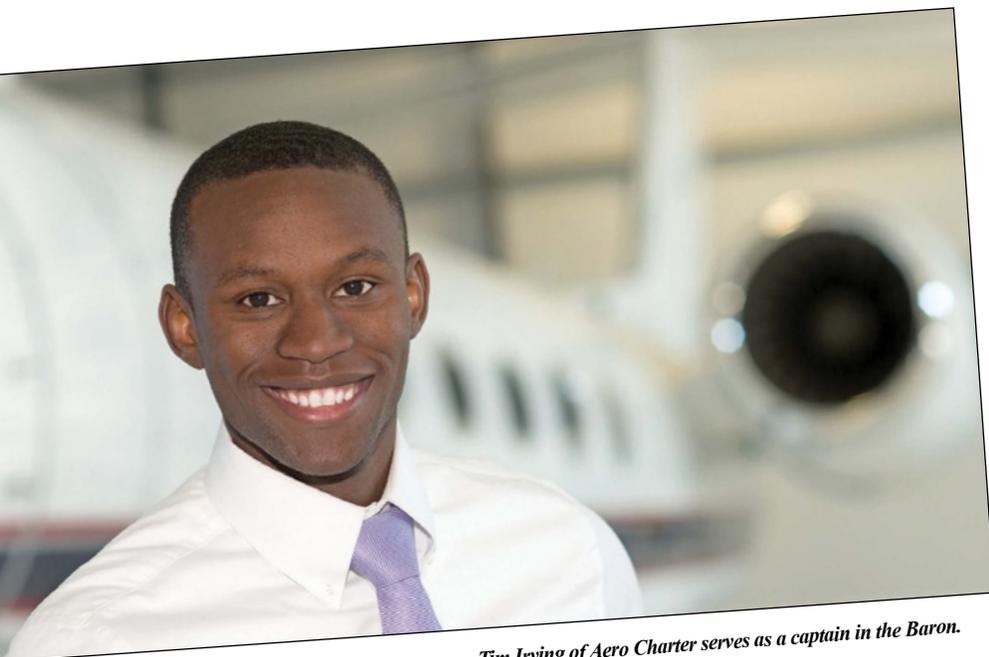


# A Conversation With...

» » » *Tim Irving of Aero Charter*



*Tim Irving of Aero Charter serves as a captain in the Baron.*

Locally owned and operated since 1978, Aero Charter is based at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport in Chesterfield, Missouri, and provides complete aircraft support services for business and private aircraft. The company offers worldwide flights with the majority of its clients flying throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and South America. The fleet includes jet, turbine and piston aircraft. In addition to charter, Aero Charter provides full aircraft support services, including aircraft management, maintenance, avionics and fixed base operation ground support. Aero Charter's avionics department specializes in custom installations and repairs.

Recently, *Avionics News'* Patricia Luebke spoke with Tim Irving to learn

more about his work at Aero Charter as well as his life outside the office.

## **Let's start with your current position at Aero Charter.**

I am a line pilot for Aero Charter, hired as a Baron Captain and first officer in the Beech jet, Citation Excel and Citation XLS. I've been here almost a year.

## **Were you always interested in aviation?**

I was always fascinated by aviation, but I didn't think I'd be able to pursue a career in aviation due to finances. I grew up in St. Louis, and aviation was something I discovered, but I kept hearing how much it cost. However, I was able to overcome this with family support, and several student loans and grants.

## **Where did you go to college?**

I received a bachelor's degree through an aviation professional pilot program with a minor in business administration from the University of Central Missouri. I also have a master's degree in aviation safety.

## **Is Aero Charter your first aviation job?**

I had a job as a line service technician at Skyhaven Airport during my undergraduate years. When I started my graduate studies, I became a flight instructor for the next two years at the University of Central Missouri.

## **Had you made the decision to be a corporate pilot versus an airline pilot?**

Yes, because I believed the lifestyle of a corporate pilot was and is more appealing. Also, Aero Charter has an environment that is more like a family, and I am able to be home more.

## **What's a typical trip?**

I usually take executives somewhere around 8 a.m. and come home around 5 p.m. Some days, I work typical business hours. Actually, there are three types of trips we generally make: executive or aircraft owner flights that may sometimes be overnight; charter or on-demand flights; and the third type is an organ donor or transplant flight. We're on call 24/7 for that, and at least once a week, I'll be on call for the organ donor flights.

### **Where do you see yourself in the future?**

I love working for Aero Charter, and I would enjoy being in a management position for Aero Charter.

### **What do you like best about your job?**

I love the vast experience I am able to gain since we fly so many different aircraft, as well as the flexibility the company provides to accommodate my personal life. It is truly a blessing being able to work for Aero Charter, because it allows me to pursue my career passion with a great company, especially seeing so many of my peers not find job placement after graduation. I am simply thankful for the opportunity.

### **Any thoughts on the avionics you're flying?**

In college, I trained on a G1000 unit, and it did a phenomenal job preparing me for the transition to many of the cockpit avionics we have at Aero Charter. We have everything from Universal FMS with Honeywell screens, to Collins systems and displays, and even a few Garmin set-ups. I love having exposure to so many different avionics packages.

### **Is your chief pilot based where you are?**

Our entire company operates out of the same location. The chief pilot, director of operations, vice president and president are all in the same building. At any given time, we can always find at least one of them. Every member of our management team is a pilot. They generally promote from within through the line pilots. Even our CEO, who recently passed, was both a pilot at heart as well as one of the original founders of the company. Bob Thomas will truly be missed.

We are one of the companies that do a majority of our training in the airplanes. I love that the company is willing to take us up to train and see what different situations actually look like.

### **Is there an airplane you'd like to fly that you haven't?**

Yes, any of the large corporate aircraft like the large Gulfstreams and Global Expresses. I dream of one day obtaining a job that qualifies me to fly the "heavy" equipment on corporate trips. My ultimate job would be to pilot and manage one of those aircraft.

I used to tow gliders for the university, and I'd like to own a tailwheel like a Super Cub one day.

### **Let's get all your pilot credentials in one place here.**

I'm a commercial pilot, CFI, CFII and MEI with about 1,600 hours. I'm scheduled to take my ATP soon.

### **Any hobbies?**

I golf every now and then, usually with colleagues and co-workers. I'm definitely an amateur golfer. I enjoy biking and fishing. We go fishing on the Mississippi River, fish the river bottom for catfish, and every other weekend during the summer months I'll go to the Lake of the Ozarks to fish and boat. Recently, I've taken up archery. In the last two years, I've become a bow hunter for deer and turkey.

### **Do you see any change in diversity within the aviation community?**

Unfortunately, I don't see a lot of diversity in corporate aviation. I believe African-Americans are less than 2 percent of the professional pilot population. At my school, I felt as though I was helping cross a boundary. Once I became an instructor, I had several African-American students, one of whom is currently working on becoming a flight instructor. More financial resources are becoming available, and it's a more accessible career path. When there was an obstacle in my path, people would help me find a way around it. I always felt as though people were doing everything they could to help me succeed – all the way from high school to now. □

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*To learn more about Aero Charter, visit [aerocharter.com](http://aerocharter.com).*