

LONG BEACH FLYING CLUB & FLIGHT ACADEMY

... from the desk of Candy Robinson

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR

COME ON IN OR GIVE US A CALL! Indicate that you are interested in taking flying lessons and want to choose a flight instructor you will feel comfortable with. We will give you a few business cards -- plan to speak to several instructors. While there are no perfect answers, the following questions should be asked. The objective of these questions is to gain insight into the flight instructor's personality.

- a. How long have you been instructing?
- b. Do you instruct full- or part-time? This information concerns availability only. Part time does not imply less proficiency or less availability. Ask to see their syllabus.
- c. How long does your average student take to solo? Note that the flight instructor who solos his/her students in the least amount of time may not necessarily be the best instructor.
- d. How many total hours of solo and dual flight do your typical students require?
- e. What percent of your students require more than 40 total hr.? (Probably 100%.) How much more? A national average of 65+ flight hr. is often quoted.
- f. Do you recommend a Part 141 program? Why?
- g. What is the rental cost for your training aircraft, solo and dual?
- h. How do you recommend that I study for my pilot knowledge and practical tests, and what are the estimated costs?
- i. Where do you recommend that I take my medical examination?
- j. What are the flight instructors' schedules and the schedule of available aircraft?
- k. Do you have an introductory flight for a nominal fee, e.g., \$49? May I take it with no further obligation?
- l. Map out a schedule.
 1. When and how often would you fly
 2. When will you take the medical exam
 3. When you will take the FAA private pilot knowledge test
 4. When you should plan to take your FAA practical test
 5. When and how payments will be made for your instruction
 6. Review, revise, and update the total cost to obtain your certificate.

Remember that even after you select an instructor, you can continue your interviews as you work toward your license(s). If your instructor is doing anything that you don't understand how it relates to your goals, ASK them to explain and to show where that element is on their syllabus. If you are not happy with the instruction you are receiving, please let us know and feel free to change instructors. Continue to network – hangar flying is part of the education!

Happy and safe flying!!!

P.S. Most of these questions are from the Gleim "Learn to Fly" booklet.