

Ely Air Lines -

Go With The Flow

by Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely

The idea for this week's column came from a highly intellectual conversation that had something to do with thinking, which rhymes with stinking. Naturally, this led us to discussing aviation. Specifically, what pilots do when nature calls at 8,500 feet.

There is a long history of innovation devoted to solving this very problem. Airliners, of course, have lavatories. So do many business jets. But what about the thousands of small airplanes flying cross-country every day? The average four-seat airplane doesn't exactly have room for a sky potty.

For generations, pilots relied on careful planning. One benefit of flying a small airplane is that there are suitable airports everywhere. A fuel stop often doubles as a comfort stop.

Still, sometimes the distance is long, the headwinds stronger than forecast, or that extra-large coffee seemed like a good idea at the time. For many years, one solution for male pilots was the relief tube. Installed in the aircraft, certified, and surprisingly sophisticated, the system used airflow to create suction. The liquid was carried outside the airplane, atomized, and dispersed into the atmosphere. The thought of engineers gathering



around a conference table to perfect airborne plumbing is hilarious.

"How's the new wing design coming?"

"Good. But we've also made significant progress on the pee tube."

In our due diligent research for this article, we discovered that relief tubes are still available today. Of course, not every small airplane has one installed. Improvisation has always been part of aviation culture; one must be ready to pivot on a dime, as they say. Or go with the flow. Over the years, pilots (for the most part, male) have employed a variety of containers ranging from purpose-built devices to items that originally had entirely different jobs before being promoted to in-flight sanitation equipment. The less said about some of those experiments, the better. Suffice it to say, an empty water bottle might

not work out as well in turbulence as one would wish.

In aircraft equipped with full lavatories, those systems generally work very well. However, they occasionally create their own unique aviation mysteries. If a drain valve leaks, liquid can escape and freeze on the outside of the airplane. The resulting blue-colored ice has sometimes broken loose and fallen to Earth. These frozen chunks have startled people on the ground and inspired theories involving visitors from another planet. While you're checking the CIA's recently declassified alien files, don't be fooled by reports of blue ice. Some people even saved it in their freezers while waiting for an investigator to come examine it. Imagine that poor investigator explaining the report.

Aviation history is full of remarkable inventions. We celebrate engines, wing designs, autopilots, GPS navigation, and radar. But there are unsung inventors who deserve recognition for solving a less glamorous challenge. Because when you're crossing Texas in a small airplane with another two hours to go, the most important system on board may be the one helping the pilot endure the trip.

ElyAirLines.substack.com

Camp Invention coming to Liberty, Dayton in July

LIBERTY - Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment program, is coming to the following locations:

Liberty: Liberty Elementary School the week of July 6 - July 10.

Dayton: Kimmie Brown Elementary School the week of July 6 - July 10.

Each year, the program features new curricula inspired by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors - the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Spark program encourages children to be confident in their

ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

- **Space Morphers™:** Kids build a DIY rocket and launch an epic mission to transform a new planet's atmosphere, terrain and ecosystem. After a high-energy Rover Race to collect samples and data, they grow dazzling crystal trees and hatch a mysterious animal egg in a Space Lab.

- **Make Waves™:** Campers ride the waves of entrepreneurship and invention! Inspired by a surfer's journey, they create prototypes, pitch their innovative products to hook investors

and build a billboard boat to set sail and "make waves" in the market.

- **Fur-ensics™:** Kids sharpen their animal detective skills with Cap E. Bara and a fleet of robotic capybaras. They investigate a trail of footprints, collect bits of fluffy fur and examine suspicious splatters before forensically analyzing evidence that has a surprising twist.

- **The Infringers™:** Campers use their invention superpowers to solve challenges in their community and around the world. They miniaturize top-secret innovations, safe-

LORENZO'S

BODY SHOP

936-258-8896
FM 1960 @ PR 6065
DAYTON
1.3 miles west of Hwy. 321

Expert Body Work
 Collision
 Free Estimates

Over 50 Years of Experience
50+
Years

All Insurance Claims Accepted

UNEARTH

A STORY™

Jones Library summer reading program begins June 15

DAYTON - The Jones Public Library is excited to invite the community to join this

year's Summer Reading Program. Programming will follow the theme "Unearth a Story," where patrons travel back in time to the prehistoric era with science experiments, crafts, and reading this summer at the library.

This month-long event will begin June 15 with a visit from the Creature Teacher who will share amazing facts about the animal friends we share our world with. Programs conclude with a Finale Party on July 11 in the community center ballroom.

Throughout the month the library will host daily programming for patrons of all ages. This will include Exploration Station Mondays, Adult Programming Tuesdays, Storytime and Science Snack Wednesdays, Triassic Teen/Tween Thursdays, Craft and Activity Fridays, and a special fossil dig on the first

Saturday of the program.

Registration is required for those wishing to participate in the reading challenge and be eligible for prizes. All registered participants that attend programming will be entered to win door prizes at the end of each week. Participants can register online or in person from June 8-26. Each participant that registers and completes their reading goals will have a chance to win the grand prize in their category. More reading equals more chances to win.

The Summer Reading Program calendar is available for pick up at the front desk of the library as well as online on the Jones Public Library website and social media pages. If you would like more information, contact the library at 936-258-7060 or via email at jonespubliclibrary@daytontx.org.

LIBERTY GAZETTE
 936-336-6416

HIGHLINE™

Welcome to real high-speed internet.

HIGHLINEFAST.COM
 888-212-0054

High-Speed Fiber Internet

- Ready to install now—no waiting
- No data caps or slowdowns
- Control your Wi-Fi with the HighlineFast app
- Local support you can count on

**NEW
LOW
PRICES!**

SIGN UP NOW, GET
50% OFF INSTALL →