Assembling an Aerobatic Sequence

Maneuver Variations
In this final section: We will examine several techniques that will help you make the most of your practice sessions and inspire you to keep improving — starting with the ability to perform a sequence of several or more consecutive maneuvers.

It is understood that most who partake in aerobatics do not aspire to become a World Champion. But, to underscore why working toward an aerobatic sequence is important, consider the average flyer who heads out to the flying field hoping to improve with practice. The million dollar question is, “Practice what?” To use a golf analogy, it is not until one “shoots for the green” that he begins to really appreciate *cause-and-effect*. One can repeatedly swing the club, but without anything to gauge it by, one can only hope he’s doing it right. When we go beyond just doing a maneuver, to actually needing to perform it well enough to be able to do another maneuver afterward. That is when a pilot is gaining the most from his or her practice. Otherwise, how would you *really* know?

We’ll begin by noting that 1st U.S. R/C Flight School’s ultimate training accomplishment is demonstrated each time a student starts his first flight of the day flying a level better than where he left off the day before. This phenomenon reinforces how we can be so absolutely sure that knowledge, i.e., practicing according to a plan, is more critical to a person’s success than anything else, including quantity of practice.

KPTR: To grow as a pilot one must keep pursuing *goals*, not just time.
Flying With Purpose: Assembling a Sequence of Maneuvers

Pilots who work toward flying a planned sequence of maneuvers tend to experience greater satisfaction from flying (well beyond those experiencing brief thrills from individual stunts). By co-opting or developing one’s own aerobatic sequence, practice is elevated from a typical ad-hoc and sometimes arduous experience, to one that is looked upon with great anticipation in pursuit of the goal. Put another way, you will probably have little difficulty performing the majority of the Phase I maneuvers in sequence, but those few that challenge you will keep you eagerly looking forward to your next chance to fly and improve those maneuvers.

There simply is no greater measure than the ability to perform several planned maneuvers in succession to know that you have arrived as pilot in command of your airplane — in addition to the fun and personal satisfaction that comes from a job well done.

Note: It is not uncommon for the first several tries at a maneuver to be some of the best of the day. After that, most people are inclined to start trying too hard in an effort to “perfect” it, but what they end up doing is creating new ways to mess it up. So here is where flying a sequence is also helpful: Working on assembling several maneuvers occupies our attention and provides the stimulus to keep from burning out on just a few. Then, after the session, it starts sinking in just how much you have progressed beyond the day before — as opposed to trying harder or seeking quantity over quality!

KPTR: Pilots who pursue a sequence get more enjoyment out of flying.