

# AOPA 2026 seminar at Oshkosh AirVenture / Planes Trains and a Prop Strike

CFI Philip Mandel set out for Oshkosh in 2025 in his Thorp T-18, but a midjourney prop strike, just two days before AirVenture, turned the trip into an unexpected adventure involving mechanical challenges, creative logistics, and a healthy dose of determination. He made it to AirVenture, but how? This engaging story highlights real-world decision-making, resourcefulness, and aircraft recovery.

Presenter Philip Mandel earned his private certificate in 1981 followed by instrument rating, commercial certificate, CFI, CFI-I, and MEI. He has owned airplanes ranging from a C-150 to a Piper Apache and is currently the proud owner of his tenth flying machine, a Thorp T-18. Philip is an active flight instructor based at Starks Twin Oaks Airpark (7S3) in Oregon. He is a three-time FAASTeam Representative of the Year honoree for the Portland, OR region and a "WINGS Pro."

## Event Details

**Sat, Jul 25, 2026 at 09:00 CDT**

**Wittman Regional Airport**

Booth 463

Oshkosh, WI



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