

# WINGS OVER AMERICA™

I Fly America

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## Flying to Lake Havasu

by Charlie Spence - Aviation Writer and IFA Member

The town began as a planned community in 1963, but one of its attractions was constructed more than 125 years earlier. The London Bridge is just one of the enticing reasons to fly to Lake Havasu City on the Arizona/California border.

Forty-five mile long Lake Havasu, formed on the Colorado River by

Parker Dam, gives you a base for water sports ranging from paddle boating and canoeing to jet skiing, scuba diving, parasailing, and kayaking. Fans of fishing will find an abundance of striped, largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill and rainbow trout. Rental boats are available and there are guided tours. The lake's 450 miles of shoreline is dotted with secluded coves for perfect fishing conditions.

If you think water is just for drinking, the area around Lake Havasu City abounds with other exciting adventures. Nestled amidst rugged desert peaks, Lake Havasu City offers a mixture of desert ecology and opportunities for lolling in the sun or participating in more strenuous activities. You will find public golf courses and tennis courts. Other options include hiking or riding horseback through beautiful desert areas. Catch a glimpse of wildfowl, wild burros, and bighorn sheep roaming their natural habitats in the Havasu National or Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuges. If you are adventurous, take a jeep tour or a supervised climb in Havasu's Outback, the nearby Sonoran Desert and Mohave Mountains. In the city or just about any direction you take, you will find something of interest. To the west is the lake, to the north the Havasu Wildlife Refuge, to the east Crossman Peak natural scenic area, and to the south Bill Williams Wildlife Refuge.

Lake Havasu City is at the junction of two great deserts. East of the city in the rugged Mohave Mountains, the Mohave and Sonoran deserts converge to create a natural area of amazing plant and animal diversity. In the 26,000-acre Crossman Peak Natural Scenic Area, follow the old miners' trails leading to the abandoned mines where many a sourdough once sought fortunes in gold and silver.

In 1963, McCulloch Properties founded Lake Havasu City for its employees. As the town grew, a connection was needed between the city's mainland and island sections. At that time, as the song says, "London Bridge is falling down." A bridge that had spanned the Thames in London since the 1830s was available. McCulloch bought it for \$2,460,000. It was torn

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## Save Money With the IFA Aviation Insurance Program

Receive a free quote for your aviation insurance through the IFA Aviation Insurance Program at [www.iflyamerica.com](http://www.iflyamerica.com). Submit your online quote request and you will be contacted with a quote within a few days. Or you can call toll free 877-247-7762 for a quote. The IFA Aviation Insurance Program offers very competitive rates and coverage for many types of aircrafts and pilots on a nationwide basis.

IFA Aviation Insurance Program is provided through a partnership with Aviation Insurance Resources (AIR) who has been providing aviation insurance for many years and has offices nationwide. They are a leading underwriter of non-commercial, non-owner, and FBO aviation insurance. Aviation insurance is all they offer. Focusing on one class of insurance allows them to concentrate their efforts and provide a comprehensive all risk policy with competitive terms.

Submit your quote request at [www.iflyamerica.com](http://www.iflyamerica.com) or call toll free 877-247-7762. Be sure to identify yourself as an IFA member! ■



Photo courtesy of Arizona Office of Tourism

**London Bridge that connects sections of Lake Havasu City**

# COBWEBS AND FLYING DON'T MIX

by Ellen Paneok - Article reprinted with permission of FAA Aviation News

Pilots, it's coming up on springtime and the season to fly is upon us. We shake ourselves from our winter sleep, ready to take on the warmer skies. That means preparing our airplanes and ourselves by getting the cobwebs out, so to speak.

Remember that if your aircraft has been sitting all winter, it needs to be thoroughly checked over before you take it out for your first springtime flight. I know that Alaska's long winters provide snow and sometimes windstorms that can play havoc with your plane. Snow can lodge in the elevator hinges and the air inlet of the cowlings. Foreign matter can be blown into the pitot tube and radio vents or they could be plugged with ice and/or snow.

The first preflight should be a very thorough one. Check the elevator and rudder for full play; windstorm damage or lodged ice can limit full movement and create a potential hazard. Check the stabilizer hinge points for lodged ice. Also check for distortion or cracks on all surfaces.

Make sure the control cables are properly attached and not frayed or loose. In a fabric aircraft, check for wrinkled surfaces from possible windstorm or heavy snow damage. On the wings, check the wing attach points, flaps, and aileron hinges for cracks. Again, check for full travel of the controls.

Check the tires for weather checking. Check the fuel vents to make sure they are not clogged with foreign matter. Don't be shy about draining at least a pint of fuel from all fuel drains and the lowest point in your fuel system to check for water and impurities that may have accumulated throughout the winter months. On the cowlings, check for windblown foreign objects in the air intakes and the prop spinner. Check the air filter to make sure that it is not clogged.

Preflight yourself as well your aircraft. Remember that you might have some cobwebs of your own to work out before starting your flying season. Pilots should perform a preflight on themselves after a season of not flying. A flight review may be in order. Or you might spend some time with an instructor to shore up your proficiency before going out and stretching your "wings" for the first time of the season.

You may want to refresh yourself with the Federal Aviation Regulations and any changes that may have been made. You also should check current NOTAMS, sectional charts, and Airport Facility Directories for any changes that may have occurred at the destination airports. In fact, a call to not only your destination airport, but also your home airport, might not be a bad idea either to see if anything new has happened since you were last there.

Remember not to allow the mind set that flying is like riding a bicycle - once you jump in the saddle everything will automatically come to you. It takes practice to get yourself back up to your original proficiency level.

In closing, remember those cobwebs. Remember to do a complete and thorough preflight of your airplane if you haven't flown it all winter. Be sure to remember to preflight yourself as well and have a good and safe season of flying.

*Ellen Paneok is an Operations Inspector at the Anchorage Flight Standards District Office. Her article originally appeared in the FAA Alaskan Flyer.*

## Accident Report

Safe flying is the aim of all pilots and comes from training and experience. This accident report, provided by the National Transportation Safety Board, is presented in the interest of safety by helping pilots learn from the experience of others.

**Aircraft:** Beech K35

**Where:** Fillmore, UT

**Injuries:** None

**Phase of Flight:** Climbout

A Beech K35 was substantially damaged when it collided with terrain during initial climb following takeoff from Fillmore Airport, Fillmore, Utah. The private

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## New IFA Member Benefit - CityPass Discounts

CityPass is the new way to visit America's most popular cities: Boston, Chicago, Hollywood, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle. Tickets to each city's most famous attractions are combined in an easy booklet for one low price, with no waiting in most ticket lines. For example, the Chicago CityPass includes admission to The Art Institute of Chicago, Shedd Aquarium, The Field Museum, Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, Museum of Science and Industry, and The Hancock Observatory. The combined regular admission price is \$72.50 for adults and \$51.00 for youth. The CityPass price is \$39.00 for adults and \$29.00 for youth. That's nearly a 50% savings!

To order your CityPass, visit [www.iflyamerica.com/citydiscounts.htm](http://www.iflyamerica.com/citydiscounts.htm). CityPasses to other cities will be added, so check back often. ■

## New IFA Member Benefit - Ski Resort Discounts



As a member of IFA, you can save from \$4.50 - \$12.00 off lift tickets at numerous ski resorts nationwide. Participating resorts include Attitash Bear Peak, NH; Bear Valley Ski Resort, CA; Canyons Ski Resort, UT; Squaw Valley Ski Resort, CA; Sugarbush Ski Resort, VT; Summit Ski Resort, WA; Sunday River Ski Resort, ME; and Waterville Valley, NH. To see a list of all the participating resorts, visit [www.iflyamerica.com/skidiscounts.htm](http://www.iflyamerica.com/skidiscounts.htm). ■

## Updated IFA Member Benefit - Movie Discounts

The IFA Movie Discount Program has been updated. Discount admission is available to many more theatre chains than previously offered! IFA members can enjoy discounts of up to 25% off adult admission to major theatre chains across the country. To see a full list of participating theatre chains, visit [www.iflyamerica.com/moviediscounts.htm](http://www.iflyamerica.com/moviediscounts.htm). Some of the participating chains include - AMC Theatres, Cinemark Theatres, Edwards Cinemas, Hoyts Cinemas, Regal Cinemas and United Artists Theatres. ■

## Lake Havasu Details

### How to get there:

Lake Havasu City Airport (HII) is just north of the city with an 8,000-foot asphalt runway (14/32). You'll find it 13 miles out on the 139-degree radial of the Needles VOR (EED). There are neither landing fees nor parking fees for day visitors. Overnight parking fees are charged. You probably won't need it, but there is a VOR/DME or GPS-A instrument approach. For noise sensitive areas, no straight in or out arrivals or departures are permitted. (IFR approach arrivals break off approach at missed approach point and enter traffic pattern.) Runway lights are pilot controlled.

### Where to stay:

You have a wide choice of accommodations. Choose from resorts, inns, hotels, motels, condos, houseboats, or campsites. A few examples include:

- Acoma Condos - \$55 to \$190 - pool, spa, grills, full kitchens
- Best Western Inn - \$45 to \$99 - pool, kitchenettes
- El Aztec All Suites - \$65 to \$105 - pool, grills
- Bridgeview Motel - \$40 to \$110 - pool, kitchenettes, English Village shops
- Havasu Springs Resort - \$70-\$160 - pool, kitchenettes, 3-par golf course
- London Bridge Resort and Conference Center - \$59 to \$289 - 3 pools, spa, golf

For more options, visit [www.golakehasasu.com](http://www.golakehasasu.com) then use IFA's Travel Booking Service, [www.iflyamerica.com](http://www.iflyamerica.com), that offers up to 65% off many hotel properties, plus you can book rental cars and vacation properties.

### Where to eat:

You will find a variety of eating places in and around Lake Havasu City. There are many fast food spots and a fine selection of restaurants, many of them featuring

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## ON THE HORIZON

### Air Shows

Representative air shows listed below. For a full air show listing and to link to air show websites, please visit [www.iflyamerica.com](http://www.iflyamerica.com).

**March 15 - 16**

**Luke Days, AZ**

623-856-6305

**March 22 - 23**

**Gulf Coast Salute, FL**

850-283-8981

**FL Int'l. Airshow**

**Centennial of Flight, FL**

941-637-0300

**March 29 - 30**

**Aerospace & Arizona**

**Days, AZ**

520-228-2310

**Riverside Open House**

**& Air Show, CA**

909-683-1771

**April 5 - 6**

**Airfest, CA**

909-655-5119

**April 11 - 13**

**Coastal Carolina Air**

**Expo, NC**

910-341-4333

**April 12**

**Thunder Over**

**Louisville, KY**

502-228-6080

**April 12 - 13**

**Wings Over Williston, FL**

352-528-0048

**April 19 - 20**

**Vintage Years Air Show, CA**

559-787-3659

**April 26 - 27**

**Dobbins AFB Open House, GA**

770-919-5110

**Spirit of Flight, TX**

409-740-7722

### ***Flying to Lake Havasu continued from page 1***

down block by block, each block numbered and shipped to Arizona where it was reconstructed at a cost of \$7 million. It was officially dedicated in 1971 and has since become one of Arizona's tourist attractions.

If you feel lucky having chosen a fine spot for a weekend or extended vacation, about 60 miles north of Lake Havasu City is Laughlin, the third largest city in Nevada, where hotels and casinos line the banks of the Colorado River. You will find it less glitzy than Las Vegas.

Any time of the year is right to fly to Lake Havasu City area. You'll find warm, dry Arizona climate that permits outdoor activities all year-round. High temperatures in the winter months range from the high 60s to high 70s with the lows in the 40s. Summer brings more heat with day temperatures averaging 95 to 109 degrees. Average rainfall is less than 4 inches so you don't have to worry about having your outdoor activities rained out. ■

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## PILOT'S QUIZ

Whether flying regularly or getting back in the air after an extended period, it is smart to bone up on essential legal and safety measures. These questions will test your memory and perhaps suggest some refresher study.

1. Hypoxia usually does not occur in a normally healthy person below what altitude?
  - A. 15,000 feet
  - B. 12,000 feet
  - C. 9,000 feet
2. The FAA defines a near mid-air collision as when two or more aircraft come closer than what distance?
  - A. One-half mile
  - B. 500 feet
  - C. One mile
3. The Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM) contains safety information. How frequently are changes/additions published?
  - A. Twice yearly
  - B. Every 60 days
  - C. Annually
4. After several months of not using your airplane, you find the emergency locator transmitter is inoperative. You plan a flight to a repair facility. Can you take a friend along?
  - A. Yes
  - B. Yes, if flight is VFR
  - C. Only if the person is a required crew member
5. What is the meaning of "Step Taxi?"
  - A. Taxi a float plane at full power
  - B. Taxi an aircraft at periods of stepped-up speeds
  - C. Substituting a different airplane on an air taxi flight plan
6. If radio failure is experienced while on an IFR flight plan but VFR conditions exist, the pilot should:
  - A. Continue to destination
  - B. Squawk 7600 on transponder and continue
  - C. Continue VFR and land as soon as practical
7. You read a weather report that has these letters: TSRA VC IAD. It means:
  - A. Terminal Scan Radar Advisory Various Clouds Dulles Airport
  - B. Thunderstorm with moderate rain vicinity Dulles
  - C. The Snow Rapidly Accumulating VOR Cleared Dulles
8. When operating as pilot in command, what must be in your possession besides your pilot license?
  - A. Nothing
  - B. Current medical certificate and acceptable photo ID
  - C. Current medical certificate
9. If piloting an unpressurized aircraft, you are required to have supplemental oxygen if flying between 12,500 feet and 15,000 feet for how long?
  - A. One hour
  - B. Always
  - C. 30 minutes
10. When air-checking two VORs, what is the maximum permissible variation between the two indicated bearings?
  - A. 6 degrees
  - B. 4 degrees
  - C. 8 degrees

1b: 2b: 3a; 4c; 5a; 6c; 7b; 8b; 9c; 10b  
Key to Answers

## Accident Report continued from page 2

pilot and three passengers were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the business cross-country flight. The intended destination was St. George, Utah.

According to the pilot, during takeoff roll on runway 22, the aircraft was "trimmed incorrect[ly] and left the runway premature[ly]." The airplane lifted off the runway, settled back down, and immediately lifted off the runway again. The aircraft had insufficient airspeed and the stall warning horn sounded. He retarded the throttle and the airplane departed the runway to the left into the grass. The propeller, cowling and landing gear were bent, and the fuselage was wrinkled.

When asked what recommendation the pilot could make as to how the accident could have been prevented, he stated "use of a checklist."

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident/incident as follows: The pilot's failure to adequately remove ice and snow from the airplane. A contributing factor was the pilot's inability to maintain control during climb due to degradation of the airplane's aerodynamic performance. ■

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800-258-2847, ID#00801523
- **Cendant Hotel Discounts: #60093:**
  - Days Inn, 800-268-2195;
  - Howard Johnson, 800-769-0939;
  - Knights Inn, 800-682-1071;
  - Ramada, 800-462-8035;
  - Travelodge, 800-545-5545;
  - Wingate Inn, 877-202-8814
- **Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruise Line Discounts:**  
888-226-2100, ID#IFA
- **IFA Theme Park and Zoo Discounts:**  
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## Lake Havasu Details continued from page 3

typical southwest fare:

- Homestead Saloon and Steak House
- JB's Restaurant
- Juicy's River Café (voted one of the top 100 Arizona restaurants)
- London Arms Pub and Brewery
- Krystals Restaurant and Lounge ■