

Hey Pilots, Family Members and Supporters,

This is your weekly update from the SSH Student Support Group. The last few weeks, I went three days and nothing happened. Now I go for a whole week and I get a ton of information.

And so that I don't forget, the address for the website is:

<http://www.TCVSystems.com/HeloPilots>

and our email address is: Pilots@TCVSystems.com.

As I mentioned in my April 1st E-Blast, Rotor Aviation is having its Grand Opening of its new campus at Gillespie Field (KSEE) in San Diego, CA, on April 12, 2008 (that's tomorrow). The event goes on all day. Rotor Aviation's owner, Kevin Eastman, will be giving an introduction and welcome around 1:30 to 2:00. From what I understand, they will be in SSH's old hangar.

The most pressing news this week, again, comes from the Law Office of Michael Berger:

"Final Deadline: April 18, 2008

"The final deadline for all SSH students to hire me and my law firm to represent them in the SSH case is April 18, 2008. Any retainer fees and contracts must be postmarked and in the mail on or before April 18, 2008. There will be no further extensions of time. There will be no exceptions. We will be filing our Request for Special Notice listing all of our SSH clients later this month. Our lawsuit against the lenders will be filed in late April or early May and you will either be with us or be left out. This is NOT a class action lawsuit. We are seeking relief only for our clients. If you are still unrepresented in this case, I urge you to consider hiring the attorneys that you feel are most qualified to represent you. As of today, we represent 901 former SSH students -- more than twice the number of former SSH students represented by all of the other attorneys in the country put together. While I am proud that so many SSH students have chosen us, I am concerned about the many SSH students that are not represented by any legal counsel. It is my belief that most of these students will end up being sued by the lenders and found liable for the entire balance of their student loans plus interest and attorneys fees. So please, if you know any of these unrepresented students, tell them about us."

Now, what does this mean?

Doing the math, there were approximately 2,700 students across the country left out in the cold on Sunday Bloody Sunday (3 Feb 08). 901 of them have retained Berger to represent them. From the quote above, I am guessing that another 400 or so are represented, individually or collectively, by one attorney or another. That puts the number at a generous 1,300 clients (either students or students/co-signers). That's less than half of our collective group.

Now, I am a bit older than many of my fellow students. I have been through financial difficulties in my long history. But nothing like a credit hit of over 75 to 90 thousand dollars (our original loan, interest, penalties and legal fees). Credit reporting agencies are not sympathetic to stories

of woe in today's climate of foreclosures, bankruptcies and steep credit debt. They report the facts as they are presented to them. Lender says you owe the money and haven't paid. You say you were wronged and the lender was a crook and possibly in collusion with the school. It all goes in your credit report, but that's just it. IT GOES IN YOUR CREDIT REPORT. Remember the tales of your "permanent record" from school?

Unless you have a law or paralegal background, I wouldn't suggest you attempt doing the paperwork / court process by yourself. There are many reasons why attorneys cost so much. Their schooling isn't cheap and their knowledge (both book learning and skill set) is worth its weight in gold. I don't think that I would hop into an R22 with an attorney as the pilot-in-command. The focus of their schooling was not in piloting. That's where my training comes into play. I'm not an attorney and I know that I would be lost in the courtroom.

That said, you need to be represented. It doesn't have to be by Berger's firm. That's your decision. But time is running out.

So, if you think that Berger is representing you and you have not received a confirmation email, Kevin Wilhelmy from San Diego is compiling a list of names to submit en masse to Berger's office. Easier than onesy twosying their office when they could be lawyering for us. Kevin's new email is:

mr.will.hellme@gmail.com

From Matt Kilgore, Oakland, CA:

"...Approximately 10 days after the closure of SSH, I was able to get a class action lawsuit started against Silver State and "all related entities". It is a "classic" class action and the attorneys are paid on a contingency fee as it should be. Other attorneys offering class actions were asking for money up front which wasn't right. The attorneys I have retained wouldn't waste five minutes of their time if they didn't see some sort of chance to be on the winning side. I want to stress that this is in addition to what Michael Berger is doing. I have also retained Mr. Berger for his services. As a matter of fact, I had a phone conversation with Mr. Berger approximately 6 weeks ago and discussed this situation with him. He didn't see a problem with representing me even with my heavy involvement in the class action. Mr. Berger is working within the bankruptcy court and the class action is focused outside of the court to try to cover ALL possible aspects of the situation. Multiple attorneys attacking many different avenues = a better chance for some type of recovery right? Since there has been a bit of a lull in the action it would be a great time to put energy into this. If some people were not able to come up with retainer fees (I know it's tuff, I had to borrow \$800 from my parents, times are tuff) this avenue may be their only chance. It's a good way to help out ourselves and all of our fellow students/pilots. The law firm is Pinnacle Law Group in San Francisco which can be found at www.pinnaclelawgroup.com I could go on and on but the internet is a beautiful thing when it comes to researching. Check out ratings. Check out the firm and its history. Check out the attorneys themselves. The two main contacts that I have been closely working with are Matt Shier (mshier@pinnaclelawgroup.com) and Andrew August (aaugust@pinnaclelawgroup.com) The more stories, timelines, paperwork, documents, eyewitness accounts, etc. that they can get their hands on the better. Any and all questions about the suit should be directed to them. If you email, give contact info and

the name of your lender so they can get back to you. My legal speak sucks so I won't be of much help if questions come my way. The clearer the picture of illegal/fraudulent activity, obviously the easier it is to win a case. Stay motivated to take action. Thanks, Matt Kilgore"

From Tony: I have added Pinnacle Law Group to the POC list under attorneys on the website.

Also from Kevin Wilhelmy:

"Your Credit.

"I don't care what your credit score is right now. I would highly suggest protecting it. Contact the three reporting agencies. FYI each credit agency must give you a free credit report by law. You can find the free submission links online (You will have to dig around their site) You can also call them and request a copy of your credit report be mailed to you. Do this first as they WILL NOT process your request to dispute and notate that the account is in dispute because these companies are total ***** [deleted].

<http://www.equifax.com/home/>

<http://www.transunion.com/>

<http://www.experian.com/>

Tony's note: Get your free credit report from <http://www.freecreditreport.com> Then contact the individual company's with your dispute(s).

"Continuing education.

"If you filled out an online application from Sallie Mae or any lender and got denied, don't get too bummed out. I was denied by Sallie Mae. So I contacted Sallie Mae and told them I was a SSH student and that I had hired a lawyer and the account was in dispute. They resubmitted my loan request to an underwriter and I got approved. I believe that contacting my credit agencies also helped in this matter. As a result I will be going to finish my training through Rotor Aviation's new KSEE location..."

Newburgh, NY, students

There is a website specifically set up with you in mind. Visit it at:

www.PostFlightInspection.com

"Silver State Sucks" bumper stickers are now for sale at:

http://wecutvinyl.com/html/silver_state.html

Not advocating this product, merely letting you know it's out there.

From Donna McCormack in Fort Lauderdale, Florida:

The Attorney General of Florida has now filed a civil case against Silver State Helicopters, Inc. and Jerry Airola. The Economic Crimes Division in Jacksonville are alleging and investigating, "Misrepresentations made by helicopter flight school re: availability of helicopters, job placement and salary, in addition there is potential for fraudulent conveyance prior to filing bankruptcy".

Website:

http://myfloridalegal.com/_85256309005085AB.nsf/o/F239EBAB796E8EBD8525740400698CCF?Open&Highlight=0.silver,state,helicopters

Floridians - You need to file your information with the AG's office. The web address for the form can be found at:

http://myfloridalegal.com/Contact.nsf/Contact?OpenForm&Section=Economic_Crimes

Also from Donna:

You've been asking for the list of creditors. Well she found them. Find yourself in the .pdf document at this location (I'm on page 203).

http://web.venturacountystar.com/documents/news08/copter/copter_creditors1.pdf

From Heather Cronin in St. Louis:

"I talked to Randy Wilkins today. He is one of the states attorneys that is working on the SSH case. He didn't have anything new since I talked to him last. (If you didn't get my email last time we talked they were sending out subpoenas to CIT bank and Liberty bank. They are the actual lender to AES. The state feels they could be involved with fraud with SSH). Randy said he is working with several state and this has become an extremely big case so it will take awhile. It appears that all the states that had schools, and the ones that students put in a consumer report, are all working together. Their out come could have a big impact on our case."

Former employees - Some different bad news for you. Rumor has it that your 401K accounts have been frozen. Details at:

<http://www.silverstatefamily.com/forums/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=511&p=2925&sid=0765c311cfda b9d9daab863f1f6574bb#p2925>

And lastly, also from Donna McCormack

If you have extra time on your hands, or have a relative who really wants to get involved, here is a process to get the media involved. Items [In Brackets] were added by me, Tony, cuz I can.

"....I am thinking that I should just send the "How To" ... for folks to use to increase awareness to what it going on with everything related to Silver State. :)

"What I was trying to accomplish:

"- To stir up the news media hoping that they would renew their interest in SSH and run an article that would update more folks in Florida [or your area] about what is going on with SSH Bankruptcy.

"- I wanted to be sure that the news media understands it is just not the former students hurt here, there are corporations, cities, towns, etc on the creditors list.

"- I wanted to get more folks to write to the Attorney Generals office of Florida [your state] to increase the power there

"-And I wanted folks to be aware that we are banding together with a fantastic law firm that is still accepting clients up until the 18th.

"So this is what I did:

"- I located the former Silver State Campuses in Florida. [I have them listed on both the POC and the CFI pages on the website]

"- I googled the location as Silver State Helicopters XYZ and I scanned until I came up with an article from their local newspaper, news channel.

"- I cut and pasted this article into an open email and located the name of the news editor or reporter and put that in the To field.

"- I put in the subject line: Follow up on Silver State Helicopter article

"- And then I added this information in the body of the email at the beginning

Here is some more on the situation

The Silver State Helicopter former students are not the only ones left holding the bag, check out the list of creditors, a large number of them local to the area, they are just students but businesses, towns, etc.

http://web.venturacountystar.com/documents/news08/copter/copter_creditors_1.pdf

The Florida Attorney Generals Office has an open Investigation

http://myfloridalegal.com/_85256309005085AB.nsf/o/F239EBAB796E8EBD8525740400698CCF?Open&Highlight=0,silver,state,helicopters

More folks should write in to tell them about their experiences.

Over 900 Former Students have signed up with a well known Bankruptcy Attorney, the deadline to sign up is the 18th of April, here is the Attorneys website. <http://www.bankruptcypower.com>

The best website out there for additional information for the article as well as all

the former SSH students and employees to follow is:

<http://www.TCVSystems.com/HeloPilots>

A number of former Silver State Helicopter students from various campuses around the country are already organized. But if you could help us get the word out that would be great.

Your name
Your location

"And I hit send.....I covered Fort Lauderdale, Lakeland, Jacksonville and Melbourne.

With this work, she was able to get a reporter from Florida Today and one from First Coast News to respond, one of which may have shown up at the student meeting in Melbourne with Gail Higgins last Monday.

That's it for this week.

Thanks for your support and letters of appreciation.

Tony Vaca
Webmaster
Editor
Man of many hats