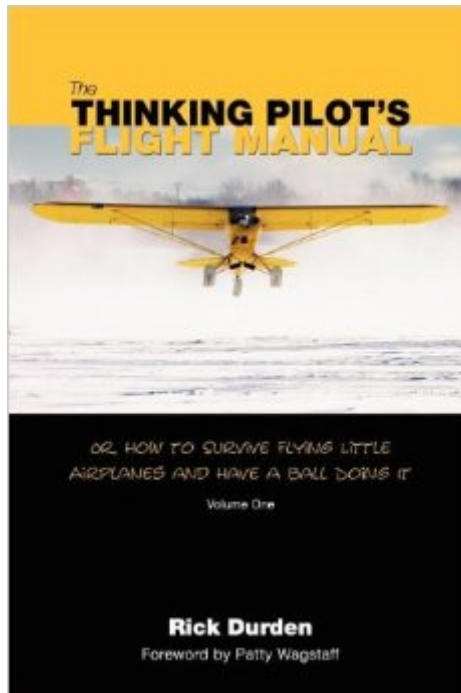


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# The Thinking Pilot's Flight Manual: Or, How To Survive Flying Little Airplanes And Have A Ball Doing It



## Synopsis

In a provocative and sometimes controversial style, this guide starts where standard-issue flight training manuals leave off. The Thinking Pilot guides you deeply into topics that weren't taught in flight training-everything from how to really do a preflight, through keeping your passengers happy, scud running, precautionary landings, and how to survive a crash. It includes a detailed introduction to flying floats, skis, aerobatics, and classic airplanes; probes some of aviation's dirty little secrets, explodes myths, and presents the best, most succinct guide to flying tailwheel airplanes ever written. Rick Durden was once described as aviation's Renaissance Man. He is an Airline Transport-rated pilot with experience in some 200 types of airplanes, a practicing aviation attorney who has been involved in hundreds of aircraft accident cases, writer, aviation magazine editor, safety counselor, flight instructor, volunteer pilot in remote areas of the U.S. and Central America, and has been the executive director of a nonprofit conservation organization making use of aircraft and volunteer pilots throughout much of North America.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a must-read, whether you are a 5000 hour airplane owner or a just starting out on your student pilot training. The author is a fine writer, with frequent articles in AOPA Pilot and other magazines. He's flown freight in Lear's and instructed in float planes, and worked for Cessna for some years. His practice as an aviation attorney and his extensive instructing has made him familiar with a great many of the things that get pilots into (and out of) trouble. The book is structured as tales from a pilots' lounge. Rick Durden spent a lot of time in a real one, at Ann Arbor's airport where he instructed at Michigan Flyers. He also spent a lot of time in some of the best online aviation

forums, and ran a talk show for a number of years during the Oshkosh fly-in. He makes you feel as if you are sitting with some of the most experienced pilots around, who welcome you to their group. I especially liked the sections on "Some things you didn't learn in flight school" and "Staying alive in the real world". Real and practical observations, phrased in a respectful manner without jargon or doublespeak. Durden lays out some data-driven truths, and makes it clear that there are some things that can really increase your chances of having a flying life that you can be proud of. Well written, on point, and practical. Highly recommended.

Seasoned hands who are in need of a brush up - or student pilots who just passed their checkride and who now need help adjusting to flying in the "real world" will get a lot of this down to earth and practical book. On some matters Rick Durden simply doesn't pull any punches - Flying into Oshkosh unprepared being one. I'm 100% with him on this particular chapter having got cut off on final at Oshkosh this year by an aircraft that wasn't talking to ANYONE - even the tower who I heard murmur "WTF?" Ever wondered what it is like to fly in a balloon - hear Rick's magical, peaceful account and get the balloonist's perspective so you better understand their next move. Scared of paperwork? Prefer to die rather than declare an emergency? Hear Rick explain why there is extremely unlikely to be ANY paperwork coupled to a real world account from a pilot who took Rick's advice - declared - and turned out to be VERY glad he did. Some things pilots do are simply not acceptable and some things pilots USED to do are no longer acceptable as the world changes around us. Rick Durden's quiet humor catches you off guard as he explains why in with the extremely good sense offered in this "real world" approach to flying.

For the serious aviator and serious "wannabes", this book is thought provoking and should be required reading for any student. I have highlighted many passages for future reference. This is a book I plan on reading often. I imagine many others will feel the same way.

Rick's book is an absolute "must read" for anyone who is, or thinks they are, honest and serious about flying. Rick tells it like he teaches flying and how he talks about flying. I've had the pleasures of not only knowing Rick and his family for nearly 20 years, but I was also his partner in an Aztec for several years. I've often wished I could do a "mind meld" with him (JUST for his aviation knowledge) as he has forgotten more than I could ever hope to learn. His section on the atrocities of stupid pilots who fly into Oshkosh, those who can't hold a heading or speed or have failed to read the NOTAM, could only be enhanced by multiple repetitions of "You would not fly into O'Hare, would you? So

what makes you think you can fly into OSH which is busier?"This book is Rick talking. It provides straight forward practical flying information, with safety always at the forefront. We spent a lot of time in the air together and I always learned when I was with him (on or above the ground). Now you can too, if you are ready to handle the truth!

Having previously read Vol 1, I eagerly awaited the release of Vol 2 and was not disappointed. Written for people who flight light aircraft, Mr Durden's writing is informative, insightful, thought provoking, and engaging. More of a collection of essays, one has the option of reading from beginning to end, or selecting an individual chapter and digging in. In addition to recommending this book to pilot friends, I have purchased several extra copies to pass along. If you are considering the purchase of Vol 2 but have not already read Vol 1, add it to your purchase. I do not think that you will be disappointed.

What a fantastic couple of books. I am a flight instructor and just found, purchased, and read both of these books in a row. They are just as advertised - covering many of the topics that just aren't covered in flight training. Topics beyond the checkride. First flight with passengers (how not to scare them). Precautionary landings. Being a responsible and considerate pilot. Pursuing advanced training and ratings. How to improve your flying skills from "passable" to "professional". Debunking the many "myths" in aviation. Highly recommended for all pilots, whether you just passed your first checkride or have been flying for many years!

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