

I FLY AMERICA WINGS OVER AMERICA®

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Beat the Rush – Save Big on Summer Travel

Booking your travel – for fun or business – is fast and easy for IFA members. And you'll **B**s-t-r-e-t-c-h your travel dollars with discounts at more than 40,000 hotel and vacation properties, 200 airlines and 60 car rental agencies worldwide. Add the protection of travel insurance with just one click. Compare the 16 top travel insurance companies and pick the plan that's best for you. It's easy – just make your first stop www.iflyamerica.org and have a great trip!

Maintenance for Dummies

by Paul Engstrom, Aviation Writer and IFA Member

Call it the Two Left Thumbs Syndrome. Most aircraft owners, averse to getting in over their heads or screwing up big time, leave all maintenance to certified mechanics - even simple tasks that the FAA allows non-mechanics to perform.

This is understandable, given mechanics' enviable knowledge and skills set - truly, they are the unsung heroes of aviation - and the fact that "winging it" has no place in safe flying.

However, letting grease monkeys have all the fun on the ground is, quite frankly, a short-sighted view of the bigger picture.

Experts agree: Aircraft owners who studiously and routinely do some basic maintenance themselves, rather than waiting for the 100-hour or annual inspection, might not only save money in the long run by averting major repairs, but also reduce the aircraft's down time, fly more safely, and learn valuable information about their airplane, which makes them better able to detect and troubleshoot problems that arise during the preflight.

Appendix A in Part 43 of the Federal Aviation Regulations includes a long list of major alterations and repairs reserved for certified mechanics. Also listed there are 32 preventive maintenance chores that certified pilots can tackle themselves as long as they own the airplane, it isn't flown commercially, and the maintenance doesn't involve "complex assembly."

These chores range from changing tires, servicing shock struts, and simple lubrication, to repairing broken landing light wiring circuits, cleaning and replacing spark plugs, servicing and replacing batteries, and making simple repairs to cowlings and fairings. If you do perform any such tasks, you must have the appropriate maintenance and service information at your fingertips.

Perhaps the first step in self-maintenance is deciding to what extent you want to get your hands dirty. Using Appendix A in Part 43 as a partial checklist, referring to a sanctioned checklist for your particular kind of aircraft, or creating one of your own, you might start by scheduling yourself to do a disciplined inspection, say, every 50 hours, and refer fixes to the mechanic.

Or you might go to the next level and proactively replace things, such as spark plugs or a worn tire, that haven't yet reached their end of service but are nearing it. Find out if the manufacturer has issued any service bulletins related to the job at hand, and be sure to log the work—a description of it, the date of completion, and your signature and certificate number (see FAR 43.9 for details).

Of course, like most aspects of aviation, self-maintenance requires sound judgment and knowing your limits. Be honest: Are you able to set ego aside and admit that a task is too difficult or has spiraled out of control, and you need expert help?

If so, there's plenty of help available. Aside from mechanics and manufacturer service manuals, resources include other, more maintenance-savvy aircraft owners, type-specific flying clubs, printed materials, and videos and DVDs.

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IFA Medical Information Helpful Resource

Is LASIK surgery a good idea for me as a pilot? I've developed hypertension – what's going to be the impact on me keeping my medical? My medical exam is coming up – just what do I need to be prepared for? All of these questions and many more are asked and answered in IFA's Medical Information section at www.iflyamerica.org/medical.asp.

Maintaining your medical certificate is key to keeping you flying, and so staying healthy is a priority for pilots. Health issues do arise, though, and you need to be aware of if and how they can impact your flying. Access the variety of resources in IFA's Medical Information section today at www.iflyamerica.org/medical.asp. ■

NASHVILLE - A VACATION WITH STRINGS ATTACHED

by *Charlie Spence, Aviation Writer and IFA Member*

Country music fans all over the world know Nashville, and each year this “Music City” attracts millions of visitors to the home of not only country music but fine restaurants, fascinating museums, exciting amusement attractions, and homes of presidents.

Nashville became known as “Music City” when WSM radio announcer David Cobb gave it that nickname in 1950 on Red Foley’s NBC radio broadcast. But the city was well known for its musical heritage long before that. In 1925 the National Life and Accident Insurance Company founded a radio program over radio station WSM. Its name at that beginning was *WSM Barn Dance*. It continued for two years under that name. The Saturday night program followed a broadcast from New York that consisted mainly of classical music. Opening the Barn Dance program, announcer George Hay quipped, “For the last hour we’ve been listening to music taken largely from grand opera and the classics. We now present our own *Grand Ole Opry*.” The name stuck.

Daily shows are presented at Opryland, but if you want tickets to see the Grand Ole Opry broadcast, it’s best to buy your tickets online in advance.

Of course you will want to tour the Grand Ole Opry Museum near the Ryman Auditorium, and see exhibits honoring such legends as Patsy Cline, Roy Acuff, Minnie Pearl, and others as well as many of today’s stars. (Incidentally, the price on that tag that hung from Minnie Pearl’s hat was \$1.98.)

The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum has a wealth of exhibits to introduce you to Music City and country music. This, too, is just a few steps from the historic Ryman Auditorium. Here you will see many treasures like Elvis Presley’s gold Cadillac, Gene Autry’s string tie, and the hand written lyrics to *Momma Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys*.

Another entertaining way to see and listen to country music is to take a ride on the *General Jackson* showboat. This 300-foot paddlewheel riverboat has four decks, but performances are presented in the two-story Victorian Theater. March through December is the time for lunch and dinner cruises. Midday cruises on the Cumberland River include a country music show and lunch and evening cruises offer the show and a fine dinner.

True country music lovers will want to visit Gruhn Guitars shop on Broadway. This shop is world famous for vintage instruments and has hundreds of the stringed instruments including acoustic guitars, electric guitars, banjos, basses, and mandolins ready to be inspected.

Nashville was the home to three American presidents: Andrew Jackson, James Polk, and Andrew Johnson. Jackson arrived in town to serve as the public prosecutor, fell in love and built the plantation - The Hermitage - for his beloved Rachel. Be sure to drop over and visit the Hermitage, which today is much like it was when the Jacksons lived there 200 years ago. More than 95 percent of the furnishings are original to the home. The grounds contain replicas of slave cabins, a smoke house, and the first Hermitage home.

The Belle Meade Plantation, originally owned by John Harding, started as a log cabin in 1807. It developed into one of the best-known farms for breeding racehorses. In 1881, a horse bred here had the honor of being the first American horse to win the English Derby. Thoroughbreds War Admiral and Sea Biscuit trace their lineage to Belle Meade.

Visit the Tennessee State Capitol. It is one of the oldest state capitol buildings in the nation and is very much like it was when built in 1859. On the capitol’s grounds you may visit the tomb of President James Polk.

Over on Chestnut Street you will find Fort Negley, the largest and most important fortification built by Union troops occupying Nashville during the Civil War.



Belle Meade Plantation
Photo courtesy of Barry M. Winiker

IFA Travel Insurance: What You Should Always Carry When Traveling

Many travelers think their health insurance, homeowners insurance or even their credit card will provide adequate travel insurance protection. This is not always the case.

Travel insurance can help in the following circumstances:

- Your plane makes an unscheduled stop because of weather. The flight is then cancelled. How do you get your family home?
- If your sister-in-law becomes seriously ill and you choose to cancel your trip, what happens to your non-refundable deposits or pre-payments?
- You are in Europe and your wallet is stolen. How do you get cash and replace your passport?
- A family member falls ill in the Caribbean. Who will arrange and pay for medical evacuation?

The IFA Travel Insurance Program makes it easy for you to analyze, compare quotes and purchase travel insurance, for any type of journey, from the top U.S. insurance providers. This unique, one-stop resource is quick, easy, and provides you the best available rates, benefits and coverage options, and the confident knowledge that your trip investment and personal well-being are protected in the event of cancellation or interruption.

In an emergency, you’d go to the ends of the earth for services like these – so why not just already have them in place? You probably already have your next trip in mind, so why not check out the IFA Travel Insurance Program right now? To learn more and get a quote, visit www.iflyamerica.org/travel-insurance.asp or call 800-487-4722. ■

Travel Discounts Save You Money

Are you in need of a hotel room and/or rental car for your upcoming summer vacation? Your IFA membership entitles you to discounts at a wide variety of hotels and car rental companies nationwide and even worldwide!

To check rates at multiple properties or car rental companies at one time, use the IFA Online Travel Booking Service at www.iflyamerica.org/travelservices/travelservices.asp.

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NASHVILLE DETAILS

How To Get There

Fliers have three good airports to choose from when going to Music City.

• The Nashville International Airport (BNA) is five miles southeast of the city. There are four runways. Shortest is 7703X150. Approaches are ILS, VOR/DME, NDB, ASR, GPS RNAV. A flight service station and four FBOs and an avionics service are on the field. Fees are: landing, ramp, parking, and hangar.

• John C. Tune Airport (JWN) is a publicly owned field one mile northwest of the city. It has one runway 5500X100. Approaches are LOC/DME, GPS RNAV. There are no fees. Be alert for helicopter operations and deer in the vicinity.

• A privately owned, public use airport, Cornelia Fort Airport (M88), is five miles northeast of the city. It has one runway 3500X50, paved. No instrument approaches. Fuel is available and there are tiedown fees.

Where To Stay

Nashville has more than 32,000 hotel rooms ranging from small Bed and Breakfast locations to the Opryland resort.

You can check rates and book your room and rental car at IFA's Online Travel Booking Service. www.iflyamerica.org/travelservices/travelservices.asp. Deep discounts may apply.

Where To Dine

Almost any place you go in the Nashville area, the food is served with Southern charm.

- South Street Original Crab Shack and Authentic Dive Bar - this Cajun restaurant serves large portions of spicy entrees of seafood and barbeques.
- The Broadway Brew House - offers 70 different beers on tap and another 100 or so in the cooler.

The area offers many menus and price levels. When you visit Nashville, bring along a big appetite.

ON THE HORIZON

Air Shows

Representative air shows are listed below. We recommend that you contact the show to confirm the information as dates can change without prior notice. For a full air show listing and to link to air show websites, please visit

www.iflyamerica.org.

March 8

- NAF El Centro Air Show, CA

March 14-16

- TICO Warbird Air Show, FL

March 15

- Border to Border Air Show, AZ

March 15-16

- Thunder in the Valley, GA
- California Capital Air Show, CA

March 29

- Riverside Air Show, CA
- Air Armistad, TX
- Tyndall Gulf Coast Salute, FL

Accident Report - Gusty Crosswind and Snow Bank Contribute to Collision

A Mooney M20S, operated by a private pilot, collided with a snow bank while landing at Port Huron, MI, on runway 04 (5,103 feet by 100 feet.) The pilot was not injured and the airplane was substantially damaged. The 14 CFR Part 91 flight was operating in visual meteorological conditions without a flight plan.

The pilot reported he flew a practice ILS approach to runway 04. The approach was terminated in a go-around followed by VFR traffic pattern and full stop landing on runway 04. He reported the winds were out of the northwest at 10 knots. He then departed on runway 04 and made a left hand traffic pattern for another landing. The pilot reported, "Final approach required minimal crab to correct for crosswind and then mild slip to maintain the centerline." He reported that just prior to touchdown while 2 feet above the runway "... a significant gust ballooned the aircraft 5-6 feet above the runway where the aircraft stalled and began to settle abruptly with a nose high attitude." He reported he applied power to recover, but could not gain enough

airspeed. The airplane veered to the right and the right main landing gear contacted the snow on the side of the runway. According to the pilot, the airplane spun around clockwise into the snow where it came to rest.

The local weather observation, taken 5 minutes prior to the accident, reported winds from 270 degrees at 11 knots, gusting to 18 knots.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident/incident as follows: The pilot failed to maintain directional control of the airplane and the runway selected resulted in a tailwind condition. Factors associated with the accident were the gusty crosswind and the snow bank. ■

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PILOT QUIZ

Communications of all types today use acronyms, but nowhere is this more prevalent than in aviation. The list of abbreviations and acronyms in the Aeronautical Information Manual takes up several pages. How is your knowledge of FAA language? Try your hand at identifying these. Name five out of ten and you're good. Correctly identify seven and you score excellent. Name all ten correctly and you probably looked up the answers.

1. TLS
 - a. Transponder Landing System
 - b. Terminal Lighting System
 - c. Technical Localizer System
2. SOIA
 - a. Standard Operation Instrument Approach
 - b. Sequenced Omni Instrument Approaches
 - c. Simultaneous Offset Instrument Approaches
3. CARTS
 - a. Course Alert Reference Transcribed Service
 - b. Common Altitude Radar Transmission System
 - c. Common Automated Radar Terminal System
4. CPDLC
 - a. Central Processor Domestic Localizer Computer
 - b. Controller Pilot Data Link Communications
 - c. Common Precision Direct Landing Course
5. LAWRS
 - a. Limited Aviation Weather Reporting System
 - b. Limited Altitude Weather Routing System
 - c. Limited Approach With Radar Signal
6. MAHWP
 - a. Missed Approach Helicopter Warning Point
 - b. Maximum Altitude Holding Waypoint
 - c. Missed Approach Holding Waypoint
7. LAHSO
 - a. Land and Hold Short Operations
 - b. Local Area Height Safety Obstacle
 - c. Large Hazardous Surface Obstacles
8. UWS
 - a. Universal Weather Signal
 - b. Urgent Weather SIGMET
 - c. Unmanned Weather Station
9. WW
 - a. Severe Weather Watch Bulletin
 - b. Weather Warning
 - c. Waypoint Warning
10. VCOA
 - a. Vector Course Outside Area
 - b. Voice Command Over Automation
 - c. Visual Climb Over Airport

Answers: 1.a, 2.c, 3.c, 4.b, 5.a, 6.c, 7.a, 8.b, 9.a, 10.c

Maintenance For Dummies

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Having two left thumbs needn't be a handicap when it comes to basic maintenance. The question, as always, is whether you're willing to invest the time and effort to become a more knowledgeable aircraft owner and safer pilot. ■

Travel Discounts Save You Money

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Discounts are also available at Days Inn (800-268-2195), Howard Johnson (800-769-0939), Knights Inn (800-682-1071), Ramada (800-462-8035), Travelodge (800-545-5545) and Wingate Inn (877-202-8814). To make a reservation at any of these properties, call the appropriate toll-free number and give IFA discount code #60093.

Discounts are also directly available at Avis (800-331-1212, ID B853103), Budget (800-455-2848, ID Y194903), Enterprise (800-593-0505, ID 07A1001) and Hertz (800-654-2200, ID 1337091), or access online at www.iflyamerica.org. ■

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All benefits can be accessed at www.iflyamerica.org.

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Nashville

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The area known as The District is where you will shed your history lessons and join in the evening revelry. The District is crammed with nightclubs, bars and restaurants, most with live music. Bars along Printers Alley were set up during the depression of the 1930s. Local printers established bootlegging in their basements and many are operational today - the reason you will go down some steps to them.

Music, memories, or magic moments, whatever your reasons may be, a visit to Nashville can make memories come to life and life become memories. ■