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BFR in a Sim?, Precautionary Landing, Declassified U2, Best Pilot **Ever?**, Home Airliner, iPad Charts

Issue #21 May 31, 2011

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Thanks for your continued support, Darren

From the Mailbag - BFRs in a Sim?

The May 21st newsletter had a piece on low-cost flight reviews in simulators and that inspired Tom I to write in to remind us other ways to get a flight review. "A pilot who have completed a phase of the FAA Wings program per 61.56(e) does not need to do the flight review." As mentioned in the piece, Airline Pilots in effect get a BFR every time they come in for their proficiency check. "The same applies to military pilots and is considered equivalent or better to the 61.56 requirement," says Tom. He also points out a little used option: the Part 142 school. Tom says, "when I was an FAA Operations Inspector, I was approving use of very simple machines for the BFR. I am sure there are 142 schools today that have quite simple FTD's being used for the Flight Review as part of an approved program." Thanks Tom for sharing your expertise.

Jim Cutter of Simtrain is a subscriber and also wrote in: "At SimTrain (Atlanta) we have 3 full motion Cirrus specific AATD's that were originally certified as Level 3 FTD's. Our simulators are approved for all the maneuvers needed for a flight review except landings. There are other non type specific, non-motion AATD's, notably Frasca, that have the same level of approval and applicability for flight training. Contrary to popular belief, it doesn't take millions of dollars to build a full motion simulator these days, but it's apparent that we have work to do to get the word out to the flying public.

Reply: Here's a start... thanks for writing to me.

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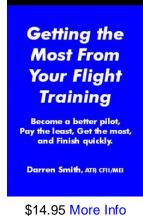
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Interesting Aircraft... H-4 Hercules (Spruce Goose)



Howard Hughes' great plans for a massive transport plane to support the war effort during WWII resulted in the creation of the H-4 Hercules. Built entirely of wood due to wartime restrictions on metals, this massive airplane stands as a symbol of American industry during World War II. With wings longer than a football field, this mammoth aircraft did manage to take flight with Hughes himself at the controls. But longevity was not in the Goose's future, and the behemoth was promptly stashed away in a holding hanger to be kept in flight-ready status for years. Now in retirement, she is on display today at the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in McMinnville, Oregon

Rotors: Precautionary Landing

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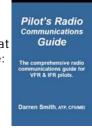
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Best VFR X/C Plotter

I was reminded recently of one of my early helicopter experiences in which I made an off-airport precautionary landing. As in all flying, distraction is the birthplace of the best disasters. I was in a rush to get to a remote landing area to pick up a document then return to the downtown airport. Instead of solid calculations which consider distance, winds, and aircraft performance, I let the urgency of the trip affect my judgement. As a result, fuel wasn't what it should have been, the power setting wasn't what it should have been, and the weather conditions did not cooperate with my viewpoint. As I finished the return leg of the trip, a certain panic set in when I saw the fuel gauge near zero. It defied explanation as I had considered winds, distance, trip time, and fuel available. As I set to determine the reasons why the fuel was becoming critical, I noticed that my power was set higher than I planned for. I immediately thought I had found the culprit robbing me of fuel. The hardest decision in the world for a pilot was facing me: the off-airport landing. Read more...

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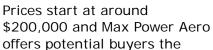
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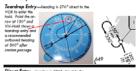
Bruce Campbell of Hillsboro, OR owns this Airliner Home. I found <u>his</u> <u>website</u>, and a

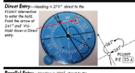


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Alaska Airlines to use lpad for Charts, Manuals, Bulletins

Alaska Airlines will officially use Apple's iPad tablet to show track flight information, manuals, references and more in PDFs. It will be implemented by mid-June. This will replace all printed pilot manuals. It is the first time domestic airlines to adopt this. They claim that this change will result in



savings of about 2.4 million pieces of paper. The pilots of Alaska can now carry only iPads instead of heavy bags full of printed flight manuals. Those hard copy flight manuals can weigh as much as 25 pounds. The airline is also looking into other ways to save paper and put the flight charts on iPads as well.

"We've been exploring the idea of an electronic flight bag for several years, but never found a device we really liked," said Gary Beck, Alaska Airlines' vice president of flight operations. "When the iPad hit the market, we took one look at it and said this is the perfect fit." However, the adoption of iPad in the airlines has been criticized by some industry experts for the cost. Alaska did not yet given the cost for this program. It is also not yet decided whether the adopted iPads will be first-generation iPads or brand-new iPad 2s.

On the other hand, Alaska Airlines claims it will lead to "fewer back and muscle injuries caused by pilots carrying flight bags that can tip the scales at 50 pounds or more fully loaded." Also "The cost of the project is expected to be offset by lower paper, printing and distribution expenses and reduced fuel consumption as some weight is removed from the aircraft".

Best Pilot Ever? Helicopter Pilot Tricks

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