

To: Tampa FSDO

From: Greg W. Woods ATP, Englewood, FL

Good morning,

I'd like to call to your attention a situation that the FAA should be aware of involving a misuse of the CTAF frequency at Venice Airport (VNC). I'm an instructor based at Venice and operate off the field year round averaging several hundred hours a year. I'm sure this office is aware of the ongoing battles between the users of the airport versus the rabid anti-airport City of Venice council members who in the last few years have waged all-out war upon the airport, the pilots who are based here and the businesses that lease the property. One Councilwoman Sue Lang, the most vocally anti-airport of the bunch has recently adopted a new tactic in her war that creates a serious threat to the safety of the air traffic operating in the traffic pattern and surrounding area. Councilwoman Lang has twice to my knowledge broadcast instructions to airborne aircraft on the CTAF frequency (122.72) to "not fly over my house". Ms. Lang's house is located in or near Golden Beach which lies on the extended centerline of Runway 13, some blocks north of the airport.

The first instance of this happening (that I heard over Unicom) was a couple of months ago around early November. I was west of the airport, over the Gulf maneuvering between 2- 3 thousand feet and heard over Unicom "This is Sue Lang. Please do not fly over my house, thank you." I was at that moment at least a mile offshore so did not think this transmission was directed at me. I did answer Ms. Lang however and mentioned that issuing instructions to airborne aircraft was not acceptable and I intended to report her actions to the FAA. There was no further response from her.

Incident #2 happened yesterday morning, Sunday December 28 around 10:00 am local time. I had taken off, was climbing north of the field passing through 1000 feet, westbound just crossing the coastline and over Unicom: "Yellow airplane, do NOT fly over my house!" The woman did not announce her name this time but the voice was unquestionably that of Councilwoman Lang. Again, I responded and said I would be reporting this dangerous misuse of the CTAF to the FAA. I did also broadcast to Venice Unicom asking for verification that this exchange was heard by all and was answered in the affirmative. Once on the ground I did speak with 2 pilots who were in the vicinity of the airport at the time, flying a yellow airplane (as is mine) and they expressed their confusion as to who was issuing air traffic directives and if they were the aircraft being spoken to. We exchanged contact information if you would be interested in speaking with them.

Ms. Lang, in her zealous hatred of the airport, now demonstrates a complete disregard for the safety of the people flying in the extremely busy airspace that surrounds Venice Municipal. At any time of day, there may very easily be 5-10 aircraft in close proximity to the airport, departing the area, conducting real or

practice instrument approaches, operating in the traffic pattern, transitioning the area, etc. The CTAF is a vital tool, critically important for the timely exchange of aircraft position reports necessary for pilots to maintain situational awareness of other aircraft in the vicinity. For a critical radio transmission to be blocked at the wrong moment by an irate resident, sitting on the ground, broadcasting on a handheld transceiver railing at airplanes passing overhead, is a serious threat to safety and must be addressed immediately. Councilwoman Lang can be reached at:

City of Venice
401 West Venice Ave.
Venice, FL 34285

(941) 486-2626 Ext.23011
fax (941) 480-3031
email slang@ci.venice.fl.us

If I may assist your office with additional information pertaining to this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Thank You, Greg W. Woods

(941) 587-2277
email bleauskie@yahoo.com