



# Test Pilot

# 1,001

# Things You Thought You Knew About Aviation



**Barry Schiff**

Foreword by Thomas B. Haines

*Test Pilot: 1,001 Things You Thought You Knew About Aviation*  
by Barry Schiff

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## Question 1

Mix 'n' Match the first and last names:

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ Hobbs       | A. Daniel                |
| 2. _____ Venturi     | B. Gaspard               |
| 3. _____ Bernoulli   | C. Paul                  |
| 4. _____ Jeppesen    | D. (not a person's name) |
| 5. _____ Immelmann   | E. Gerardus              |
| 6. _____ Chandelle   | F. Elrey                 |
| 7. _____ Pitot       | G. Ernst                 |
| 8. _____ Coriolis    | H. John W.               |
| 9. _____ Mach        | I. Gabriel               |
| 10. _____ Kollsman   | J. Max                   |
| 11. _____ Fahrenheit | K. Henri                 |
| 12. _____ Mercator   | L. Giovanni              |

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## Q2

John Magee wrote the famous poem, *High Flight*,

- A. in a notebook while riding on a Lancaster bomber.
- B. on an envelope while flying a Spitfire.
- C. on a napkin at an airport restaurant.
- D. in a German prisoner-of-war camp.

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## Q3

True or False? The first powered flight of an aircraft occurred in 1903.

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## Q4

Why are aircraft position lights also called navigation lights?

---

Q5

Which lightplane manufacturer designed an automobile immediately after the end of World War II in an effort to offset canceled military contracts and a dim outlook for general aviation?

- A. Beech
- B. Cessna
- C. Piper
- D. None of the above.

---

Q6

Which of the following airplanes holds the world's altitude record of 56,046 feet MSL for piston-powered airplanes?

- A. Cessna T210
- B. Beechcraft B36TC Bonanza
- C. Lockheed 1649A Constellation
- D. Fabric-covered Caproni biplane

---

Q7

True or False? On April 3, 1844, a prestigious newspaper, the *New York Sun*, carried the astounding news that the Atlantic Ocean had been crossed by air in three days. This story—called the greatest air hoax ever known—was perpetrated by Edgar Allan Poe.

---

Q8

True or False? The *stick* in the term “dead-stick landing” refers to the control stick (or wheel).

---

Q9

Why is it said when a pilot has a fatal accident that he has “bought the farm”?

---

Q10

Why is a life vest also called a Mae West?

---

Q11

The record for endurance flights (longest time in the air without landing) was flown in

- A. a Boeing 747-400.
- B. the Rutan Voyager.
- C. a helium-filled balloon.
- D. a Cessna 172.

---

Q12

Which of the following does not belong?

- A. king
- B. queen
- C. egg
- D. yoke

---

Q13

The first person to fly an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean was

- A. Albert C. Read.
- B. Charles A. Lindbergh.
- C. John W. Alcock.
- D. Charles Nungesser.

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Q14

True or False? Charles A. Lindbergh was known as “Lucky Lindy.” One reason for this is that during his solo flight across the Atlantic to Paris, the net drift was zero.

# Test Pilot 1,001 Things You Thought You Knew About Aviation

By Barry Schiff

In choosing questions for his “Test Pilot” column, Barry Schiff maintains that “...If the answer isn’t surprising, educational, or entertaining, I don’t want it.”

—from the Foreword by Thomas Haines, Editor in Chief, *AOPA Pilot* magazine

Barry Schiff is on a continuous quest for aviation knowledge, and the flight instructor in him wants to share it. His latest book compiles fascinating questions and answers from his *AOPA Pilot* “Test Pilot” column into a single document.

Pilots are accustomed to test-taking—it’s a part of earning and maintaining all pilot certificates. But this collection of *infrequently-asked-questions* puts the fun back into self-quizzing, encouraging you to stretch your knowledge base and go beyond the subjects learned during student pilot days. Some of Schiff’s questions are for pure entertainment. Some take you right to the airport:

Q: A pilot is taxiing along a narrow taxiway at an uncontrolled airport on a cloudless day when he notices another 172 approaching from the opposite direction. Without stopping, how can both pilots be certain that their wingtips will not touch as they pass one another?

Some questions share tips from a pro; other material will spark lively discussions for hangar flying. Organized into eight chapters, the book presents fun facts in a quiz format on subjects such as History, Piloting, Airlines and Military, Weather, and much more. A true aviation buff, the author teaches new information, clarifies points commonly misunderstood, and provides a wealth of knowledge throughout the aviation spectrum. Illustrated throughout with unique and entertaining photographs from the author’s collection.

Barry Schiff, with more than 26,000 hours in almost 300 types of aircraft, has received worldwide recognition for his aviation accomplishments. He has earned every FAA category and class rating (except airship) and every possible instructor’s rating. During his 34-year career with Trans World Airlines he flew everything from the Lockheed Constellation to the Boeing 747 and was a check captain on the Boeing 767. An award-winning journalist and author, he is well known to flying audiences for his numerous books and articles published in 90 aviation magazines, notably *AOPA Pilot*, of which he is a contributing editor.



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