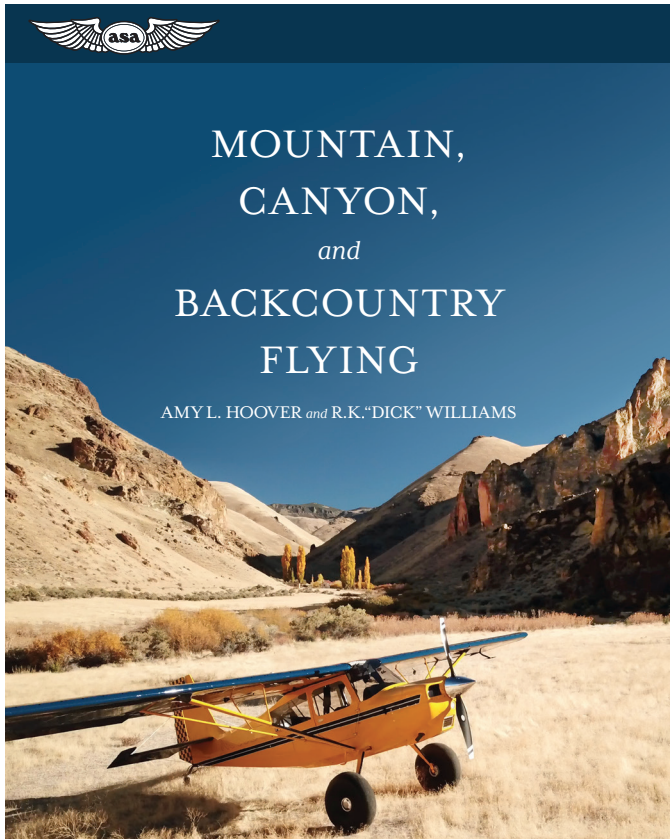


# NEW BOOK! AVAILABLE SPRING 2019



Photos: Todd Huffman/Pipeline Digital Media, LLC

**Title:** *Mountain, Canyon and Backcountry Flying*

**Authors:** Amy L. Hoover and R.K. "Dick" Williams

**ISBN:** 978-1-61954-741-4

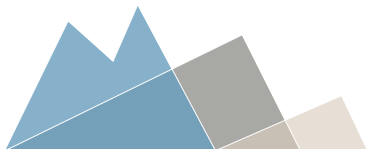
**SKU:** ASA-MOUNTAIN

**Price:** \$39.95

For more than a century, pilots have been intrigued by the challenges of flight in the highest mountains and the deepest canyons on every continent. Mountain, canyon, and backcountry flying allows pilots to get off the beaten path and enjoy the outdoors. It opens up a whole new world of recreation, including airplane camping, hiking, fishing, and staying at guest lodges or bush camps in areas without roads or easy access by land or water.

Flying in these enticing settings often entails operations over relatively inaccessible terrain in challenging and sometimes unforgiving environments. This necessitates the proper mindset, discipline, and procedures to operate efficiently and safely. Operating over mountains, navigating through canyons, taking off and landing on unimproved, high-altitude airstrips in confined areas, and maximizing airplane performance requires specialized skills. The authors and guest writers share information and tips gleaned from more than 150 years and 100,000 hours of collective experience as professional mountain and backcountry pilots and flight instructors.

Recreational pilots to mountain flying instructors will find this book useful, and college and university professors can use the text to supplement their classroom instruction. Fundamental concepts include preparing for and conducting mountain and canyon flights, airport operations, situational awareness, aircraft performance, risk management, and emergency operations. Analysis of accident scenarios, accounts from the authors' own experiences, and contributions from seasoned backcountry pilots and instructors expand on material detailed in the text. Each chapter includes exercises to help readers understand and apply the information to their own flying, and beautiful color illustrations will inspire pilots to seek out these awe-inspiring destinations.



# FOREWORD

A confession: I love books. Several thousand of them rest on shelves throughout my home. Being intimately familiar with nearly all of them, I feel as if they are my children. At least that explains why I occasionally point to one and say, “Who’s your daddy?” That’s why I felt as if I had just adopted the brightest student on campus when I received a copy of Dr. Amy Hoover and R.K. “Dick” Williams’s book, *Mountain, Canyon, and Backcountry Flying*.

In my opinion, all pilots should own a copy of this wonderful book, especially if they intend to fly anywhere beyond the borders of Florida. Think about it: If the highest terrain in the state is 345 feet MSL, you don’t need to know about mountains, only molehills. Unfortunately, more than a few flatlander pilots have run their ships aground on craggy mountain slopes while unintentionally installing authentic, life-size, pine cone air fresheners in their cockpits. This should be a warning to any pilot who believes that a subscription to *Field & Stream* is sufficient education to set off on a flying adventure into the backcountry. It’s not.

The honest truth is that the steepness of the terrain often reveals the shallowness of one’s backcountry flying knowledge. While it’s who you know that determines your success in business, it’s what you know that ensures your safety in the mountains. Safety, however, shouldn’t be the only reason to inspire deeper and practical knowledge in this area. The fact is that you won’t have that much fun during your backcountry flying adventure unless you know how to behave properly in, near, and around that terrain. Herein lies the great value of *Mountain, Canyon, and Backcountry Flying*.

Packed with more general and specific knowledge than I’ve seen in most educational books, this volume can rightly be called the babushka doll of practical ideas on backcountry flying: It’s like one practical idea reveals another useful tool, tip, and technique. Within these pages, you’ll find valuable information on backcountry pre-flighting, flight planning, navigation, terrain-specific meteorology, emergency operations, approaches, landings, departures, and much more. Without a doubt, it will be the recognized source for backcountry operations for years to come.

There were two things, however, that took this book over the top for me. First, I love axioms and rules of thumb. Despite being general in nature, they are concentrated bits of wisdom that help train our intuition and confirm our performance calculations. For example, one of Amy’s Axioms (which are sprinkled throughout the book) is: *If the rocks and trees are your enemies, keep them close!* While your untrained intuition might suggest staying as far away from the terrain as possible, certain situations require snuggling up to the side of a mountain or canyon. While it’s not possible to mention all the fantastic rules in this book, rest assured you won’t be opposed to using these rules of thumb.

Then there is the other feature that allows this volume to pack a punch beyond the weight class of most educational books. I’m speaking of its many educational, entertaining, and sometimes “eyebrow-raising” first-hand stories about backcountry flying. What a wonderful treasure this is for any pilot who wants to identify the physical risks and psychological traps of mountain and canyon operations. Read even a few of Amy’s and Dick’s sidebar stories—some personal, some about others, some by others—and you’ll profit as if you were flying an airplane with a slow-running Hobbs meter. Go? No go? Commit? Abort? Fail to plan properly? Didn’t see that coming? These are just a few of the many themes covered by these educational stories.

Pilots with a thirst for practical adventure and a soft spot for the esthetics of mountains and canyons will find immense pleasure in backcountry flying. But—flyer beware! You can do this safely only when the contours of your knowledge match the contours of the terrain. To obtain that knowledge, you need experience, and this is what Dr. Amy Hoover and R.K. “Dick” Williams bring to the table in *Mountain, Canyon, and Backcountry Flying*. Both of them have thousands of hours of flying in backcountry terrain that is so far back, you can almost see it coming around the other side. Feel confident in knowing that by studying this book and adding it to your collection, you’ll have the tools to help you fly safer should you venture beyond the flatland.

Rod Machado  
San Clemente, California  
2018

