individual.



**Left Pic:**  
The West  
Palm &  
PalmBeach  
shoreline



**Right Pic:**  
Downtown  
West Palm  
Beach &  
high-rises



**Left Pic:**  
PBI airport



**Right Pic:**  
The West  
Palm boat  
Marina



**Left Pic:**  
WPB Lake  
Mangonia  
with the  
Whitehall  
complex



**Right Pic:**  
Close-up of  
Whitehall  
condos



**Left Pic:**  
Houston  
Astro's &  
Wash DC's  
Nationals  
Spring  
Training  
ballpark



**Right Pic:**  
A nearby  
large RV  
Water Pk.