

Training – Use of Video in Training

As I start the third year of writing this column, I want to clarify something that I have been asked about....or at least which has come to my attention. Our training staff, using the “buddy box” system and other techniques at their disposal conducts the “hands-on” portion of the club’s training...and they do it very well. In that training is where students get tutored on how to move the gimbals to control the aircraft in various conditions of flight, and how to best complete certain basic flight maneuvers. They also get personalized guidance in the construction and set-up of their planes as well as in safety and many other related topics. Our training staff does an excellent job of those hands-on training functions. The goal of **this column** then, is to augment the above personalized training with topics and information that can also be very helpful to students. It is generally information which is quite pertinent to training to be a better pilot, but which does not require that the student be in the presence of the instructor to learn. Hopefully this clarifies what we attempt to do here and allows readers to see that this is very much a part of training. Now on to another topic....

Wouldn’t it be nice if you could see your flying, complete with the good, the bad and the ugly, in the same way that others might see it? You know that when you are in the air, things often happen fast and later you can’t remember much about what really happened. Were the loops really round? Did you maintain constant elevation throughout the turn? Did you really roll at halfway through the down-line? We often tend to look at our flying with rose-colored glasses. But, there is a way to see your flying as it really is (or was) and to be able to critique what you see. By now I ‘m sure you figured out we are talking about making **video of your flights**. All you need is a small video camera (they are pretty cheap now) and someone else who is willing to record your flight (many of the club members are eager for a chance to “get in your mess”) and will thus be glad to volunteer.

Some of you know that many moons ago and about fifty pounds lighter, I did several types of automotive.....er...competition. We videoed a small portion of each of those endeavors and, boy did we learn a lot! In each case we were easily able to drastically improve our performance just by seeing what was really happening from a different perspective. We even could see some mechanical gremlins before they bit us. And it’s the same with our model planes.

I while back, a friend recorded a flight for me and WOW did it look bad as compared to how I thought it looked! I am convinced that you can really see your errors better using video. Try it some time and let me know what you think. I bet you’ll like it. If nothing else, reviewing it will give you one more thing to do on a cold, wet winter day.

Until next time.....remember to try something new each time you fly.

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