



Airfreddy's Flying Stories

Stories That *All Pilots* Can Learn From

Story # 18: The Day She Passed Her Flight Test

THE DAY SHE PASSED HER FLIGHT TEST: So it is time for the last Barbie story. From the title of the story you can probably guess what the story is about. This is another inspirational story for you ladies out there. If Barbie did it, so can you. I did have this happen with one other lady student of mine, but unfortunately she decided to stop flying.

We will go back to the beginning; Barbie and Ken both started flying together. The entire process for Barbie to get her certificate was about 10 months.

They started flying. About a month later, I had flights scheduled with both of them. Barbie was flying with me first and Ken was scheduled to fly right after her.

She told me that they weren't going to be able to fly the next week because it was their anniversary and they were going out of town. My little voice in my head went "GREAT ". I immediately said "you two stay off of each other"! "Frederick (OH I HATED THAT) it is our anniversary"!! So we went and flew and afterwards I went up with Ken. I told him the same thing "you stay off of each other next week" Ken just laughed.

So they went away and started flying about two weeks later. The next week, here it came. Barbie walked in and wasn't looking too good. "Frederick " she said, "I am not feeling very good" and I responded and said no problem. Then she gave me that look "Frederick we are going to have another baby". There it was and I thought I lost a student for about a year. Then she just said she was going to fly when she felt up to it and she still wanted to get her certificate as quickly as

possible. I am pretty sure this is not the only time in aviation that this has happened and I can guess that there are probably very many Others.

The biggest challenge in my life (to that point) was tossed upon me, so on her good days we flew and on her bad days we didn't. Towards the end I remember a few of the airline pilots I knew saying "Boy if that baby decided to come out you're going to have real problems". I think at times I was more nervous about the situation than she was. I brought it up one day and I got "Frederick I have had a baby before and I know what I am doing". I think this was the first time in my flight training career that a student looked at me and said "Frederick don't you worry". That was my line and I was not about to argue with a woman about this subject, NO WAY!!!

Yes the other stories in this book happened during this time. So if any of you ladies out there are having any trouble building confidence in yourself, read the stories about Barbie again. During her training she had great flights ("I can do aileron Rolls can you") to very bad flights ("From I can't do this anymore to I am an ace"). She even got sick in the plane with me. But she never quit (She did try to once but I didn't let her / I knew she just needed a little time). She had mood swings, but she was determined to get it done.

She had another problem that most of you probably would avoid at all cost during flight training. I scheduled her flight test with the examiner and told him about it and he said he had seen it years back, so I had a bit of relief hearing that I was not the only flight instructor on the planet who had trained an expecting mother.

She showed up the morning of the flight test. If I remember correctly she was due in only two or three weeks, I don't remember exactly but I can tell you she could sit in the plane and fly it easier than she could walk. Yes, she was that close. It was right before the flight test that she gave me the "Frederick I have had a baby before" line. Then she would go out solo and practice.

She finally went off for her flight test and she and her examiner finally came back. They were both still out on the ramp and I was the one pacing not Ken. The examiner finally walked in and gave me the thumbs up. “ Mission accomplished “!!!!!!!

I just wish I could have had a beer with her on the day of her flight test.

So all of you out there, you can do it. You will have ups and downs throughout your training but you will get thru it.