

Pilot Courtesy
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What does it mean to be a “courteous” pilot? It is more than just yielding right of way in the air and not swearing on the radio. It starts when you arrive at the airport and continues until you leave the airport. It’s your attitude and how you behave towards others. Are you a courteous pilot? Do you recognize discourteous pilots?

Have you ever seen any of these things happen? Driving a car on the taxi way and stop or turn in front of a moving aircraft. Parking near enough to a taxiway an aircraft wing doesn’t clear the vehicle. An airplane pulled out of the hangar to preflight on the taxiway because the light is better than in the “dark” hangar. An airplane left at the fuel pumps after refilling and pilot heads elsewhere. Starting the engine without looking to see who or what will be blasted by an initial 1500 rpm.

These are just a few of the discourteous actions I have seen during the 21 years I have been flying. And I’m sure each of you has something to add to this list of offenses. What made them discourteous? Most likely the pilot was just not thinking of how his actions would impact other pilots.

As an EAAer, be the one setting the example of courtesy, demonstrating how it’s easy to be courteous.

When we have a gathering at our chapter hangar, please be careful of where you park your airplane (or car). When getting ready to leave, please be sure to pull your airplane clear of ANY hangar or other aircraft to avoid blowing dust during engine start. To avoid blocking the taxiway for an extended period of time, have your bags and cargo loaded and be ready to go BEFORE pulling out for start up.

It’s flying season. When you arrive at another airport, please ensure you are parked in an appropriate transient parking so that a based aircraft is not booted out of their tie down.

We want everyone at our local airports to be glad to know the EAAers and those at other airports welcome us.