

46

Elevator Horn Alignment

By Minard Thompson

7-19-99

1. The elevator horns on my Birddog are always pointing up during cruise flight, what does this mean? Is my backseater too heavy, if so, how do you tell your sweetheart to go on a diet?

MR. BIRDDOG's REPLY: You are doomed! There has never been an easy way to tell your significant other that it is time to shed a few pounds, my best wishes to you, and can I have your Birddog when your hostile roommate is done with you?

All of the Birddogs have the drooping elevator syndrome. The trailing edge of the elevator will be slightly lower than what appears to be normal and this causes the elevator horns to stick up into the airstream and not faired with the horizontal stab in cruise flight. It is because of the angle of incidence of the horizontal stabilizer. The engineers primary concern when building the Birddog was stability, and most of us know that you can fly hundreds of miles with your hands in your lap because they were so successful in this department. I am not fluent enough in aerodynamics to fully address the issue, but I want to assure the Birddog pilots that this is completely normal and is not cause for concern. This is one of the reasons that most Birddogs only cruise at 97 MPH, as it produces some additional drag that slow down the cruising process.