



## **Katie Pribyl**

**Senior Vice President, Aviation Strategy and Programs, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association**

As a high school student living on a Montana cattle ranch, Katie Pribyl didn't have a lot of exposure to aviation. But after flying halfway around the world at the age of 15, she decided she wanted a seat up front. And so, as a high school senior, she took her first flying lesson.

Katie went on to earn a degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona and fly the Canadair Regional Jet (CRJ-200) with United Express and Independence Air. She later conducted studies and performed assessments of aviation safety data while working at the Federal Aviation Administration's National Aviation Safety Data Analysis Center. Katie also served as the director of communications for the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) where she acted as the worldwide industry spokesperson for the manufacturers of general aviation airplanes, engines, avionics and related equipment.

In 2012, Katie brought her aviation expertise to the largest aviation association in the world – the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). Katie started as the Vice President of Communications where she led its media and public relations division. Katie was also responsible for AOPA's events team which she led through a transition from a single, annual convention to a series of regional fly-ins held across the U.S. that have welcomed more than 50,000 attendees.

Katie was promoted to Senior Vice President, Aviation Strategy and Programs in 2016 where she is now responsible for its You Can Fly program and the Air Safety Institute. Under the You Can Fly umbrella, Katie and her team are building initiatives designed to get lapsed pilots back in the air, provide more affordable access to aviation through flying clubs, support best practices in flight training, and introduce high school students to aviation. The AOPA Air Safety Institute has been producing free programs with the goal of helping pilots fly safer for more than 60 years. From groundbreaking online courses, to popular live seminars and videos, ASI covers the spectrum of aviation safety education.

An airline transport pilot with more than 4,500 hours of flight experience, Katie is also a certified flight instructor, and is a rated seaplane pilot. Her idea of the perfect weekend involves flying her vintage Cessna 180 Skywagon to the landing strip her family had added to its Montana ranch.