

Share:



CFIDarren Newsletter

Composite Cracks, TAA, CFIT, VFR Charts

Issue #38

January 31, 2012

Connect


[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Unsubscribe?

Hit Reply and write "STOP"

Recommended

[Past Newsletters](#)
[Pilot Education Articles](#)
[Personal Minimums Checklist](#)
[IFR Checkride Reviewer](#)
[Pilot's Rules of Thumb](#)
[7-day Instrument Rating](#)
[IFR Adventure](#)

Photo Galleries

[Like us on Facebook](#)

Previous Photo Collections

[Big Blue Earth](#)
[Spaceport - Upham NM](#)
[Planes Change History](#)
[Discovery Tribute](#)
[Boeing 787 Launch](#)
[Space Shuttle Retrospective](#)
[Nellis ABF Air Show](#)
[Atlantis Final Mission](#)
[Endeavor Final Mission](#)
[What to do with old airliners](#)
[Interesting Aircraft](#)
[Allied bombers and crews](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this safety message -- this is my 3rd year of sharing the best practices and state of our industry.

Breaking News... Pilot Killed by Propeller. Issue #38 also brings us some memory joggers on aeronautical charts and CFIT and helps us define Technically Advanced Aircraft. Up next is a clarification on 61.57 IFR currency that seems to have gotten folks concerned about a recent change in the FAR. And finally, a recap of aviation news since the last newsletter.

Unsubscribe:

If you'd like to stop receiving this newsletter, the quickest way is to hit reply and say STOP and I will personally remove you. While I hate to lose someone from the list, I'd rather have satisfied subscribers who are interested in the newsletter. If you want to change the way I use your email address, click "Join Our List" and uncheck any of the boxes.

If you own any of my products, you are entitled to free lifetime updates. These are delivered to your registered email address.

Thanks for your continued support,
Darren

Breaking News

Pilot fatally struck by moving propeller he tried to manually restart after plane stalled

A pilot died Monday after being struck in the head by the moving propeller of a single-engine plane. The horrific accident happened at 8:30am on Monday at the Gillespie Field airport in San Diego, California, while the victim was trying to restart the plane after it stalled, witnesses said.

Two pilots were on board when the Piper Cherokee was

[U2 Testing in Area51](#)
[Solar Airplane Int'l Flight](#)
[WW2 Women in Aviation](#)
[WW2 German bomber](#)
[Jetman over Grand Canyon](#)
[Sendai Japan Tsunami](#)

You must be logged into Facebook to look at these photo galleries.

Quote of the Month

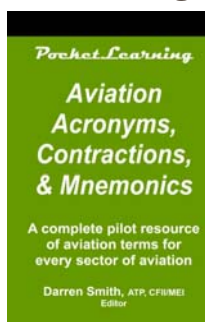
"Navigating by the compass in a sea of clouds over Spain is all very well, it is very dashing, but - you want to remember that below the sea of clouds lies eternity."

- Antoine de St. Exupery,
Wind, Sand, and Stars

Hit reply and send me your favorite quote.

Always Free Lifetime Updates

Ultimate Aviation Decoder Ring



\$10 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

Quick tips for *SAFE* Winter Flying

taxiing out to the runway when the engine stalled and one of them got out to hand crank the propeller. But it struck him in the head. The struck pilot was taken to Sharp Memorial Hospital for treatment of critical injuries after the incident. He died there at 1pm.

The blue and white Piper Cherokee PA-28R-200 four-seat fixed-wing plane was built in 1974 and is registered to a man in nearby Lakeside, California, according to official records.

It comes after model and fashion blogger Lauren Scruggs, 23, walked in front of a plane at Aero County Airport in McKinney, Texas, last month and lost her left hand and left eye in the incident. Her mother Cheryl said last week that although her daughter's pain is reduced 'when she is moving about and distracted', when she tries to sleep, 'it comes - and it comes ferociously at times'.

More about Gillespie Field

Gillespie Field was constructed by the government in 1942 during World War Two to be used for training Marine Corps parachutists and it was originally named Camp Gillespie. This was in honour of Marine Lieutenant Archibald H. Gillespie, who was renowned for his efforts in the 1840s war between the U.S. and Mexico. The airport was leased to San Diego County in 1947. It became a general aviation airport and then the county owned it from 1953, when it was used mostly for privately-owned aircraft and by flight schools. Now the airport holds one terminal, two industrial parks, three museums, a restaurant, maintenance shops and various flight schools, according to a San Diego County newsletter.

January Special - Last Chance

Winter Flying

A brand new book for a brand new year. New to the line-up is "Winter Flying" which offers you quick tips & techniques so that you can get the most out of your winter flying - safely. We started with 30 copies at this price, we're down to 7 copies.

This 44 page guide offers quick tips & techniques so you can get the most out of your winter flying - safely. Includes information on Winter Preflight, Induction Icing, Carb Icing, Airframe Icing, Tail Stalls, Hypothermia Strategies for Reducing the Risk, Winter Survival Kit, Aeronautical Decision Making,





\$8 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

Practical advice for using the NASA form when you've violated the FARs



\$12 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

PASS your Instrument Rating Checkride



\$25 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

Pilot's Radio Guide

and the Personal Minimums Checklist. 40 pages. Designed to fit in your flight bag, size: 5"x8" Sent USPS Class Mail, arrives in 2-7 days. Normal Price: \$8 (Free Shipping to US addresses). ISBN: 978-1468035070

January Special: \$6

[Add to Cart](#)

Memory Jogger - 3 Causes of CFIT

1. **VFR-only pilots operating in marginal VFR or IFR conditions.** A CFIT accident often results when the pilot continues to fly or maneuver beneath a lowering ceiling, and eventually hits an obstacle, terrain, or water.
2. **GA IFR operations in IFR conditions, while on an IFR flight, when the pilot is not prepared, proficient, or current.** Many accidents are caused by a failure to follow safe takeoff and departure techniques. Or sometimes it's not following recommended en route procedures, including loss of situational awareness.
3. **Low-flying aircraft operating in VFR conditions.** "Buzzing" pilots may not be aware of an approaching hazard in time to react to it.

Cracks in Composite Aircraft

Source: Compiled from NY Times and other online newspapers.

European air safety regulators on Friday ordered inspections of nearly one-third of all Airbus A380 jets after hairline cracks were found in a component of the wings on a handful of the 555-seat superjumbos in recent months. Remember that the A380 have composite wings and they aren't very old.

The European Aviation Safety Agency said the order would affect about 20 of the 68 planes currently in service. The cracks have been found in a small number of L-shaped brackets that connect the wing's aluminum skin to its structural ribs.

The first cracks were found late last year on the wing of a Qantas A380 that was being refurbished after experiencing a spectacular midair engine explosion in 2010. Airbus and the E.A.S.A. deemed those cracks - which extend from a bolt hole in the bracket - to be "noncritical" and advised airlines in early January to inspect and replace the parts during routine scheduled four-year maintenance checks. The first A380s entered service four years ago.



\$15 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

Save Money, Get the Most



\$15 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

Pilot's Rules of Thumb
the Ultimate Checklist



\$4 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

Safer Approaches
with CANPA tool

Only nine A380s have undergone the recommended inspections thus far. But in the course of those checks, two planes were found to have tiny fissures in a different section of the wing bracket.

Fatigue cracking is unusual in relatively young aircraft. The phenomenon, which is more common in older planes that have experienced heavy use, has begun to attract closer regulatory scrutiny in the wake of a recent series of incidents involving aging Boeing 737s and 757s in the United States.

In one case last year, a tiny undetected crack in the metal skin of a Southwest Airlines jet widened into a five-foot hole in the fuselage during flight, forcing the plane to make an emergency landing.

What Does This Mean for G.A.?

There are a fair number of composite aircraft in use within the General Aviation community. They are not carrying the intense loads that the A380 and Dreamliner are carrying however.

It makes sense for all owners & pilots of composite aircraft to be aware of the issue. Conduct thorough pre-flight inspections of wing root and landing gear root areas. During annual inspections, it makes sense to discuss these issues and your concerns with your mechanic. Do NOT allow your mechanic to "poo-poo" your concerns -- become involved in the inspection of these critical areas.

Based on the above information compiled from a NY Times article, It does appear that composite fatigue shows up faster in these newer aircraft than did metal fatigue in aircraft of years past.

IFR Currency, FAR 61.57

*The revised language makes it clear that a pilot who has failed to maintain instrument currency for more than six calendar months may not serve as pilot in command under IFR or in weather conditions less than the minimums prescribed for VFR until completing an IPC. **A pilot whose instrument currency has been lapsed for less than six months may continue to re-establish instrument currency by performing the tasks and maneuvers required in paragraph (c).***

Example:

January 31, 2012: A pilot is no longer instrument current because they no longer meet the recent experience requirements found in 61.57 (c). This pilot may no longer act as pilot-in-command (PIC) of an aircraft operating under IFR or in weather conditions less than the

Safer Approaches

Use CANPA to perform safer, stabilized approaches

Use the safest, airline-proven flying technique for non-precision approaches that minimizes aerodynamic surprises and virtually eliminates the possibility of Controlled Flight Into Terrain.

Darren Smith, ATP, CFII/MEI

\$8 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

Learning IFR Charts

Learning IFR Enroute Charts

The quickest way to teach or learn IFR Enroute Chart Symbolology

Darren Smith, ATP, CFII/MEI

\$10 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

Visi-Plotter - THE Best VFR X/C Plotter

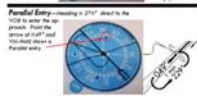
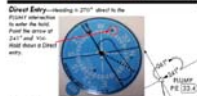
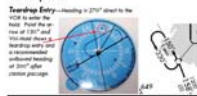


\$15 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

Nip Holding Problems in the Bud

Examples:



\$10 [More Info](#)

minimums prescribed for VFR.

February 1, 2012 to July 31, 2012: The pilot has between these dates in order to obtain the recent experience requirements found in 61.57 (c). This experience may be obtained through instruction, the use of a safety pilot, or through a simulator / training device.

August 1, 2012: If by this date the pilot had not regained instrument currency, the only method by which a pilot may become instrument current again is by obtaining an IPC.

Technically Advanced Aircraft

TAA is new term has been bouncing around the last few years. Technically Advanced Aircraft is defined as:



Memory Jogger - VFR Charts

We all know that we must fly with current charts. But do we know the benefits of the 3 types of available VFR charts? Here they are in a nutshell for busy pilots.

Sectionals

- Useful when flying at lower altitudes and lower speeds
- More detailed charts helpful to pilots that rely more on pilotage
- Useful when VOR navigation may be limited

WACs

- Useful when flying at higher altitudes and higher speeds
- Smaller scales reduce the number of charts required for trips
- Less detailed information may require a backup set of sectionals

[Buy Now](#)

Guaranteed Pass Helicopter Flashcards



\$25 [More Info](#)

[Buy Now](#)

Safety Factoid

Continuing VFR flight into IFR conditions results in the greatest number of fatal weather accidents.

On This Day

January 31st was a momentous day for the US Space Program. In 1958, Explorer 1, American's first satellite, was launched into space. Three years later in 1961, the first Chimp travels into space on the Mercury-Redstone 2. Ten years later in 1971, Apollo 14 launches towards the moon.

This day also brought significant pain to commercial aviation as Alaska Airlines Flight 261 crashed on this date in 2000. The MD-83, experienced horizontal stabilizer problems and crashed into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Point Mugu, California, killing all 88 aboard.

Terminal Charts

- Use primarily in high-density traffic areas around large airports
- Strongly recommended for use when arriving and departing busy airports
- More detailed than sectionals or WAC

Facebook Newsfeed



Here is the 10-day history of the Facebook Newsfeed. Visit the newsfeed by clicking the facebook icon above right and hit the "LIKE" button to add this to your wall.

- [Southwest plane hits light pole at Denver airport](#)
- [LAPD cracks down on drone aircraft use by real estate agents](#)
- [FAA gearing up for GPS policing](#)
- [Delta reroutes planes following massive solar eruption](#)
- [Armed pilots want to carry guns outside cockpits](#)
- [Custom-mutated bacteria converts seaweed to fuel](#)
- [Salt Lake City International Airport to be bulldozed and rebuilt](#)
- [NTSB: Controller nearly caused midair collision](#)

Confirm that you like this.

Click the "Like" button.