



THE PROFESSIONAL FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR  
**MENTOR**  
***LIVE***

# CFI "War Stories"

## Learning from our Peers

Steven Goetz





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# Overview

- Stories
- War Stories
- Why is this important
- Ground Rules
- Discussion
- Next Steps and how to do it
- Recap
- Disclaimer



# Stories

- What are stories?
  - Merriam Webster has several definitions, but we'll use these:
    - “an account of incidents or events”
    - “A statement regarding the facts pertinent to a situation or question”
    - “anecdote”
    - “a news article or broadcast”



# Stories

- Why do we tell stories?
  - Entertainment
  - History
  - For gain
  - Teaching



# Stories

- Why do we tell stories?
  - Entertainment
    - Movies
    - Books
    - Games
  - History
  - For gain
  - Teaching





# Stories

- Why do we tell stories?
  - Entertainment
  - History
    - Autobiographies
      - *The Diary of a Young Girl, Yeager, The Highest Duty*
    - Historical Media Articles
  - For gain
  - Teaching



# Stories

- Why do we tell stories?
  - Entertainment
  - History
  - For gain
    - “look at the important thing I did”
  - Teaching



# Stories

- Why do we tell stories?
  - Entertainment
  - History
  - For gain
  - Teaching
    - Laws of Learning:
      - Readiness: relaxed atmosphere for more receptive audience (hanger flying)
      - Effect: the best stories place the listener in the events – more connection
      - Intensity: while not actually “flying”, a good story can put a listener in that situation. “chair flying”



# "War Stories"

Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines War Story as:

“a story of a memorable personal experience typically involving an element of danger, hardship, or adventure”

Danger and adventure are easy descriptors of flight instruction...

Hardship too, depending on the airframe and maintenance...



# Why is this important?

- We **MUST** learn from the mistakes of others because we will not live long enough to make them all ourselves
- To learn from others we have to be willing to teach and share first. If we share our stories, others will willingly tell theirs



# Why is this important?

- The intent of this presentation NOT for me to tell you all a bunch of stories
- The intent here is for you to take this format back home and learn from and encourage learning for those around you!



# Ground Rules

- Have fun
- Be open to discussing, listening, and learning
- Be Respectful
- We're here to learn, not judge
- Don't use real names except to tell on yourself

# Discussion

This is where we share stories and learn







# Emergencies

- Emergencies are sometimes a string of problems that you deal with one at a time
- There are situations that you have not had explicit training for. Rely on your basic airmanship.



# Student Instruction

- Students are capable of things we can no longer do.
- Students will do things that you don't expect. Don't let your guard down, even with one that you have flown with and "trust."



# Environment

- Sometimes the environment has unexpected effects on performance.
- Night complicates and/or contributes to emergencies and can make them more complicated.



# Next Steps

- For those looking to pass advice
  - Talk to the new instructors around you
    - MENTOR them!!!
  - Make yourself available as an advisor to other CFIs
  - Talk at seminars
  - Setup CFI roundtables at local flight schools, and be sure to invite competitor CFIs to the table
    - We compete for students, but we need to be sure to take care of each other (friendly rivalries).



# Next Steps

- Those looking for guidance
  - Talk to the “airport bums”. Get ideas and stories from them
  - Don’t be afraid to talk to them and ask for help and advice
  - Talk to your bosses and other instructors in your community about setting up CFI roundtable discussions
  - Learn from everyone around you!

# How to do it

- Mentorship
  - Say hi and introduce yourself
  - “I’m a new CFI and would like to pick your brain on a few things.”





# How to do it

- CFI roundtable
  - Select a location that is large enough and has necessary amenities
  - Choose a date
  - Advertise
  - Provide refreshments (nothing attracts CFIs like free food)



## How to do it

- Don't overthink this!
- Get people together and talk
  - Bribery with food, etc. reward is usually helpful





# Recap

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