

First Passenger First Radio Failure - 7600 Over the Hawaiian Islands

Some of the most beautiful, spectacular, breathtaking flying in the world is over the Hawaiian Islands. “Idyllic” is often used to describe the Islands. If you’re a pilot and you have a bucket list, it probably is or has been on yours. It lives up to its reputation.

Sara Gagne learned to fly there. Got her Private, passed her checkride, took her first flight with passengers after getting her ticket there. It was a sunset sightseeing flight.

It didn’t seem quite so idyllic as she neared the end of that first flight with a passenger: suddenly, unexpectedly, her radio failed. She was NORDO. Her home airport was beneath the Honolulu Bravo. And the sun was setting.

Event Details

Wed, Jul 29, 2026 at 19:00 PDT

West Valley Flying Club

1901 Embarcadero Road
Suite 100

Palo Alto, CA



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Select #: WP15145179

Representative Alan Marcum n/a

Sara, who's now a CFI, will discuss what happened, what went through her mind, and what she did to cope with the situation. Join us in the classroom at the WVFC PAO clubhouse Wednesday evening July 29 at 7pm to hear more about this fascinating story.

Seminar will be in the classroom of the West Valley Flying Club (WVFC) clubhouse. Driving, take Embarcadero Road East from Highway 101 (toward the Bay); turn left just after the Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course. West Valley Flying Club is the second driveway on the right. Overflow parking is available in the golf course parking lot.

Transient pilots flying in, park in designated transient parking and proceed west past the Rossi hangar to the flying club building.

A message from the National FAASafety Team Manager

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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.