

Advanced Aerobic Conclusion



It has been said that “a superior pilot uses his superior judgement to avoid situations that might require his superior skill!” In other words, a superior pilot has acquired the *knowhow* and developed the subsequent *proficiency* to perform his maneuvers well enough in the first place that the need for nonessential corrections, along with the stress of not knowing what the outcome will be, is all but eliminated. Is it not true that “the good guys make it look easy?!”

Proficiency flying aerobatics, whether for sport or competition, is thus a mental function—hence the reason why those who look to their equipment to partly or wholly take the place of developing piloting skills, experience little or no actual improvement (despite having convinced themselves otherwise). One can travel across the country today and observe flyers attempting to dial into their radios the corrections that they could easily be making—only to have to keep repeating the process each time conditions change, a different airplane is flown, or a different maneuver grabs their interest. Indeed, adjusting their planes has become their hobby, and in many instances it no longer even occurs to them that they could input the correction themselves, and they would be better flyers for it! The author recalls one instance where a club’s most active flyer and radio guru lost all his airplanes to a cluster of mechanical failures. Left to finish out the season flying other club members’ airplanes, most of which used radios with no more than dual-rates, his aerobatics improved considerably—despite being convinced that if he had a more capable radio he would fly better! But as is often the case nowadays, by continuing to look to his radio to improve his flying, and after a couple more seasons flying his own planes with minimal advancement, he lost interest in aerobatics and now only flies 3D!

Maintaining reliable equipment and changing the balance or control throws on your airplane(s) to suit your comfort level is a vital part of proficiency. Yet, as you endeavor to practice advanced aerobatics, know that a successful performance will primarily reflect your preparation and thinking on the ground. And when challenges arise, look to *yourself* and ask what you can do to effect a better outcome, and proficiency will follow.

Advanced Aerobatics is unarguably the most engaging and rewarding form of flying. Those who have invested themselves in becoming advanced aerobatic pilots already know that, and now you know what it takes to know it too. Enjoy ☺

KPTR: If advancement is what you seek, set up your planes to your comfort level, then improve the maneuvers through proficiency.