

THREE RIVERS AERO NEWSLETTER

MONTH IN REVIEW



Welcoming Our Newest Instructors

In July, we welcomed Olivia Avery and Faxing Zhou to the Three Rivers Aero family as our newest Certified Flight Instructors. Both are graduates of Western Michigan University's College of Aviation and bring strong aeronautical knowledge, a passion for teaching, and enthusiasm for general aviation. Olivia and Faxing trained here at TRA, completing our proven CFI course. Throughout the program, they showed great work ethic, professionalism, and a clear drive to help others grow. It's always rewarding to watch instructor candidates challenge themselves and come out more confident — and these two absolutely did just that. Now officially part of the team, they're excited to jump in, work with students, and help the next generation of aviators take flight. With their positive energy and fresh perspective, they're a great addition to the school. Be sure to say hello when you see them around the airport!



TRA CFIs Olivia Avery (top) and Faxing Zhou (bottom).





Student Spotlight

Katie Hamlin

This month, we're proud to spotlight Katie Hamlin, who came to us last spring to begin her Private Pilot License training. Through consistent effort, focus, and determination, Katie earned her PPL in April of this year — a milestone she worked tirelessly to achieve.

Since then, she has wasted no time moving forward, jumping right into her instrument training while also building valuable PIC cross-country time. Katie's drive doesn't stop in the cockpit — she balances her aviation goals with running her own business and holding a full-time day job, all while continuing to allocate the time and energy needed to study, train, and grow as a pilot.

Her dedication is unmatched, and her ability to juggle such a demanding schedule while making steady progress in her training is nothing short of inspiring. Katie's journey is a testament to what can be accomplished with passion, discipline, and hard work, and we're proud to cheer her on as she continues reaching new heights in aviation.

The Art of Chair Flying

Chair flying is the practice of visualizing your flight before it happens, and it's one of the most powerful — and cheapest — training tools you have. Airline and military pilots swear by it, and for good reason. Whether you're aiming for an airline career or simply trying to save money in training, chair flying cuts down on remedial lessons and builds confidence fast.

The process is simple. Sit down somewhere quiet and run through your flight from start to finish. Picture each maneuver in detail — the sight picture out the window, the control inputs, and how the airplane will respond. Speak your radio calls out loud, just as you would in the cockpit. Use a cockpit poster or a photo of your panel to run checklists and flows so your hands know where to go without hesitation. Then mentally fly the entire profile: taxi, takeoff, climb, cruise, approach, and landing.

The best part? The Hobbs meter isn't running. Mistakes are free, and every repetition builds muscle memory that carries straight into the airplane. The more prepared you are on the ground, the smoother and more efficient you'll be in the air.

Remember — chair time is cheap. Hobbs time isn't.

● Ready to Take Flight?

Connect with us for all your flight training needs! With 6 aircraft, 8 instructors, and availability 7 days a week, we're here to help you reach all your aviation goals.

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Snapshots From July



In July, Three Rivers Aero students went a perfect 8 for 8 on their checkrides! We welcomed 4 brand-new CFIs, 4 new Private Pilots, and celebrated 3 successful first solos. Huge congratulations to all on their hard work, dedication, and success!