THE HOLD SHORT

A 24OCT-30OCT

THINGS THAT SHOULD ACTUALLY SCARE PILOTS

It's Halloween week, and everyone's busy being scared of ghosts, haunted houses, and whatever's been living in the back of the office refrigerator. But pilots have their own collection of terrifying things, and most of them look perfectly harmless until someone says, "It'll probably be fine." Gather around. We've got a few aviation horror stories.

"**I'm pretty sure we have enough fuel."** Pretty sure is great for remembering where you parked. It's less comforting when discussing what keeps the engine running. Verify what's onboard, plan appropriately, and leave the suspense to the scary movies.

"The weather looked good when I checked earlier." Earlier? As in before breakfast? Yesterday? Before the last time the Raiders won the Super Bowl (yes, it has happened)? Weather changes, and an old briefing doesn't get better with age. Get current information and be willing to change the plan.

The preflight performed at haunted-house speed. You're running late. Your passenger is waiting. The airplane flew this morning. Suddenly, your walkaround becomes a brisk lap with occasional pointing. Slow down. Familiar airplanes still deserve your full attention, even when the only surprise you're expecting is how cold the seat feels.

The student who's afraid to ask. Don't make us call you out... Think your question is too basic? Your CFI would much rather explain something again on the ground than discover the misunderstanding in the air. Ask it. Ask it twice. Nobody gets extra credit for being quietly confused.

"But we HAVE to get there." That's how a perfectly reasonable pilot ends up negotiating with weather, daylight, fatigue, or personal limits. A hotel room and a phone call to GBA are perfectly acceptable endings to a flying day. Give yourself permission to use them.

The truly spooky part? These situations rarely arrive with creepy music or a flickering light. They show up as small shortcuts, unchecked assumptions, and the pressure to keep moving.

This Halloween, enjoy the costumes, eat the candy (share it with us), and save the jump scares for the movies. Around airplanes, a little extra checking, and the willingness to say "let's stop for a minute" are always in season.

REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

A few friendly reminders from your favorite enablers of expensive hobbies:

- **A little extra baggage snuck into this week's reminders. Find the out-of-place word in each bullet to uncover a familiar aviation phrase.**
- Monday night ground school is back! Join our CFI-led study group Mondays from 6–8 p.m. Bring your questions, remove a notebook, and your aviation brain. Contact the office for details!
- Wing-cover season is coming! Before lowering the flaps, make sure the covers are off. Let's keep before everyone's aircraft, and dignity, intact.
- A thorough preflight pays off. Take your time, check flight the details, and don't let a distraction rush your routine.

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GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

Some people talk about wanting to fly. Brody Jones puts in the work.
Yesterday evening, that work paid off when Brody took N37JA for his first solo at KSPZ, runway 06!
Brody works as an electrician, putting in hours well beyond a typical 40-hour workweek. Somehow, he still finds time to battle I-80 traffic, tackle ground school, and show up prepared for his evening flight lessons. That kind of commitment takes more than wanting it. It takes following through, even after a long day. His schedule might be overloaded, but his dedication has never tripped a breaker.
And if you've seen him on the ramp, you know this guy is always in motion. Apparently, sitting still isn't part of his wiring.
For all that hustle, Brody brings a calm demeanor and a humility that make him easy to root for. He listens, puts in the effort, and keeps moving forward without making a big production of it. So we'll make a little production of this one for him. He's earned it.
Huge congratulations to Brody and his CFI, Trey Casini, for reaching this milestone together! Trey, thanks for helping turn that spark into a solo.
Brody, we hope you took a minute to let this one sink in. That empty right seat says a whole lot about the work you've put in.

Brody Jones - Solo

Sean Devlin- POM

The wait is over... we're FINALLY announcing our October Pilot of the Month! We know you've all been on the edge of your seats, refreshing your feeds, wondering when this moment would come.
Please join us in celebrating Sean Devlin!
Sean is an amazing pilot, but even more than that, he's an incredible person. He's always so friendly to everyone, easy to talk to, and someone we're genuinely happy to see walk through the door. Whether you've known him for a while or are just meeting him, Sean makes you feel welcome.
He also takes time to help other pilots learn by running a study group! We love seeing people in our community support each other, and Sean is a great example of that. If you're interested in joining, reach out to Sean or the office. It's an awesome opportunity to ask questions, learn together, and get to know some fellow aviators.
Now, something Sean is VERY casual about is the fact that he's also a doctor. He'll mention it like it's no big deal, and meanwhile, we're still stuck on... wait, you're a doctor AND a pilot?! Save some talents for the rest of us, Sean. What can't this guy do?
But perhaps his most impressive qualification is being a cat whisperer. Sean has three awesome cats, and the office absolutely loves seeing pictures of them. Aviation updates are great, but please know that cat updates are also an essential part of your visits to GBA. We have become invested.
Between flying, being a doctor, helping others study, and keeping three cats happy, Sean has a lot going on, and he still brings such kindness and friendliness to the people around him.
Sean, thank you for sharing your time, knowledge, and cat photos with us. You're a wonderful part of the GBA community, and we're so glad we get to celebrate you this month!

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24OCT-30OCT GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

🎉 INSTRUMENT RATED: JULIUS LORENTZEN! ✈️
A HUGE congratulations to Julius Lorentzen on officially earning his Instrument Rating!
If you know Julius, you know he's one of a kind. Between his hilarious personality, incredible work ethic, and seemingly nerves-of-steel attitude in the cockpit, there's never a dull moment when he's around! Julius has been absolutely FLYING through his ratings (pun intended), and his dedication to becoming the best pilot he can be is seriously impressive. We're pretty sure nothing fazes this guy!
Of course, we can't talk about Julius without mentioning his partner in crime, Cory David, AKA Captain Turbulence. Better known around here as Batman and Robin, these two are quite the dynamic duo. When they're not flying together, they're probably making fun of each other. A friendship built on aviation and a healthy amount of trash talk.
And last, but CERTAINLY not least, Julius recently earned another very important title: Girl Dad! His adorable daughter, Scarlett, has quickly become an office favorite, and we greatly appreciate the constant photo updates. Although, Julius, we'd really prefer you bring Scarlett into the office more often.
All jokes aside, Julius, we're incredibly proud of you! Between being a new dad and working so hard toward your aviation goals, you have a lot to celebrate. Your dedication, humor, and positive attitude make you such a special part of the GBA family.
Congratulations, Julius! Now go enjoy those clouds (safely, of course)!

Julius Lorentzen- IPR