

Key Lessons Learned

Based on a Debrief with Workshop Instructors

Marketing

- Improve the marketing efforts to spread the word.
 - Although we expected greater attendance, smaller groups turned out to be good for some of the workshops.
 - Social media marketing worked well, but could be even better/easier by providing lead instructors with information and ready templates to use.
- Though the sims might be the hook that gets people interested, they are best used in a supporting role in the overall learning process.

The Vibe

- The serious interest, excitement and active participation shown by the non-instructors were a pleasant surprise.
- The enthusiasm shown by support instructors who “got it” exceeded expectations and was exciting to watch.
- The format and interactivity were spot on; the quality of engagement was awesome.
- This exercise showed that new ideas can be accepted, especially by learners.

Workshops as a Product

- This is a specialty product
 - Need to attach a value to the workshops for the concept to survive.
- These work well when professional instructors present topics in a dynamic way.
 - Need to be selective about topics and presenters.
- Need better control over all aspects of workshop set-up and delivery.

Support Instructors

- Need stronger vetting of the support instructors, especially the sim instructors.
- Consider the provision of alternative procedural training on a portion of simulators for those instructors not ready for the optimal learning methodology.
- Share more content with support instructors, especially the sim instructors
 - Make pre-workshop meeting(s) mandatory

Target Audience

- Pilots who care and want to learn will drive the success of the effort, not flight instructors

- Focus on finding those instructors who want to be better for the best return on investment.
- Position the conventional cadre of flight instructors as a veritable farm team for the optimal learning bullpen.
- Consider separate programs: one targeting instructors; another targeting non-instructors.

Visualization

- The visualization exercise seemed enormously effective and was well-received by participants.
 - A richness of discussion accompanied the exercise
 - Learners seemed more engaged with the visualization (learning) than the sim (doing)
 - Visualization could be a critical piece for making the sim sessions a greater success
 - Treat the sim as the frosting on the cake

AirVenture-Specific

- A different venue would be more appropriate for the workshops as is.
- Explore ways to ensure those who registered actually attend.
 - Skin in the game, perhaps with a registration fee
- Consider reformatting for AirVenture
 - Shorten the intro briefing
 - Condense the length of the workshops
 - Have lead instructors give forums on the grounds (SAFE, NAFI, IAC, Women in Aviation, etc.) and encourage attendees to come to the PPC for other parts of the workshops.
 - Offer round-robin training, e.g., during the evening so as not to compete with the airshow and other daytime activities
- Difficult and potentially lengthy transportation issues.
 - Getting to and leaving the PPC can be a deterrent to participating
- Noise bleeding between workshops was a distraction at times.
- When the sims aren't in use during workshops, consider making them available for non-workshop participants.

Beyond AirVenture

- Attendees showed unbridled enthusiasm for future programs.
- Others expressed interest in, and a need for, similar training at flight schools and possibly even at the airlines.
- Plan for “off-season” activity at the PPC.
 - Experiments / Clinics / Events
 - Legacy content available on demand