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Aviators' Model Code of Conduct

We met Michael Baum at EAA AirVenture 2004. As a general aviation pilot, he was there to figuratively immerse himself in all things airplane. He was also there to talk to us about a project that he has literally immersed himself in during the past several months.

Michael is no ordinary pilot, if there is such a person. He has built a distinguished legal and business career. While his non-flying accomplishments are impressive, his "Aviators' Model Code of Conduct"

is so well researched that it could be his doctoral dissertation if he chose to pursue a new career as a college professor.

He showed us page after page of documentation that supports every pronouncement in the "Code," all of it reviewed by many aviation experts. That was impressive. So was Michael's obvious passion to "advance airmanship, flight safety, the culture of GA and the vibrancy of GA in general," as he indicates in the introduction to the "Code." He has clearly gone to great lengths to present "a vision of excellence in aviation."

Here are just a few of the recommendations in the Aviators' Model Code of Conduct that will give you a sense of its tone and purpose:

- "Keep your passengers as safe as possible - as though they were your closest loved ones."
- "Commit to pursuing a rigorous, life-long course of aviation study."
- "Recognize and seek to mitigate the environmental impact of aircraft operations."
- "When practicable, invest in new technologies that advance flight safety, and train to use them properly."
- "Adhere to the highest ethical standards in all your aviation dealings, including business practices."

We salute Michael's vision for general aviation and bring you the excellent fruit of his efforts in this issue.