



## **SAFETY GRAM**

October 2016

Steve Jobs once said "The only way to do great work is to love what you do". I'm 100% sure that we all love aviation and albeit work, we're having a lot of fun flying. Hello! Ladies and gents of the Aero Club this is the first of many Safety Grams that I will have the honor of sharing with you and your communities. Let me begin by saying how excited I am to be part of the team. I have heard nothing but good things about the Aero Club program and the exceptional aviators that fuel it. It is my intention to grow the Aero Club program and make this already strong enterprise stronger!

So, what does one discuss when writing to a group of professional aviators for the first time? I've thought long and hard about this and within that 1-minute of deep thought, get it 1-minute, I came up with "Back to the Basics". Every now and then, we have an opportunity to refocus and re-cage on the very thing/things that make us successful. Here I am, the new guy, sitting in the hot seat; a great opportunity to take a deep breath and go back to the basics.

As aviators, we can never underestimate the impact that a single decision can or will have. That said, exactly what are our basics? Well let's start with ensuring our medical requirements are current and up to date. Taking the extra time to do in-depth and thorough flight planning. Using our checklist during preflight, in-flight and post flight. Following the established rules of the sky according to the FAA. Bringing the aircraft back in the same condition that it departed in (maybe better, throw out that candy wrapper someone left behind). Bottom line, the decision making process can be overwhelming; however we are professional aviators and must continue to do things the right way. Good decision making leads to better outcomes.

As technology continues to creep its way into our cockpits, remember we can always rely on good ole stick and rudder flying. No matter how many gizmo's and gadgets our planes are outfitted with; nothing can replace basic aircraft control. Let's take this month to enjoy some flying and focusing on doing things the right way. Back to the Basics!

In the words of my predecessor; Blue skies and fair winds!

**FLY SAFELY!**

