

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Man hijacks plane, has fun, and dies. The epic story of Richard Beebo Russell](#)

Hackers - January 17, 2026, 5:41 am

[Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5y47IRLpEs>]

There is something oddly romantic and sweet about this, although obviously illegal, dangerous, and sad too.

Sounds like he had family & friends but as he said, he discovered he has a few screws loose. He was a ground worker and had access to the runway and hijacked the plane, flies around, does a barrel roll, and ends up going nose down into the ground (suicide).

casperr - January 17, 2026, 7:05 am

This story really broke me. A deeply troubled soul, sad and human at the same time. It's heartbreaking how much pain can hide behind moments that look almost surreal.

Hackers - January 17, 2026, 7:07 am

(Jan 17, 2026 08:05 AM)MKacc Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This story really broke me. A deeply troubled soul, sad and human at the same time. It's heartbreaking how much pain can hide behind moments that look almost surreal.

yeah, very sad. You can tell also that he probably made a spur of the moment decision, was prepared to die, but also that the consequences / prison time probably sealed the deal. You almost have to wonder if he would've chosen to live if he thought he could maybe get out, do a few years and continue life.

casperr - January 17, 2026, 7:10 am

(Jan 17, 2026 08:07 AM)nodes Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) yeah, very sad. You can tell also that he probably made a spur of the moment decision, was prepared to die, but also that the consequences / prison time probably sealed the deal. You almost have to wonder if he would've chosen to live if he thought he could maybe get out, do a few years and continue life.

Yeah, that's what makes it even sadder. It feels like a moment where fear, regret, and hopelessness all collided. If he saw a real path forward, even a hard one, maybe the ending could've been different.

JoshAllen - January 17, 2026, 7:20 am

2 things about this story that always surprised me.

- Everyone in Richards life said they could never see this coming and never showed any signs of depression or anything prior to this.

- Many of maneuvers he did while flying were described as "highly advanced", and impossible for someone with no experience.

Hackers - January 17, 2026, 7:55 am

(Jan 17, 2026 08:20 AM)Josh Allen Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) 2 things about this story that always surprised me.

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- Many of maneuvers he did while flying were described as "highly advanced", and impossible for someone with no experience.

Yeah, sadly that's often the case for signs... :/

I think his comment about playing videogames is fair. Modern games replicate much of the controls, maneuvers, and gravity...

but pair that with the willingness to die, and the fear factor is taken out .

On his roll & flip he only cleared the water by like 10 feet according to the person on the radio, and he even said that he was pretty sure his flip would be the end of him after surviving it.

I think if you have some basic gaming experience and don't care about dying, you could pull off a flip