

Eddie Velie, GRI, Broker/Owner  
Velie Realty  
EdVelie@gmail.com



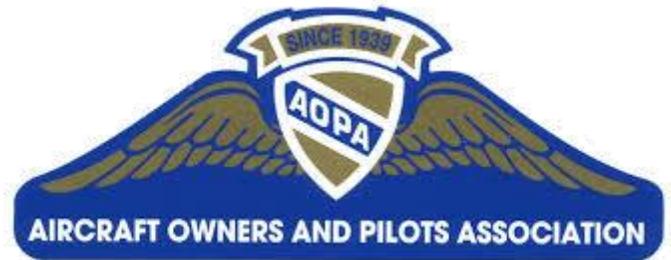
(O): (321) 622-6300  
Web: VelieRealty.com  
Text: (954) 263-6287

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## Eddie Joe Velie's Autobiography

### FLYING ADVENTURE & FUN

***“Flying an airplane is the greatest human freedom!” “It is like a roller coaster without rails.” Eddie Velie***



*Eddie Velie, AOPA Member since 1990*

### FAA Private Pilot Certificate

In 1989 I assigned to Hickam AFB, HI. I sold my car at my last base and used my income to take flying lessons the first year I was there. This article is a depiction of what it was like. To me, ***Passing the flight exam with the FAA Examiner was one of the most satisfying experiences of my life.*** As in, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, the pyramid pinnacle of Self Actualization.

[I passed the FAA flight test on January 5, 1991](#) with 80.5 hours of training double the time required to take the FAA flight exam. It was logical to take more hours to learn flying out of Hickam AFB then Honolulu, Hi. It took 6 radio frequencies to get to the training area between two mountain ranges on Oahu. It took about half the time coming and going in controlled air space of Hickam AFB and Honolulu International.

It didn't matter. The experience was awesomely mind bending surreal. Flying over Pearl Harbor coming and going or diving in slip to 50 feet to do touch and goes on Ford Island and the Pearl Harbor memorial. [Click here to read an article describing the experience in an AOPA magazine article.](#)

Allowed to go home to W Melbourne, FL for 30 days in 1993 because I reenlisted and was staying overseas. I was able take 15 people flying out of Patrick

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AFB in the low wing Piper Warriors. I flew 12.1 hours while home for 30 days.  
[According to my log book, the following people were passengers:](#)

### [AOPA's Flight Training Magazine, "Learning to Fly in Hawaii"](#)

Adventure doesn't not exclude you from doing stupid things! This day I did two dumb things. First, I passed on a chance to stay the night on Big Island, HI with two lovely young ladies while being single, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, I flew in interment weather when I knew not to and could have risked our lives.

According to my logbook, on May 31, 1991, I flew myself and female friends from Oahu to the Big Island for the day. We hung out on black sand beaches. We returned to our Cessna 172 that evening.

The weather on the route to Oahu was reported as "marginal VFR" along the Molokai cliffs that stand 3,900 feet tall in places. This meant VFR pilot should not fly and wait for better weather and that meant that we could stay the night and return in the morning because I'm a VFR Private Pilot. Then an Aloha Airlines plane landed. The pilot was walking past us, so I asked him about the weather along the Molokai cliffs. He said, "Clear.",

With that information I flew the three of us back to Oahu into the sunset. That route passes Maui, along the cliffs of Molokai, over Honolulu, Diamond Head Crater, Punch Bowl Crater, Pearl Harbor, and we land at Wheeler AFB between the mountains on Oahu right after sunset.

A few days later, the May/June issue of FAA Aviation Magazine was in my mailbox. [In it was article was published by the FAA about a passenger plane that crashed into the cliffs of Molokai](#), described as, "One the worst commuter accident in U.S. history." The plane crashed under the same weather circumstances on Molokai that was being reported before I flew back from the Big Island to Oahu on May 31st.

The Aircraft Owner's and Pilot's Association (AOPA) is an association that looks out for the rights of people who work and have an interest in general aviation. They have a few different magazines. This article is a good depiction of flying in Hawaii. All the articles spurred my on to finish and become a Private Pilot!

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## **QUOTES**

*"Flying is better than sex!"* Eddie's flight instructor

*"The USA is the land of opportunity, but you must be educated to recognize that opportunity when it presents itself".* Eddie Velie

*"In life, take advantage of opportunities, not people"* Eddie Velie

[Turning to Final Kalaupapa Peninsula](#)

[Diamond Head Crater Oahu](#)

[Turning to Final Ford Island Pearl Harbor](#)  
[Punch Bowl National Veterans Cemetary](#)

[Pearl Harbor Carrier Fleet](#)

[Flying Below Molokai's Cliffs-2](#)

[Flying Below Molokai's Cliffs](#)

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