



# The PLANE PAPER

## Stupid Pilot Tricks — Buzzing a Wedding

August 25th 2018—  
Conanicut Yacht Club  
Jamestown.

Guests at a wedding were on the lawn in front of the club when a low wing Piper—white with bright green stripes (we have a partial tail number) - made a low pass south to north over the wedding.

Let's be charitable and say the pilot was at 500ft MSL and thought they were stepped out over the water and not a risk to the wedding party below. Perhaps they believed they met FAR Part 91.119 — Minimum safe altitudes.

Only a light onshore easterly wind had set the plane inshore and they flew right over the guests. The plane then banked right and off in the direction of the Newport bridge. The plane was observed to be BELOW the tower tops of the bridge and had to bank and climb to clear them. That means below 415ft. at some point. Then the plane made a second pass south to north. Same result—set inshore by the breeze and over the guests.

A licensed Part 107 UAS (drone) operator was making a video of the wedding with a DJ-Inspire UAS. It costs upwards of \$6,000, weighs in at 29lb and is not a trivial item in the sky. The drone operator had the drone stepped out over the water and even allowing for the onshore



1st and 2nd pass  
3rd (near fatal) pass

breeze—if it had failed it would have fallen harmlessly into the water or onto the private and empty beach.

The drone operator then pulled a panning shot where the drone is climbed vertically to its maximum operating height of 400ft while zooming the camera to create an effective shot of the wedding.

As he did the Piper made a third pass NE to SW over the wedding - coming in from behind the trees north of the club and nearly colliding with the drone. The pilot would not have seen the drone which would have been masked by either the cowl or low wing of the aircraft and hard to spot against the trees.

The drone operator killed the

climb, lost his shot and we all lived to tell about it..

The third pass by the pilot was deliberate, careless and reckless and put more than the pilot at risk. Apart from the fact that buzzing is stupid in the first place—the game has changed. Drones and model aircraft are operating legally at 400ft and below.

Scary part—the pilot probably doesn't know how close they came to disaster.

If you were the pilot and are now reading this—cut it out—buzzing is just DUMB.



### INSIDE

- From the President Notice of Meeting **2**
- Monthly Meeting Poll Results **3**
- Membership Contest **4**
- 7000ft x 400ft of manicured grass. **5**
- Calendar of Events **6**
- Pilot Successes! **7**

## From the President



Jim Burns

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer of flying and have tales to tell at our monthly meetings.

As you will read elsewhere in this issue—we have spent some time reviewing the result of a member poll about monthly meetings, what you like, what you don't like and what you would like to see.

This set against a background of increasing costs at Chelo's which meant that the more members that attended—the more money we were losing!

Starting with our September meeting—we made a first move towards switching things up a bit with a cookout at North Central.

Thanks to Paul and Mary Beth Tocco for organizing and cooking the food. Frank Olivera was kind enough to loan us his hangar to shelter in.

40 or so members showed up despite a marginal forecast and even with a reduced cost for the cookout—we actually made some money towards associa-

tion funds! Things are moving in the right direction.

Obviously we can't stay outside all fall and winter—so the October Meeting will take place at Sam's Inn on W Shore Road in Warwick. Costs are promised to be more moderate and we should manage to stay in the black

I hope to see you for this meeting and a fascinating talk about a 7000 ft grass runway and flying while trying to stay ahead of Hurricane Florence!

## Notice of Meeting



Dinner is a buffet menu of special selections of entrees with coffee and desserts

Price: \$25 per person;  
\$45 per couple;  
\$5 just coffee and dessert.

Please make your reservations by Oct 4, 2018 via email at [president@ripilots.com](mailto:president@ripilots.com)

Please indicate if you are coming for full dinner or just coffee and the talk.

Date: Tuesday 9th October 2018  
Time: 6:30pm Cocktails  
7:00pm Dinner  
Place: **NEW LOCATION** Sam's Inn  
2227 W Shore Rd, Warwick, RI 02889.

## October Meeting Speaker—“Triple Tree and Florence”



RIPA Member **Graeme Smith** is in the habit of flying open ended cross country trips with a tent and sleeping bag.

It's not the final destination—it's the adventures along the way—that make the trip.

Come see one such “adventure” to the Triple Tree fly in in South Carolina and how the approach of Hurricane Florence meant that cutting

and running early to stay ahead of the storm turned a simple 650 mile trip home into a 7 day

slog under the constant threat of “Get-There-It-Is”.



# Monthly Meeting Survey—Results

In June—we polled members about their experience with monthly meetings, what they liked, didn't like and would like to see. Here are the results as well as some comments received.

## What is your PREFERRED night for the monthly meeting?

- Second Tuesday in the month - 62%
- Second Wednesday in the month - 19%
- Second Thursday in the month - 19%



## What format would you prefer for the meeting?

- Formal Sit Down Dinner (Like the Chelo's event) - 32%
- Informal Venue with a cookout (Like a hangar or FBO at the airport) - 68%

**Comment** - *"Informal Venue with subway sandwich platter and or pizza with softdrinks, coffee, water. Cookout during the summer."*

## EXCLUDING your choice of beverage.

### How much do you think it is reasonable to spend to attend a meeting night - per person?

- \$0-10 - 8%
- \$11-20 - 42%
- \$21-30 - 50%
- \$31-40 - 0%



## Where would you prefer we meet?

- The same, nearly central location every month - 72%
- A different location every month (example - rotating between airports) - 16%
- In conjunction with other events (example - at the National Guard Airshow) - 12%

**Comment**—*"Changing venues would be great but I can see it could be burdensome to schedule"*

## A speaker is an important part of the meeting?

- Yes - 93%
- No - 7%



## Other Representative Comments:

*"A meeting agenda that current covers key issues facing pilots in RI, and in addition, an opportunity for members to bring up topics of import that should be addressed as well. Also, formation of committees to focus on these issues and create their own independent meeting schedule in order to take action."*

*"It would be nice if new members to the group could be made to feel welcome. Maybe have someone that's been with the group introduce them around. From my own experience, when I first started attending these meetings, everyone gave me the stink eye and ignored me. Not a good way to keep members."*

*"Change it up..restaurant, airport, events..winter probably best what we do now"*

*"I'm thankful that people make an effort to promote aviation"*

## Membership Contest—Continued!



There are 842 pilots in the FAA database with an address in RI

770 are members of AOPA

We have rebounded our membership from 80 in March to 138 at the end of May. But we need more to say we really are representing General Aviation in Rhode Island.

It's a simple plea—If every member recruited just one new member this summer our membership would be the best it has ever been. So to encourage you—

We KNOW you like saving money! So here is a way to save on your RIPA membership dues for 2019:

Recruit 5 full members (or 10 student members) and your membership for next year is FREE!

Here is how it works:

Starting back in June and running till Dec 31st 2018. Every NEW member to RIPA that you recruit that puts YOUR name on their membership application as being the member that referred

them—you get a credit towards the count of 5.

If you recruit 5 new members—your 2019 membership dues will be waived.

2 Student members will count as one full member—so you can mix students and full members to make your count of 5.

And in case you only manage to recruit ONE member. You still have a chance of getting a free membership. Every member who recruits at least 1 full (or 2 student) members—your name goes in the hat and we will draw one member to also get a free membership in 2019.

So—if you only recruit one member—you have a CHANCE of a free membership. If you recruit 5 members—you are GUARANTEED a free membership in 2019.

Some rules:

- The member must be a new member to RIPA—not a lapsed member renewed.
- Your name must be on their application as the member who referred them when they apply. No “putting the name on after”.

The idea is a fun way to drive membership and encourage you to talk to fellow pilots and share the benefits of RIPA membership. We want to increase membership and not bankrupt RIPA. We don't need this to become divisive because some-

one decides to hire an aviation attorney to interpret the rules—so:

- If there is any kind of dispute—you agree by taking part—that anything we didn't think of in this contest—the RIPA Board's decision will be final.



## 7000ft x 400ft of manicured grass



## Calendar of Events — Save the Dates!



**Saturday Oct 6th, 2018** 09:00—KSFZ—North Central—WINGS Safety Seminar

*Watching and Learning About Weather Know Before You Go*

Bill Babcock, Lead Aviation Forecaster for NOAA will come and share his experiences of forecasting aviation weather for over 20 years. You will learn what to look for when viewing the various national weather products. Having worked in the New England office for 20 years, Bill brings extensive "local" knowledge to this exclusive seminar. This is an invaluable opportunity not to be missed.

Register Here— [https://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event\\_details.aspx?eid=85604](https://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=85604)

**Saturday Oct 6th, 2018** 09:00—12:00 - KPVD—Providence—Hangar Day at Horizon Aviation.  
530 Airport Road, Warwick, RI 02886

Flying in the northeast in the autumn months is paradise. There's something classic about the changing of the leaves, and the crisp fall air. With that in mind, we decided to make our October Hangar Day as classic as we can. We're hosting a 1946 Piper J-3 Cub as our guest airplane. If you've never seen an actual Piper Cub, this is your chance.

As always, our Hangar Day is your chance to hang out at the airport with your fellow aviators and aspiring pilots. Not a pilot yet? Great! Stop by and learn how you can begin your journey towards being a licensed pilot. We'll provide a light breakfast and hot coffee for all. We'll be open from 9am to noon and look forward to seeing you!

**Tuesday Oct 9th, 2018 - 18:30 for Cocktails. 19:00 Dinner — RIPA Monthly Meeting**

**NEW LOCATION** Sam's Inn - 2227 W Shore Rd, Warwick, RI 02889

Speaker - Graeme J W Smith - "Triple Tree and Florence"

### Recurring

**RIPA's Fly to Lunch Bunch.** Destination varies with weather. Plan to depart from North Central State Airport (SFZ) at 10 AM on Saturday or Sunday. Anyone is welcome to join.

**Weeknight Dinner Flyouts**—VFR Flyouts to dinner at local airports. To be added to the notification list email. Wade Leveille - [uswle@yahoo.com](mailto:uswle@yahoo.com)

**Every Saturday Morning** - KUUU Pilot's Breakfast - Tickets Bar and Restaurant, Middletown 8:15 AM. If you fly in - check at the maintenance hangar for a ride no later than 8 AM

## Flight Training in Rhode Island



KSFZ — North Central  
 300 Jenckes Hill Road—Smithfield, RI 02917  
 (401) 216-9359  
 www.airventuresri.com  
 fly@airventuresri.com



KPVD — Providence  
 530 Airport Road—Warwick RI 02886  
 (401) 736-5115  
 www.horizonaviation.com  
 info@HorizonAviation.com



*newport*  
**aviation**

KUUU - Newport State Airport  
 211 Airport Access Rd  
 Middletown RI 02842

KWST - Westerly State Airport  
 63 Tom Harvey Road  
 Westerly, RI 02891  
 (401) 846-2359  
 www.flynewportri.com  
 hdcorson@aol.com

## Pilot Successes—Alex—PPL in 42 hours



Alex became a licensed pilot on August 24th, six months after beginning his flight training. While this alone is a huge achievement for any aspiring pilot, Alex was able to complete his license in only 42 hours of flying, just two more than the legally required minimum.

We asked Alex what he did during his flight training that enabled him to keep his hours as low as possible:

**Incorporate aviation knowledge into your daily life:** Alex made it a point to constantly have his mind engaged in flying. He would spend time at the flight school when he wasn't working and didn't have a lesson, just to absorb what other students were experiencing. A handheld radio was always nearby so that he could listen to air traffic control, helping him be more prepared and relaxed when it came time for his next flight. His curiosity did not abate when he left the airport. He stopped looking at regular weather reports and only used aviation weather forecasts, even on days he wasn't planning to fly. His learning continued at home as much as possible.

**"Backseat" as much as possible:** Spending additional time at the flight school brought with it the added benefit of becoming friends with many of the other students. He would take every opportunity to ride along in the back seat for others' lessons, increasing his exposure to new situations and scenarios, without incurring the cost of a flight lesson. His tip for how to be a good backseater (and get invited along next time): "Keep quiet and look for traffic. Don't interrupt the learning in the front unless you are helping to keep the flight safe."

**Don't just take the test:** It is common for people to take the written exam just to get it out of the way. Many study for it by memorizing the questions and answers without gaining a full understanding of the subject material. Alex's approach was to use the test bank as a tool to discover areas where his knowledge was deficient. His goal was not to just take the test and get it over with, but rather to achieve a deep level of understanding that then made his flights more informed and productive. All the written-test material is fair game on the checkride anyway; so, by preparing for the written test so thoroughly, Alex was also preparing for the oral component of his stage checks and practical exam.

**Be willing to accept honest evaluation:** The only way to learn something well is to be honest about your talents and your shortcomings. Learning is a process and every time something doesn't go perfectly as planned, it is an opportunity to learn and grow. Alex evaluated each flight, looking for those opportunities. He would "chair fly" each lesson, practicing what he did well and what he needed to improve upon.

The biggest factor in Alex's success was his decision to treat his flight training as a lifestyle and not as a hobby.

(From the Horizon Aviation Website)



## Rhode Island Pilots Association

PO Box 20008  
Cranston, RI 02920

www.ripilots.com  
media@ripilots.com



Yahoo Group:  
ripa@yahogroups.com

Printing sponsor



Postage Sponsor



RIPA—to— promote and maintain an organization for the mutual benefit and welfare of its members and of the aviation community, - promote aviation safety within the entire aviation community. - exchange and disseminate information among its members and the public concerning the aviation industry and particularly general aviation. - foster a spirit of good will and camaraderie among its members. - assist its members with the problems relative to general aviation. - promote aviation education and encourage an interest in aviation and aviation careers among the members and the general public, especially the young people of this state.

## Who is Who at RIPA?

Rhode Island Pilots is an all volunteer organization. If you feel you could help fill any of the vacancies and spread the workload the President would love to hear from you!

President	James Burns	(401) 884 0750	<a href="mailto:president@ripilots.com">president@ripilots.com</a>
Vice President (acting)	John Sulyma		<a href="mailto:vicepresident@ripilots.com">vicepresident@ripilots.com</a>
Treasurer	Mike Spieth		<a href="mailto:treasurer@ripilots.com">treasurer@ripilots.com</a>
Secretary (acting)	Mary Beth Tocco		<a href="mailto:membership@ripilots.com">membership@ripilots.com</a>
Membership	Paul Tocco		<a href="mailto:membership@ripilots.com">membership@ripilots.com</a>
Website	Frank Oliveira		<a href="mailto:website@ripilots.com">website@ripilots.com</a>
News and Social Media	Graeme JW Smith		<a href="mailto:media@ripilots.com">media@ripilots.com</a>

Follow Us on Facebook



<http://facebook.com/RIPilotsAssoc>

Or maybe you like to Tweet



<https://twitter.com/mediaripilots>