

Sam Marino

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Seeking Flight Test / Mission Operations



Career site

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Aviation professional and hardware troubleshooter with a mission-first mindset and 250+ GA flight hours. Maintained 5 state-of-the-art FAA-approved AATD flight simulators (Frasca/Redbird) and delivers root-cause hardware fixes in high-volume operations, including originating a custom breakaway system later adopted more broadly.

CERTIFICATIONS & LICENSES

- FAA Private Pilot Certificate — September 2022 – Present
- FAA Instrument Rating — May 2026 – Present
- FAA Remote Pilot Certificate (Part 107) — January 2025 – Present
- FAA First-Class Medical Certificate
- Complex airplane endorsement
- FCC Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit

WORK EXPERIENCE

Aviation Flight Simulator Technician

California Baptist University — Riverside, CA | August 2023 – December 2025

- Maintained and repaired 5 state-of-the-art FAA-approved AATD flight simulators, including Frasca and Redbird systems
- Diagnosed simulator faults using structured troubleshooting and process-of-elimination methods
- Performed hardware repairs and part replacements; soldered wiring and restored electrical connections
- Installed, updated, reimaged, and backed up simulator software to return devices to service

Founder & CEO

Coast Bees of California Nonprofit — Costa Mesa, CA | December 2023 – Present

- Founded and operate a nonprofit focused on live honeybee removal and rescue from residential properties
- Relocated/rescued over 7 million bees through live-removal operations
- Plan and execute complex extractions from walls, attics, and elevated locations, including improvised access solutions
- Manage end-to-end field operations: site assessment, safe removal approach, and customer communication

Operations Supervisor

IAmGroup LLC — Anaheim, CA | April 2021 – April 2023

- Supervised operations at one of California's largest parking facilities
- Led parking-gate repairs after vehicle impacts (soldering, welding, spring replacement, electronics, spare-parts inventory)
- Originated a breakaway gate modification that cut replacement cost from \$283 plus labor to under \$3 per failure (~\$14,000-\$29,000/year parts savings); later adopted more broadly by the team
- Trained and onboarded team members; documented recurring issues and repair procedures

EDUCATION

B.S., Commercial Aviation — California Baptist University, Riverside, CA

September 2022 – December 2026 (expected)

- Advanced Aerodynamics (flight test focus), Spring 2024: Completed joint Aviation-Engineering coursework using flight-test curriculum developed by Jim Payne (Perlan Project Chairman & Chief Pilot; pilot of the hydrogen-powered Blue Condor flight-test campaign). Conducted flight-test analysis and documentation for maneuvers evaluating range and flight characteristics across airfoils, applying core test-pilot methodology.

Aviation Coursework — Orange Coast College, Orange County, CA

May 2021 – November 2023 | GPA: 3.7

- Completed meteorology, aerodynamics, and ground school coursework

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Flight simulator maintenance (Frasca, Redbird, AATD) · Flight-test analysis & documentation · Hardware troubleshooting · Soldering · Welding · Mechanical/electrical repair · Software imaging & backup · Operations supervision · Inventory management · Team leadership