

Frying Pan To Fire?

General aviation “is essentially an airline or maintenance operation of one, which puts the responsibility for sound decision making on one person’s shoulders,” NTSB Chairman Deborah A.P. Hersman said in a recent press release. Are you really sure you want to take on the responsibility of aircraft ownership? You’re already responsible for weather information, the aircraft’s load, its range and capability for the mission, planning the flight and flying the flight. You really want to add director of maintenance to the list?

As bad as that may make aircraft ownership sound, it’s really not that much of a burden, presuming you start with an airplane that will neither make you a pauper nor spend all its time in the shop. One of the keys to aircraft ownership is having the time and interest to do it correctly. Knowing some good mechanics helps, as do some like-minded friends.

