

with my son Wes, our instructor met with us before we left to start the project. He handed me a sheet of paper out of his computer printer and said study this. It was titled "The Ten Ways You Can Kill Yourself On This Project!" You can bet it got my attention! I did study it and after flights in over 90 locations from coast to coast I was alive to tell the stories, but I might not have been if I hadn't taken his list seriously. I've condensed it in my list below:

Some Golden Rules:



Never fly without a thorough pre-flight of your plane. If you see something you don't like then ground it.



Be sure of your fuel level before leaving the ground. Topping off is always a good idea!



Check the weather and be sure nothing is coming your way that you are not experienced enough to handle. If in doubt stay on the ground.



NEVER fly in front of friends and family UNLESS you can resist showing off. Many pilots have lost their lives or have been seriously injured doing things they would never have done while flying without an audience.



Get training anytime you can, it will make you a better pilot.



Respect the air space of the faster planes around your airport, they will appreciate it, and you will be safer.



Get a radio and learn how to use it; you'll be safer and you'll make the sky safer for everyone else.



NEVER say I think I can; if you don't KNOW you can, don't try it!



Be very careful around low clouds, the FAA has strict guidelines for a reason. You never know what may come flying out of them!



Never fly when you don't feel up to it. 3,000 feet AGL is no place to feel impaired.



Landings are mandatory, takeoffs are optional. Don't go if you have doubts.



If you return to the airport and find the pattern busy, if you have enough fuel, fly away from the pattern and wait for a better time to approach the field. It just may make your day.



Maintain your airplane like your life depends on it! It does.

Flying in Part 103 is a great privilege and it can be a blast. Just keep it fun by flying safe! Don't forget that we would love to see images of your plane and information about your flying. We will feature you in a future article!

Email to [billfortney@earthlink.net](mailto:billfortney@earthlink.net). You can call me at (606)-528-6119 I always enjoy meeting fellow flyers!

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