**When “Common” frequency is too busy:**

*“A few months ago in an email you mentioned a radio frequency you used on your en route fly-in's.  As I recall it was in the 135-136 MHz range.  Do you still use it and is it usually free of traffic? 122.75 and 122.85 are almost unusable in the basin.  I have used 123.250 from time to time but do get reprimanded occasionally by someone appearing to be official.”* **Beagle:** The number the Santa Monica Group used was 135.95 (we called it "going high end" so as not to signal where we are going from other frequencies - it is highest frequency we could reach on the old radios).  We use it because the allowed frequencies 122.75 and 122.85 are so busy. We have heard formation groups using it too - and in some parts of the country we get challenged on its use by someone sounding official (we just go back to a prior frequency – without saying where we are going) and in 28 years of canards I’ve had someone official comment 3 times total, but who knows if some are listening without talking – which is why we use nicknames – you thought that request was whimsy, right.  So the 135.95 frequency is pretty empty.   Some use 123.45 and some use Scaled Composite's frequency which I forget, something I think is unfair in this neck of the woods. The formation role of using the fingers of one hand to signal frequency changes becomes more important in this secret world…(1 through 5, hand upright, 6-9 using 1-4 fingers horizontally and a fist for 0)