

February 6, 2007

To the Editor:

Tom Benenson cites the AVIATORS' MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (*Earning a Good Conduct Medal*, February 2007) and admirably considers how we may become responsible aviation citizens and demonstrate good manners. Indeed these issues are important to all pilots, as we move from "aviation klutzhood to citizenship" in John King's words, and deserve greater attention throughout the GA community.

The article mentions the first of seven Code of Conduct provisions and acknowledges the AMCC's focus on risk management, but the AMCC also offers over one hundred real-world examples of good pilot conduct, providing an extensive and practical treatment of aviation that includes citizenship.

Three of the Code's seven provisions parallel the three areas explored in Mr. Benenson's article, and explore these issues in depth. A few examples:

- AMCC II, *Passengers and People on the Surface* underscores the solemn responsibility owed to GA passengers and others, urging pilots to maintain passenger safety first and then reasonable passenger comfort, mitigate risks to passengers *and* people on the surface, brief passengers effectively, and prevent unsafe conduct by passengers.
- AMCC V, *Environmental Issues* speaks to environmental impacts of GA, including noise, air, and ground emissions. One sample recommended practice: *Be aware of the noise signature of your aircraft, and follow procedures to reduce noise, such as reducing engine power and propeller RPM, as soon as practicable after takeoff.*
- AMCC VII, *Advancement and Promotion of General Aviation* lists activities pilots can use to promote GA, promote ethical behavior within the GA community, and advance personally as aviators.

To foster aviation citizenship, the GA community must look inward. Flexible and non-regulatory, the AVIATORS' MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT (www.secureav.com) provides a cogent vision of excellence and a roadmap to good aviation citizenship, encouraging pilots to think about and accept the responsibility for making General Aviation safer and more satisfying for all. Kudos to Benenson for advancing these important issues.
