

PRESENTER & PRESENTATION GUIDE

An aviation education symposium at sea

February 13–20, 2027 • Discovery Princess • Round trip from Los Angeles

Proudly sponsored by

STEM AVIATION ACADEMY

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Trip details, presenter pages, and updates

FAAST Federal Aviation Administration SAFETY TEAM

DRAFT

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WHO'S ON BOARD

Meet the Presenters

Welcome aboard THE SCHIFF SHOW at Sea. During the voyage, these aviation educators will lead seminars on flying, safety, and proficiency, and they will be on board all week to join you for meals, socials, and conversation. Presenters are listed in alphabetical order by last name. Scheduled session dates, times, and venues are listed throughout this guide. Sessions not yet listed on the calendar remain to be announced.

In the PDF version, select a name to go directly to that presenter's page.



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SPECIAL SESSION

Pilot Mental Health: Wellness and Medical Certification

A four-member panel discussion on pilot health

When / Where: Wednesday, February 17, 2027 | 8:00–8:45 AM | Princess Live

Staying healthy is part of staying safe. Lashae Bacon and Jolie Lucas focus on pilot wellness, from the everyday habits that keep you fit to fly to the psychology behind sound cockpit decisions.

Dr. Allison Waterworth, an aviation neuropsychologist, provides a “peek behind the curtain” from the FAA perspective on how to obtain your medical certificate when you have a history of any type of mental health condition, such as ADHD, depression, anxiety, or substance abuse.

Bring your questions. The panel will leave plenty of time for audience discussion.

PANELISTS



Lashae Bacon

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Chris Baur

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Jolie Lucas

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Allison Waterworth

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SPECIAL SESSION

Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) Panel Discussion

Featuring the Designated Pilot Examiners on our presenter team

When / Where: Tuesday, February 16, 2027 | 8:00–8:45 AM | Princess Live

Meet the examiners. Our DPE presenters share what really happens on a checkride, how applicants and instructors can prepare, the areas where applicants most often struggle, and what examiners look for in a safe, confident pilot.

Whether you are preparing for your next certificate or rating, training pilots who are, or just curious about the process, bring your questions for this open discussion.

PANELISTS



Pat Brown
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Mike Jesch
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Mike Pearson
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Jim Pitman
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SPECIAL SESSION

Right Seat Ready! – Companion Safety Track

Led by Jolie Lucas

Time: To Be Announced

Jolie will conduct a fun "taster" of her nationally recognized interactive course designed for non-pilot companions who want to understand what's happening in the cockpit—and how to meaningfully contribute to safety. She'll touch on:

- **Aircraft Systems** (what matters and why)
- **Dynamics of Flight** (what the airplane is trying to do)
- **Emergency Procedures** (recognition, response, communication)
- **ATC Communications** (what's said, what's implied)
- **Psychological & Human Factors** (stress, workload, decision traps)
- **Simulator Practice** (guided, scenario-based)

PRESENTER



Jolie Lucas

Bio on page 14

SPECIAL SESSION

STEM in Aviation

Presented by Kay Sundaram & Pat Brown | Promoted by STEM Aviation Academy

Time: To Be Announced **OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

This special presentation is open to all passengers on board, not just SCHIFF SHOW attendees. Family members, friends, and fellow cruisers of all ages are welcome.

Kay Sundaram, Founder and Executive Director of STEM Aviation Academy, shares how aviation opens doors to careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, and how STEM Aviation Academy creates positive experiences in general aviation that inspire young people to pursue careers in flight.

Pat Brown serves on the Board of Directors for STEM Aviation Academy. He is one of the co-founders, serves as the nonprofit's Secretary, and is instrumental in helping the academy inspire thousands of youngsters to pursue careers in aviation.

PRESENTERS



Kay Sundaram

Bio on page 25



Pat Brown

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Presented by

STEM AVIATION ACADEMY

Inspiring the next generation of pilots, mechanics, and leaders in STEM



PRESENTER

Lashae Bacon

PRESENTATION

Optimizing Sleep, Nutrition, and Mobility Workshop for Aviators

When / Where: Thursday, February 18, 2027 | 3:15–4:00 PM | Princess Live

A hands-on workshop designed to improve fatigue recovery and sharpen cognitive performance through evidence-based sleep, nutrition, and movement strategies. This workshop combines education with hands-on habit planning built directly into duty schedules and daily lives. Flight crews will actively practice cockpit mobility stretches, build personalized caffeine and sleep-window schedules, learn meal-timing techniques that reduce blood sugar spikes and crashes and improve cognitive performance, and more.

Crew members leave the session with tailored, quick-reference habits they can use in daily life.

SPECIAL SESSION

Pilot Mental Health: Wellness and Medical Certification

A four-member panel discussion on pilot health with Chris Baur, Jolie Lucas, and Allison Waterworth. Wednesday, February 17, 2027 | 8:00–8:45 AM | Princess Live. Details on page 4.

ABOUT LASHAE

Lashae served 8 years in the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer, flying the AH-64 (Apache) helicopter. Before completing her contract, she became a certified personal trainer and nutrition specialist, driven by a passion for health. After completing her contract, she moved to South Florida and began working toward a fixed-wing commercial certificate to complement her rotary-wing certificate. During her civilian flight training, multiple instructors sought health advice. Recognizing this community-wide need, Lashae founded her aviation health strategy and education company, Mile High Health Club.

MHHC's mission is to provide customized health interventions for aviation companies, improving crew members' safety, performance, and quality of life by reducing barriers through education and resources. To support MHHC's success, she started a graduate program in 2026 to earn her Master's in Public Health.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/lashae-bacon-73481a24a?utm_source=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=member_ios

https://milehighhealthclub.life

MHHC



PRESENTER

Captain Chris Baur

CEO, Hughes Aerospace | Retired United Airlines Boeing 787 Captain | USHST Industry Co-Chair | Veteran

PRESENTATION

IFR Chart Clinic: “What’s Behind the Plate”

When / Where: Tuesday, February 16, 2027 | 9:00–10:00 AM | Princess Live

Baur takes pilots behind the scenes of instrument approach design, revealing the engineering, obstacles, terrain, and safety considerations that shape the IFR charts pilots rely on every day. You will come away with a better understanding of what each chart is telling you.

SPECIAL SESSION

Pilot Mental Health: Wellness and Medical Certification

A four-member panel discussion on pilot health with Lashae Bacon, Jolie Lucas, and Allison Waterworth. Wednesday, February 17, 2027 | 8:00–8:45 AM | Princess Live. Details on page 4.

ABOUT CHRIS

Chris Baur is CEO of Hughes Aerospace and a retired United Airlines Boeing 787 captain with more than 20,000 flight hours. A dual-rated Airline Transport Pilot, his extraordinarily diverse career spans the U.S. Army, Coast Guard, and Air Force, federal law enforcement, search and rescue, airline operations, and flight testing.

A former airline technical and test pilot, Baur helped pioneer advanced Performance-Based Navigation (PBN), GBAS, and instrument flight procedures. Through Hughes Aerospace, he leads the design and flight validation of instrument approaches worldwide and continues flying as an FAA flight-inspection pilot.

A Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Baur serves as Industry Co-Chair of the U.S. Helicopter Safety Team and Vice Chairman of Vertical Aviation International.



PRESENTER

Pat Brown

AOPA Scholarship Mentor | Rusty Pilot Developer/Presenter | DPE

SPECIAL SESSION

Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) Panel Discussion

When / Where: Tuesday, February 16, 2027 | 8:00–8:45 AM | Princess Live

Pat joins fellow Designated Pilot Examiners Mike Jesch, Mike Pearson, and Jim Pitman to share what really happens on a checkride, how applicants and instructors can prepare, and what examiners look for in a safe, confident pilot. Details on page **5**.

SPECIAL SESSION

STEM in Aviation *Open to the public*

Pat joins Kay Sundaram, Founder and Executive Director of STEM Aviation Academy, to share how aviation opens doors to careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. Open to all passengers on board. Time to be announced. Details on page **7**.

PRESENTATION

Chart Challenge

When / Where: Tuesday, February 16, 2027 | 3:00–3:45 PM | Princess Live

ABOUT PAT

Pat was bitten by the flying bug early and began taking lessons at age 16, earning his Private Pilot license shortly after his 17th birthday. Today, 10,000+ hours later, he holds a Commercial Pilot certificate for Gliders, Single-Engine Land/Seaplane, and Multi-Engine Land aircraft and is a Gold Seal Flight Instructor for gliders, single and multi-engine aircraft, with nearly 6,000 hours of instruction given. He is also a Designated Pilot Examiner and recipient of the FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. Pat is the co-developer of AOPA's Rusty Pilot seminar and presents them regularly, both as online live webinars and in-person to enthusiastic audiences.

Pat serves on the Board of Directors for STEM Aviation Academy. He is one of the co-founders, serves as the nonprofit's Secretary, and is instrumental in helping the academy inspire thousands of youngsters to pursue careers in aviation.



PRESENTER

Captain James “Jim” Clarkson

PRESENTATION

Oh, the Human Factors I’ve Learned

When / Where: Tuesday, February 16, 2027 | 4:00–4:45 PM | Princess Live

Jim will describe a harrowing flight (or two) from which he transferred a ton of content from the “luck bucket” to the “experience bucket.” You’ll be entertained as much as educated.

ABOUT JIM

Jim is a corporate pilot flying Gulfstream aircraft and a former airline pilot. His experience spans thousands of flight hours, from light single-engine airplanes he has owned to large transport-category airplanes. He has a unique style of telling his stories in a way that educates and keeps the audience captivated.



PRESENTER

Aaron Dabney

PRESENTATION

Own Your Flight Review

When / Where: Friday, February 19, 2027 | 12:30–1:15 PM | Vista Lounge

Your Flight Review may satisfy an FAA requirement, but it *belongs* to you. This event has far too much value as part of your ongoing proficiency plan to be squandered as a box-checking exercise---or to be something you simply leave up to a flight instructor's boilerplate plan.

Because many flight instructors have received very little training on how to conduct effective reviews and even fewer pilots have been trained to be informed consumers of this service, the Flight Review is often a real missed opportunity. You and your passengers deserve better.

You'll come away from this presentation with actionable best practices for before, during, and after your Flight Review to help you transform it from "checked box" to "invaluable asset."

ABOUT AARON

Aaron Dabney is a 7-time NAFI Master Flight Instructor and serves as a lecturer and Chief of Flight Safety at the Baylor University Institute for Aviation Sciences. Outside of his university position, he works as an independent consultant and educator serving flight instructors and as the owner of a small flight school. An active flight instructor since 2009, he has provided more than 5,000 hours of instruction in more than 30 aircraft types.

Aaron's first airplane ride was in the family Piper Cub at 3 months old; he eventually completed his first solo in that same airplane, and he and his wife Alisa are now the third generation of his family to serve as its caretakers.

Aaron has served on NAFI's Board of Directors since 2022 and was elected the organization's President in 2026.



PRESENTER

Captain Mike Jesch

PRESENTATION

Hello! My Name Is Airspeed

When / Where: Wednesday, February 17, 2027 | 3:00–3:45 PM | Princess Live

You'll soon discover that there's way more behind the airspeed indicator than you thought you knew. Taking up just one little corner of the instrument panel (or one edge of the PFD), it is arguably one of the most important gauges we have in our aircraft. The FAA thinks so too; it is one of the required pieces of equipment, after all. Knowing just a little more about how it works—and how it might not—could be most valuable when you least expect it.

SPECIAL SESSION

Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) Panel Discussion

Mike joins fellow Designated Pilot Examiners Pat Brown, Mike Pearson, and Jim Pitman to share what really happens on a checkride, how applicants and instructors can prepare, and what examiners look for in a safe, confident pilot. Tuesday, February 16, 2027 | 8:00–8:45 AM | Princess Live. Details on page 5.

ABOUT MIKE

Captain Mike Jesch is an accomplished aviator with more than four decades of flying experience. At work, he's a captain on the Boeing 787 for a major U.S. airline, overseeing long-haul flights with expertise and precision. But Captain Jesch's roots in the GA world run deep and endure.

He earned his first pilot's license in high school and his instrument rating in a Cessna 150 equipped with vacuum-tube radios. Mike has been a CFI for more than 40 years and continues to teach flying. He is a two-time Master CFI and became a Designated Pilot Examiner earlier this year. For more than 20 years, he has owned a Cessna 182, which he recently upgraded with all-new Garmin avionics. Mike captivates and engages his audience with his relaxed teaching style.

Recognizing his dedication and commitment to aviation, Captain Jesch serves as a FAASTeam Lead Representative in the Long Beach (California) District and was named the 2026 National FAASTeam Representative of the Year, a testament to his unwavering enthusiasm and contributions to aviation safety.



PRESENTER

Jolie Lucas

PRESENTATION

On Second Thought: Human Factors. Real Flights. Safer Skies.

When / Where: Thursday, February 18, 2027 | 1:30–2:15 PM | Vista Lounge

Sponsored by Avemco.

On Second Thought is a one-hour aviation safety presentation that goes beyond checklists and procedures to examine how aviators across the system think, decide, and adapt under real-world conditions. Grounded in human factors and cognitive science, the program explores how perception, workload, expectation, and subtle social pressures shape decisions—across cockpits, control rooms, hangars, flight lines, and right seats.

The presentation connects training to lived experience and shows how everyday human decisions interact across roles. Attendees can earn FAA WINGS Program credit while engaging in a thoughtful, safety-driven conversation that encourages lifelong learning and safer outcomes.

SPECIAL SESSION

Pilot Mental Health: Wellness and Medical Certification

A four-member panel discussion on pilot health with Lashae Bacon, Chris Baur, and Allison Waterworth. Wednesday, February 17, 2027 | 8:00–8:45 AM | Princess Live. Details on page 4.

ABOUT JOLIE

Jolie Lucas works at the confluence of the psychology of life and flight. An instrument-rated commercial pilot, Mooney owner, and licensed psychotherapist in private practice for more than 30 years, she brings rare dual expertise to aviation safety.

Jolie presents Right Seat Ready! and co-hosts On Second Thought, a nationally distributed aviation safety program that goes beyond procedures to examine how aviators across the system think, decide, and adapt in real-world conditions.

Her work focuses on educating the whole airplane—pilots and companions alike—to improve safety, confidence, and shared decision-making in the cockpit.

Where life, psychology, and flight converge. JolieLucas.com



PRESENTER

Robert “Bob” Meder

PRESENTATION

They’re Not “Uncontrolled” – They’re “Non-Towered”

When / Where: Sunday, February 14, 2027 | 8:15–9:00 AM | Vista Lounge

There are roughly 20,000 non-towered airports in the United States. That gives pilots more freedom: more destinations, more convenience, and more of the places that make flying worth it. The trade-off is that no one is in the tower watching out for you. You're responsible for judgment, traffic awareness, and risk management.

Too many accidents start the same way. A pilot arrives at a non-towered airport without a solid grasp of how these airports operate or without knowing the specifics of the airport they're flying into. That might mean a nonstandard pattern, a confusing runway layout, a busy CTAF, or an airplane with a pilot who had never made a radio call.

This session is light-hearted yet serious, and it's a conversation, not a lecture. We'll cover procedures, best practices, and real-world risks at the most common type of airport in the National Airspace System, using real scenarios, audience questions, and a few "what would you do?" moments. You'll leave more confident, more predictable in the pattern, and better prepared for your next arrival without ATC assistance.

ABOUT BOB

Robert V. (“Bob”) Meder has been a pilot for more than 30 years and a flight instructor for more than 25. He is a commercial pilot with single- and multi-engine land airplane ratings and holds instrument and multi-engine instructor privileges. With roughly 8,000 total hours and 6,000 hours of dual given, Bob was honored as the 2009 St. Louis FSDO CFI of the Year, the 2010 Lincoln, Nebraska, and Central Region CFI of the Year, and the 2010 St. Louis FSDO FAASTeam Representative of the Year.

In addition to being a flight instructor, Bob retired as a Director in the Safety Department of a major western rail carrier after a 40-year career. In that role, he developed one of the nation’s first major industrial UAS programs. His parallel careers have honed his passion for risk management. He lives in the St. Louis area with his wife, their aerobatic Bonanza, and his telescope.



PRESENTER

Mike Pearson, DPE

PRESENTATION

How to Select an Instrument Approach

When / Where: Thursday, February 18, 2027 | 12:30–1:15 PM | Vista Lounge

How to Select an Instrument Approach discusses the information and decision factors in determining which instrument approach best suits the needs of the flight or mission.

SPECIAL SESSION

Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) Panel Discussion

Mike joins fellow Designated Pilot Examiners Pat Brown, Mike Jesch, and Jim Pitman to share what really happens on a checkride, how applicants and instructors can prepare, and what examiners look for in a safe, confident pilot. Tuesday, February 16, 2027 | 8:00–8:45 AM | Princess Live. Details on page 5.

ABOUT MIKE

Mike soloed on July 9, 1969. He has been an active GA pilot ever since, renting aircraft through flying clubs or flying planes he has owned (C210, Columbia 400, Cessna TTx, and currently a SeaRey and C421C).

Ratings he holds: ATP Single and Multiengine Land and Sea, Commercial Glider, CFII, AGI, IGI, and LSRM-A. Mike is a DPE and provides checkrides for Sport Land and Sea, Private, Commercial, Instrument Land and Sea, and Multiengine Land. He retired from the government after 40 years in federal law enforcement.



PRESENTER

Captain Jim Pitman, DPE

PRESENTATION

Train How You Fly, Fly How You Train

When / Where: Friday, February 19, 2027 | 9:00–9:45 AM | Vista Lounge

Jim will share his observations on several areas of flight training where pilots are often taught something different from what they really need to learn. He will help us connect the dots between training and real-life flying.

SPECIAL SESSION

Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) Panel Discussion

Jim joins fellow Designated Pilot Examiners Pat Brown, Mike Jesch, and Mike Pearson to share what really happens on a checkride, how applicants and instructors can prepare, and what examiners look for in a safe, confident pilot. Tuesday, February 16, 2027 | 8:00–8:45 AM | Princess Live. Details on page 5.

ABOUT JIM

Jim started flying in 1992 and has been a flight instructor since 1997. He loves flying, teaching, and helping pilots turn complex information into practical application. He is currently a CRJ captain at SkyWest Airlines and an active FAA Designated Pilot Examiner. Earlier in his career, Jim served as Chief Flight Instructor for a large Part 141 flight academy and then as Regional Manager for Cessna Pilot Centers in the western U.S. and Canada.



PRESENTER

Greg Reverdiau

PRESENTATION

Immersive Tools To Stay Current or Learn New Skills

When / Where: Wednesday, February 17, 2027 | 9:00–10:00 AM | Princess Live

Immersive training used to mean expensive goggles and a dedicated lab. Not anymore. This session shows how pilots, flight instructors, and flight schools can put augmented reality, virtual reality, and interactive 3D to work today, often with nothing more than a laptop or iPad. You'll see live demos of Pilot Institute's new Interactive Lab: tear down a Lycoming engine, look through the skin of a Cessna 172, raise Class B shelves off a real sectional, fly the VOR, and practice hold entries on actual enroute charts. You'll also get a look at the upcoming AR app for iOS and Apple Vision Pro, plus practical ways to use this to stay current or learn new skills. Perfect for active pilots, CFIs, and flight school owners!

ABOUT GREG

Greg Reverdiau is the Co-Founder and Head of Training of Pilot Institute, where he has trained more than 450,000 aviation students worldwide through more than 60 courses while maintaining a 99.9% FAA written exam pass rate. A CFI for more than 20 years, a former flight school manager, and a former university professor and program chair, he also serves as a FAASTeam Representative and DronePro, supporting safety outreach for the Scottsdale FSDO.



PRESENTER

Captain Laura Savino

PRESENTATION

Inside the Tenerife Crash

When / Where: Thursday, February 18, 2027 | 2:30–3:15 PM | Princess Live

In 1977, two fully loaded Boeing 747s collided on the runway at Tenerife in the world's deadliest air disaster, with 583 dead. Years later, as a pilot with United Airlines, Laura Savino flew the 747 with the surviving Pan Am pilot from this crash, Capt. Robert Bragg. Privileged to hear intimate details about what the pilots were actually thinking, along with surprising details outside the official report, Savino shares Capt. Bragg's personal insights from that day and discusses the inception of CRM.

ABOUT LAURA

Captain Laura Savino was a pilot for United Airlines on the 777, 767, 757, 747, 737, and A319/320. Laura flew for Eastern and Pan Am regionals before that. On her way to becoming an airline pilot, she worked as a CFII, ferry pilot, charter pilot, cargo pilot, aerial sightseeing tour pilot, and aircraft repossessor.

Learning to fly as a teenager at MMU in New Jersey, Laura continued her education at Purdue University, graduating with a BS in Aviation Technology. Laura is currently a member of the Purdue University School of Aviation & Transportation Technology Industrial Advisory Board.

The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum has accessioned two of her airline uniforms, and her maternity uniform is on permanent display at Atlanta International Airport (ATL), between concourses D and E.

Author of the book JET BOSS and co-founder of the nonprofit STEM education organization Aviation Aspire Initiative, Laura is dedicated to advancing aviation safety and building the next generation of aviation professionals.



PRESENTER

Captain Barry Schiff

PRESENTATION 1

Safety Considerations You Won't Find Elsewhere

When / Where: Thursday, February 18, 2027 | 9:45–10:30 AM | Vista Lounge

Barry shares little-known safety insights, overlooked techniques, and counterintuitive lessons from a lifetime of flying. It's an eye-opening, entertaining hour that might change how you think about your next flight.

PRESENTATION 2

A Potpourri of Fascinating and Fun Flying from Around the World

When / Where: Sunday, February 14, 2027 | 3:30–4:30 PM | Princess Live

For pilots and non-pilots alike. Join legendary aviation author and retired TWA captain Barry Schiff for a whirlwind tour of the world's most fascinating, unusual, and fun flying. You'll hear about hair-raising airports, quirky aircraft, and unforgettable moments aloft in an hour of stories, insight, and humor that celebrates the joy of flight.

SPECIAL SESSION

Trivia, Fun, & Games

Join Brian and Barry Schiff for a lively round of aviation trivia, friendly competition, and plenty of laughs at THE SCHIFF SHOW at Sea! This father-and-son duo will put your aviation knowledge to the test with intriguing questions, surprising facts, and playful challenges—with chances to win prizes along the way! Whether you're a seasoned captain, a student pilot, or an aviation enthusiast along for the cruise, you'll find plenty of opportunities to join the fun. Bring your best guesses, your favorite flying partner, and a healthy sense of humor. You could leave with bragging rights—and a prize to prove it!

When / Where: Sunday, February 14, 2027 | 4:45–6:00 PM | Princess Live

ABOUT BARRY

Barry Schiff is the 2026 recipient of the R.A. "Bob" Hoover Trophy and an inductee of the Living Legends of Aviation. He has been flying for 74 years, is a retired TWA captain, and has logged more than 28,000 hours in 364 different types of aircraft. He has been writing for AOPA PILOT magazine for 63 years and has authored 13 books and more than 2,000 articles.



PRESENTER

Captain Brian Schiff

PRESENTATION 1

THE SCHIFF SHOW Live

When / Where: Sunday, February 14, 2027 | 9:15–10:30 AM | Vista Lounge

THE SCHIFF SHOW is Brian's monthly aviation safety webinar, where real accident reports become practical lessons pilots can use on their very next flight. On this voyage, the show goes live and in person.

Together, we'll walk through real accidents and incidents, look closely at the decisions and human factors behind them, and pull out the prevention strategies and techniques that could have changed the outcome. Expect lively audience participation and THE SCHIFF SHOW's signature game-show-style wrap-up to put what you've learned to the test.

PRESENTATION 2

Cockpit2Cowl – Answers to Your Questions LIVE

When / Where: Wednesday, February 17, 2027 | 4:00–4:45 PM | Princess Live

One pilot. One mechanic. An ocean of questions. Join Brian Schiff and Jeff Simon as they bring Cockpit2Cowl aboard THE SCHIFF SHOW at Sea for a lively, audience-driven session where your questions set the course. From puzzling cockpit indications to mysterious noises under the cowling, no aviation topic is too basic—or too likely to spark a friendly debate. Bring your maintenance mysteries, operational head-scratchers, and "my mechanic says…" stories for practical insights served with a generous helping of humor. It's pilot meets mechanic, with you in the conversation. Expect straight talk, fresh perspectives, and only occasional turbulence between the microphones.

SPECIAL SESSION

Trivia, Fun, & Games

Join Brian and Barry Schiff for a lively round of aviation trivia, friendly competition, and plenty of laughs at THE SCHIFF SHOW at Sea! This father-and-son duo will put your aviation knowledge to the test with intriguing questions, surprising facts, and playful challenges—with chances to win prizes along the way! Whether you're a seasoned captain, a student pilot, or an aviation enthusiast along for the cruise, you'll find plenty of opportunities to join the fun. Bring your best guesses, your favorite flying partner, and a healthy sense of humor. You could leave with bragging rights—and a prize to prove it!

When / Where: Sunday, February 14, 2027 | 4:45–6:00 PM | Princess Live

SPECIAL SESSION

Closing Debrief & Prizes

Before we part ways, let's bring the whole group together for one final gathering! Join Brian Schiff for Closing Debrief & Prizes, the farewell session of THE SCHIFF SHOW at Sea. We'll revisit memorable moments, share favorite takeaways, and celebrate a voyage filled with learning, laughter, and new friendships. Pilots, companions, and all symposium attendees are encouraged to join the fun as we wrap up our time together—with prizes adding to the excitement! Bring your best memories and one insight you'll carry into your next flight. It's our chance to say thank you, farewell, and "until we fly—or cruise—together again!"

When / Where: Friday, February 19, 2027 | 1:30–2:30 PM | Vista Lounge

ABOUT BRIAN

Brian Schiff is a captain with a major U.S. airline and has a deep-seated passion for general aviation. He has more than 21,000 hours of flight time across a wide range of aircraft and has flown 98 different types.

He served on the National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI) Board of Directors, is a 40-year Gold Seal flight instructor, and serves as an FAA Safety Team Representative. He has a contagious enthusiasm for aviation and teaching.

Brian has served as an FAA-designated examiner. He earned his BS in Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and his master's degree in Aviation Safety from the University of Central Missouri.

Brian is a highly respected figure in the aviation community and is sought after for his engaging, informative seminars on aviation safety and techniques. He is passionate about educating students and professional pilots and is committed to upholding the highest standards of aviation instruction and to promoting aviation safety.



PRESENTER

Jeff Simon

PRESENTATION 1

A Mechanic's Perspective on Protecting and Preserving You and Your Aircraft

When / Where: Sunday, February 14, 2027 | 1:30–2:15 PM | Vista Lounge

Join A&P/IA and SocialFlight President Jeff Simon for a lively discussion of tips and tricks for stacking the deck in your favor when it comes to the reliability of your aircraft. Whether you rent or own, Jeff will help you understand what your aircraft is telling you and how to protect yourself and your wallet. Join us for this one-hour presentation and earn IA credit.

PRESENTATION 2

Cockpit2Cowl – Answers to Your Questions LIVE

When / Where: Wednesday, February 17, 2027 | 4:00–4:45 PM | Princess Live

One pilot. One mechanic. An ocean of questions. Join Brian Schiff and Jeff Simon as they bring Cockpit2Cowl aboard THE SCHIFF SHOW at Sea for a lively, audience-driven session where your questions set the course. From puzzling cockpit indications to mysterious noises under the cowling, no aviation topic is too basic—or too likely to spark a friendly debate. Bring your maintenance mysteries, operational head-scratchers, and "my mechanic says…" stories for practical insights served with a generous helping of humor. It's pilot meets mechanic, with you in the conversation. Expect straight talk, fresh perspectives, and only occasional turbulence between the microphones.

ABOUT JEFF

Jeff Simon is an A&P mechanic, IA, pilot, and aircraft owner. He has spent the last 23 years promoting owner-assisted aircraft maintenance and created the first inspection tool for geared alternator couplings, available at ApproachAviation.com.

Jeff is also the creator of SocialFlight, the free mobile app and website that maps more than 20,000 aviation events and hundred-dollar hamburger destinations and also offers educational aviation videos. Free apps are available for iOS and Android devices, and users can also visit www.SocialFlight.com.



PRESENTER

Beth Stanton

PRESENTATION

Improviation: Thinking on the Fly

When / Where: Friday, February 19, 2027 | 9:45–10:30 AM | Vista Lounge

Pilots are constantly adapting — to changing conditions, unexpected complications, and plans that don't unfold quite as expected. In this interactive aviation-themed improv session, brave participants will take on familiar flying scenarios and respond as new twists are introduced along the way. The result is a playful look at the quick thinking and adaptability inherent in flying.

ABOUT BETH

Beth Stanton is an aerobatic pilot, aviation journalist, podcast host, and public speaker. She serves as director of publications and editor for the National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI).

An unlikely aviator, Beth didn't learn to fly until her forties. Before then, she'd never been in a small airplane and had little interest in aviation. A self-described "math-phobic English major," she nearly quit during flight training, convinced she didn't have what it took. Instead, she earned her pilot certificate and went on to become a champion aerobatic competitor.

Beth's flying adventures have taken her into everything from open-cockpit biplanes and bush planes to helicopters, gyroplanes, seaplanes, gliders, and hot-air balloons. She's also flown Pipistrel's Alpha Electro electric airplane and served as a test pilot for an experimental electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

As an aviation journalist, Beth has covered a broad spectrum of subjects, from notable aviation personalities and historic aircraft to cutting-edge aerospace engineering. For almost a decade, she wrote an innovation column for a major aviation association, exploring emerging technologies and the people behind them, including developments in aircraft design, propulsion, avionics, and advanced air mobility. She has also chronicled the occasional absurdities of aerobatic competition in her humor column, Brilliance & Buffoonery.

Beth has spoken at aviation conferences and for civic organizations, women's groups, and young audiences, often drawing on humor and personal experience. Beyond aviation, she has a background in music, dance, and theater and has also sung professionally. (www.bethestanton.com)



PRESENTER

Kay Sundaram

PRESENTATION

Lessons Learned from Traffic Pattern Tragedy

When / Where: Sunday, February 14, 2027 | 12:30–1:15 PM | Vista Lounge

In June 2016, a Cirrus SR20 flew from Norman, Oklahoma, into the busy Houston Class B airspace to land at Hobby Airport (KHOU). Miscommunication in the traffic pattern between the pilot and tower controllers, three go-arounds, improper flap retraction, and, ultimately, a departure from controlled flight resulted in a fatal crash near KHOU.

The Air Safety Institute (ASI) examines the circumstances of this accident and discusses how to recognize and avoid the mistakes that led up to the tragedy. Join Kay in examining, step by step, the circumstances that led to the tragedy, and take away valuable lessons to help pilots of all experience levels avoid these issues.

ABOUT KAY

Aviation has played a crucial role in shaping Kay's life. With a background as an aerospace engineer and flight instructor, she finds immense fulfillment in instilling a renewed sense of wonder in children. Flying has been a source of endless joy for her since age 12, and she aspires to give back to the very system that has enriched her life. Her dedication led her to become the Founder and Executive Director of STEM Aviation Academy, a nonprofit public benefit corporation (501(c)(3)) whose mission is to create positive experiences in general aviation and inspire America's youth to pursue careers in flight operations, while also promoting a culture of aviation safety within the pilot community.

The academy holds a special place in Kay's heart because it combines her two greatest passions: nurturing young minds and fostering a deep connection to aviation. In 2014, Kay was hired to start up the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) You Can Fly program and serve as the AOPA Ambassador for the Western U.S. She helped quickly grow this start-up into a $6 million program. Before joining AOPA, Kay had a fulfilling 20-year career in the aerospace industry.

Kay is an active flight instructor in San Diego and enjoys flying Cirrus and Cessna aircraft. She is an FAA Commercial Pilot and Multi-Engine Instrument Flight Instructor, FAA Advanced and Instrument Ground Instructor, and Cirrus Instructor, and she holds advanced degrees in Aeronautical & Astronautical Engineering from Purdue University and Stanford University.



PRESENTER

Allison Waterworth, Psy.D.

PRESENTATION

Pilot Mental Health: Wellness and Medical Certification

When / Where: Thursday, February 18, 2027 | 9:00–9:45 AM | Vista Lounge

Dr. Waterworth will provide a “peek behind the curtain” from the FAA perspective on how to obtain your medical certificate when you have a history of any type of mental health condition, such as ADHD, depression, anxiety, or substance abuse.

Allison also joins Lashae Bacon, Chris Baur, and Jolie Lucas for the Pilot Mental Health Panel: Wednesday, February 17, 2027 | 8:00–8:45 AM | Princess Live. See the Special Sessions section for details.

ABOUT ALLISON

Dr. Waterworth is an aviation neuropsychologist trained to provide any type of psychological evaluation a pilot might need to obtain a medical certificate. She was selected by the Federal Air Surgeon’s office to become one of a dozen consultants in neuropsychology in the nation. Her primary office is in San Francisco, with a satellite office in Albuquerque.

An aviation enthusiast, she has been married to a pilot for 35 years and has happily flown many hours in the right seat.

STAY CONNECTED

Information and Updates

Session dates, times, and venues reflect the current presentation calendar and are subject to change. Sessions not yet scheduled remain to be announced. We will post the latest information on the website and in the Facebook group.

ONLINE

Website: www.captainschiff.com/cruising

Facebook group: THE SCHIFF SHOW at Sea

Questions: Brian Schiff, brian@captainschiff.com

GROUP BOOKING

Princess group coordinator: Melissa Marimoutou, Cruise Vacation Planner, Princess Cruises

Phone: (800) 901-1172 ext. 41677 or (661) 753-0303 ext. 41677

Email: mmarimoutou@princesscruises.com

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