



**Savvy Aviator, Inc.**

1127 Hetrick Avenue • Arroyo Grande CA 93420

805-878-4597

mike.busch@savvyaviator.com

## MICHAEL D. BUSCH

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### Capabilities

Mr. Busch has nearly 60 years of aviation experience and is arguably the best-known A&P/IA mechanic in general aviation. He possesses an unusual breadth and depth of technical knowledge as a pilot, flight instructor, mechanic, inspector, aircraft owner and consultant, with focus on maintenance and operation of piston-powered general aviation airplanes. He also brings more than 50 years of experience as a widely published aviation writer and a high-profile aviation speaker, lecturer and educator, with a reputation for offering easy-to-understand explanations of complex and technical aviation subjects.

His best-selling 2014 book *Manifesto: A Revolutionary Approach to General Aviation Maintenance* has received universally rave reviews from aircraft owners, mechanics, and FAA regulators. His second book, titled *Mike Busch on Engines*, was published in June 2018 is more than 500 pages long, and has been incorporated into many A&P mechanic training curricula. Two more 500-page books, *Mike Busch on Airplane Ownership (Volumes 1 and 2)*, were published in 2019 and 2020. Mr. Busch is the industry's most prolific writer and teacher in the field of aircraft maintenance, having authored many hundreds of articles including monthly *Savvy Maintenance* columns in *AOPA Pilot* magazine, and previously monthly articles in *EAA Sport Aviation*, *American Bonanza Society*, *Cirrus Pilot*, and *Cessna Pilots Association* magazines.

His decades of writing, teaching and outreach in support of aviation safety were acknowledged by the Federal Aviation Administration when the agency honored Mr. Busch as "National Aviation Maintenance Technician of the Year" for 2008, an award presented to him in person by the FAA Administrator at a ceremony in July 2008 at EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Mr. Busch is an expert on FAA maintenance regulations and has worked closely with the Rulemaking Division (AGC-200) of the FAA Office of Chief Counsel in the development of several landmark regulatory interpretations to reduce the regulatory maintenance burden on aircraft owners. At the FAA's invitation, he served on the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee Airman Certification Standards Working Group (ARAC ACS-WG) to help formulate new FAA training, testing and guidance for A&P mechanics.

In addition, Mr. Busch is a mathematician and computer software expert with the ability to perform computer reconstruction of aircraft accidents, and to develop demonstrative evidence in the form of digitized graphics, computer animation and video. This unique combination of technical aviation expertise, communications skills and computer capabilities makes Mr. Busch especially well suited as an aviation consultant and expert witness.

## Aviation Background

Founder (in 2008) and CEO of Savvy Aviation, Inc., the world's largest firm providing professional maintenance management, maintenance consulting, data analysis and breakdown assistance for owner-flown aircraft. The firm presently manages the maintenance of nearly 2,000 piston-powered single- and twin-engine aircraft, offering aircraft owners expert analysis, diagnosis, guidance and representation in their relationship with service centers and maintenance providers. The firm employs the same commonsense reliability-centered approach to maintenance that Mr. Busch articulated in his book *Manifesto*, ensuring the highest level of safety and reliability, while at the same time eliminating the costs and risks of maintenance that offers no meaningful benefit. [<https://savvyaviation.com>]

Founder and president of Savvy Aviator, Inc., providing expert technical training and consulting services for aircraft owners and expert witness services for aviation attorneys, with focus on general aviation maintenance issues. Between 2002 and 2010, Mr. Busch conducted between 10 and 20 weekend seminars each year for aircraft owners and mechanics at venues throughout the U.S. These 17-hour seminars were approved by the FAA for Inspection Authorization (IA) renewal credit, and endorsed by American Bonanza Society, Avemco Insurance Company, Cessna Pilots Association, Cirrus Owners and Pilots Association, and FlightSafety International.

For three decades, Mr. Busch served as a member of the technical staff of the Cessna Pilots Association (CPA), then the world's largest aviation "type club" with more than 10,000 members worldwide who own and operate piston-powered Cessna aircraft. During that time, Mr. Busch wrote a monthly "Tech Topics" column in CPA's magazine. At CPA, his areas of special expertise included all models of piston-powered Cessna aircraft (especially 300- and 400-series twins), Continental engines, and turbocharging. In his role as CPA's expert on 300- and 400-series twins, Mr. Busch was instrumental in the development of several milestone Airworthiness Directives affecting those aircraft, and worked closely with the FAA Maintenance Division in Washington DC, the FAA Small Airplane Directorate in Kansas City, the FAA Aircraft Certification Office in Wichita, and the FAA Office of Chief Counsel (Regulations Division) in Washington DC. [<https://cessna.org>]

Mr. Busch also served as technical consultant to the American Bonanza Society (ABS), the Cirrus Owners and Pilots Association (COPA), the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). Writes monthly articles on maintenance-related issues for *AOPA Pilot*, *EAA Sport Aviation*, *ABS Magazine*, and *Cirrus Pilot*.

Co-founder in 1998 of Aeromedix LLC, a firm in Jackson Hole, Wyo., providing oxygen systems, pulse oximeters, CO detectors, smoke hoods, and other health- and safety-related technologies to the aviation community. [<https://aeromedix.com>]

Co-founder in 1995 of AVweb, the pioneering Internet-based aviation news service and magazine with over 130,000 subscribers. Mr. Busch served as AVweb's editor-in-chief for more than 7 years it was acquired in late 2002 by Belvoir Publications. [<https://avweb.com>]

## Aviation Background (cont'd)

A professional aviation writer since 1970, Mr. Busch has published hundreds of articles in numerous aviation publications, including *Air Facts*, *American Bonanza Society Magazine*, *AOPA Pilot*, *AVweb*, *Cessna Pilots Association Magazine*, *Cirrus Pilot*, *IFR*, *Light Plane Maintenance*, and *The Aviation Consumer*.

Mr. Busch is also much in demand as an aviation speaker and lecturer on technical subjects ranging from instrument flying to aircraft maintenance, and has given numerous technical seminars at EAA AirVenture, AOPA Expo/Summit and Regional Fly-Ins, Aviation Industry Expo, Cayman Islands International Aviation Week, the FBI Academy (Quantico VA), and many other venues. His Savvy Owner Seminars and monthly EAA-sponsored maintenance webinars provide training in maintenance management, decision making and troubleshooting to owners of all makes and models of piston-powered aircraft and their mechanics.

Mr. Busch purchased his first aircraft in 1968, and has owned a succession of piston-powered general aviation aircraft since then. He currently owns, operates, flies and maintains a 1979 Cessna T310R piston twin and serves as the sole pilot and mechanic for that aircraft.

## Certificates and Ratings

Commercial pilot: single- and multiengine land, single-engine sea, instrument, glider.

Flight instructor: airplanes, instruments, multiengine (CFIA/I/ME).

Mechanic: airframe & powerplant, with inspection authorization (A&P/IA).

## Aircraft Experience by Type

**Types flown:** Aviat Husky; Beech 33, 35, 36; Bellanca 17-30A; Cessna 150, 152, 172, 177, 177RG, 182, R182, TR182, 195, 206, T206, 210, T210, 310, T310, 337, 340, 414, 421, 425; Columbia 350; Cirrus SR-22; Mooney M20; Piper J-3, PA-18, PA-28, PA-31.

**Types maintained:** Beech 33, 35, 36, 55, 58; Bellanca 17-30A; Cessna 150, 152, 172, 177, 177RG, 182, R182, TR182, 195, 206, T206, 210, T210, 310, T310, 337, 340, 402, 414, 421; Cirrus SR-20, SR-22, SR-22TN, SR-22T; Piper PA-28.

## Aviation-Specific Training

Cessna 300/400-Series Maintenance Training Program (10 days), FlightSafety Cessna Maintenance Learning Center, Wichita KS.

Continental Motors Aviation Technician Advanced Training Program (5 days), Continental Motors factory, Mobile AL.

## Organizational Affiliations

Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association  
American Bonanza Society  
Cessna Pilots Association  
Cirrus Owners & Pilots Association  
Experimental Aircraft Association  
Professional Aviation Maintenance Association

## **Non-Aviation Background**

Mr. Busch started pursuing aviation on a full-time basis in 1995, after retiring from a long and successful career as a software developer and computer entrepreneur. During his computer industry career, Mr. Busch managed major software development projects for Computer Sciences Corporation, General Electric, Honeywell, NCR, Phillips, and Visa International. He also served for three years as a member of the U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. He received many honors for his pioneering work in computing.

## **Education**

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, Dartmouth College, Class of 1966. Graduated Magna Cum Laude and elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Graduate studies in mathematics at Princeton University. National Science Foundation Scholarship.

Graduate studies in business administration at Columbia University.

## **Personal**

Mr. Busch was born in New York City in 1944. He grew up and received his education in the northeast U.S., then relocated to the west coast in 1968. He lives on three oak-studded acres in a rural area of California's central coast halfway between the cities of San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria.



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### Rates for consulting and expert witness work

Investigation, research, analysis, drafting reports..... **\$375/hour**

Depositions involving travel and testimony at trial (one day minimum):

First day (or partial day) ..... **\$3,750**

Additional full day ..... **\$3,000**

Additional half day ..... **\$1,500**



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## **Consulting and Expert Witness Fee Agreement**

### **Initial Case Review and Consultation**

There is an initial, nonrefundable case-opening, review, and consultation fee of \$3,750 to be paid in advance of opening work on the case.

If work performed at or near my office during this phase (i.e., before I am retained or disclosed as an expert witness) exceeds 10 hours, an advance of \$3,750 is due immediately; each additional hour (beyond the initial 10) will be billed at the rate of \$375 per hour.

Each time the advance is depleted, a subsequent advance of \$3,750 is due immediately, against which each additional hour will be billed at the rate of \$375 per hour. Unlike the initial case-opening, review, and consultation fee of \$3,750, which is nonrefundable, the unused portion of any of these subsequent \$3,750 advances (during this period prior to naming or endorsing me as an expert witness) will be returned should my services no longer be needed.

### **Disclosure as an Expert Witness**

If, on the basis of the initial review and consultation, you decide to disclose me as an expert witness in the case, an additional nonrefundable payment of \$3,750 must be received by me in advance of my being named as an expert witness.

If work performed at or near my office during this phase exceeds 10 hours, an advance of \$3,750 is due immediately; each additional hour (beyond the initial 10) will be billed at the rate of \$375 per hour.

Each time the advance is depleted, a subsequent advance (for work to be done within at my office) of \$3,750 is due immediately, against which each additional hour will be billed at the rates set forth above.

Unlike the \$3,750 fee for case opening and the \$3,750 fee for disclosure as an expert witness—both of which are nonrefundable—the unused portion of any of these subsequent \$3,750 advances will be returned should my services no longer be needed.

In the event that I am deposed at or near my office, it is understood that opposing counsel will pay my hourly fee for the deposition itself at the time that I am deposed.

## Work Requiring Travel

For work performed that involves travel away from my office, the charge is \$3,750 for the first day (or fraction thereof) and \$3,000 per additional full day (or fraction thereof) or \$1,500 per additional half-day (or fraction thereof), plus expenses (transportation as discussed, food, lodging, and delivery of documents via such carriers as FedEx and UPS), to be received by me at least one week prior to the scheduled departure from my office.

In the event that I am deposed at a location that involves travel away from my office, it is understood that opposing counsel will pay my hourly fee for the deposition itself plus expenses at the time that I am deposed.

All payments due hereunder shall be made payable to Savvy Aviator, Inc. (a Wyoming corporation), and sent to me at 1127 Hetrick Avenue, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420-5917.

If I do not receive any of the payments called for hereunder when due, I reserve the right to stop all work and vacate all appointments, in which event you agree to assume sole responsibility for any and all damages or expenses that may result to you or your client(s).

In the event of any litigation arising under the terms of this agreement, the prevailing party shall recover their reasonable attorneys' fees.

If you agree to these terms, please sign below and return a signed copy to me along with the \$3,750 case-opening fee.

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Attorney's Name Printed or Typed

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Attorney's Signature

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Date