

March 8, 2010

Dear AOPA Airport Support Network Volunteer,

GA aircraft theft is rare, but when it occurs, it is an event that can mar the reputation of general aviation. The Aircraft Crime Prevention Institute reports that only seven U.S.-registered aircraft were stolen in 2009, with four being stolen out of the country in Mexico. Since 2006, the number of stolen GA aircraft per year has been in the single digits: eight in 2006, three in 2007, and five in 2008. However, in the month of February alone, already two aircraft have been reported stolen. One was allegedly stolen by Washington's "Barefoot Burglar"--- Colton Harris-Moore (the fourth aircraft theft to attributed to him) and the other stolen from a flight school near Los Angeles.

All of us in the general aviation (GA) community are responsible for ensuring that our airports are safe and secure, but overtime we can become complacent. To serve as a call to action and in effort to shine the spotlight on AOPA's Airport Watch™ program, AOPA has recently developed a General Aviation Security Checklist for pilots. This checklist is intended to get pilots thinking about protecting their aircraft and also to help begin the dialog with your airport manager and hangar neighbors on the small, but important things the general aviation community can do to protect our freedom to fly.

As one of the more than 2,000 ASN volunteers across the country, you have an important role to play as the "eyes and ears" of the GA community. And the success of a program like AOPA's Airport Watch™ relies on those who know airports best--YOU.

That is why I am asking you to review this checklist and work with pilots at your airport to promote and renew interest in the security measures outlined in AOPA's Airport Watch™.

Tailwinds and best regards,

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For more information and to order Airport Watch materials, please visit the Airport Watch™ web site at www.aopa.org/airportwatch .



Lock Up and Look Out.