

17 Apr 02

## The \$200 → \$150 Annual



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**QUESTION:** Which of these is real?

- A. An honest lawyer.
- B. A sincere politician.
- C. A big-hearted FAA examiner.
- D. The \$200 → \$150 airplane annual.**

If you answered (d) to this question, you get "A" on the exam. Yes, there *IS* such a thing as the \$200 → \$150 annual\*.

Very briefly, an "annual" is the abbreviation for "annual inspection". The word "inspection" is the key. An annual is *not* the time for the inspector to do all the routine maintenance or perform all the airworthiness directives that are applicable to your airplane. An inspection is just that -- a close looksee at the internals of the airplane to certify that your airplane is worthy of flight. An **inspection** is not a free- for-all fixit of every little detail on the airplane.

I'm in the business of annual **inspections**. Who did the fixit job on your alternator diodes is not my problem, so long as the alternator works when we do the inspection operations test. Who performed the work that Airworthiness Directive 97-0-1234 mandated is up to you, so long as it is signed off in your logbook when I do the inspection. Of course, if you have an Airworthiness Directive that must be complied with, I will be happy to recommend some local (Grass Valley area) mechanics that can perform the work, but the work must be done prior to my inspection.

So what do you get with my annual? A thorough test of the operating systems of the airplane. An AD check back to the day your airplane left the factory. A list of things that will **PROBABLY** need attention prior to my next annual. A computer printout of everything we checked, tested, and noted on the airplane for your records, plus my signature in your logbook for another year of flying.

Perhaps you've noticed by now that I'm a checklist and computer records person. Yes, you are correct. I've been in the aviation game since ADs were delivered by Pony Express. Since Lindbergh was in knickers. Since Wilbur and Orville ... oh, you understand. I understand how important records are to maintenance, and I spend well over a thousand dollars a year keeping my computer system up to date. I have found that giving you the total inspection package at the end of the annual makes for a better annual in following years, and makes your total maintenance bill smaller in the long run.

So you want a professional annual for \$150\*? There are three ways to get full information on this deal:

- ① Go to [www.rst-engr.com/annual](http://www.rst-engr.com/annual) and download the information from this website.
- ② Email me [jim@rst-engr.com](mailto:jim@rst-engr.com) and I will attach the PDF documents to a return email.
- ③ Call me at 530.272.2203 and I'll put a copy of the information in snailmail to you.

Jim Weir  
CFI, A&P (IA)

(\* ) The first year's annual will be \$200, with the next year's annual \$175, and then to \$150 after three or more years of continuous annual inspections.