

NAFI 2026 - The Pro Pilot Trap when Experience Becomes a Risk

Highly experienced pilots—including airline First Officers and Captains—bring valuable skills to general aviation, but also a unique set of risk factors when transitioning into high-performance, complex, and turbocharged aircraft. This session explores the “Pro Pilot Trap,” where habits developed in highly structured, crew-based, turbine environments can degrade safety in single-pilot GA operations. Drawing on real-world instructional experience with airline and charter crewmembers rejoining the GA ranks, this presentation identifies key vulnerabilities including automation dependency, checklist discipline mismatches, degraded stick-and-rudder skills, and overconfidence in aircraft capability—particularly in turbocharged operations where performance can mask weather and energy management risks. Attendees will learn how these risks develop and manifest across all phases of flight.

Event Details

Thu, Jul 23, 2026 at 12:00 CDT
NAFI Professional Development Center
Wittman Regional Airport
Booth 354
Oshkosh, WI



Contact: Karen Kalishek
(920) 819-4774

kkalishek@nafinet.org

Select #: EA13145358

FPM Richard Harowicz n/a

Booth 354, east of hangar B - just behind the Garmin booth, white tent with a huge NAFI logo.

A message from the National FAASafety Team Manager

Earn your WINGS to get a chance to win a prize. Go to <https://www.wingsindustry.com/WINGS-Sweepstakes> for more info. Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GASafety/>

**Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GASafety/>
Sign up for the FAA's safety services at www.faa.gov!**

The FAA Safety Team (FAASafety Team) is committed to providing equal access to this meeting/event for all participants. If you need alternative formats or services because of a disability, please communicate your request as soon as possible with the person in the “Contact Information” area of the meeting/event notice. Note that two weeks is usually required to arrange services.