

FLYING

ORGANIZATIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MEMBERSHIP

THE NATIONAL AERONAUTIC ASSOCIATION (N A A)

The NAA traces its roots back to the beginning of aviation in 1905. It is the oldest and most prestigious aviation organization in the United States.

The National Aeronautic Association is responsible for coordination and the certification of all aviation records originating in the United States. For several years Orville Wright was the Chairman of NAA.

Some of the aviation great men and women pioneers who have preceded me, as a member include: Orville and Wilber Wright, Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Wiley Post, Glenn Curtis, Chuck Yeager, Neil Armstrong, Scott Crossfield, Jacqueline Cochran, Dick Rutan, Jeana Yeager and Arnold Palmer, to name a few.

THE FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE (F A I)

The FAI is located in Paris, France and is the oldest international aviation organization. It is responsible for the coordination and certification of all aviation records in the world. NAA is the U. S. representative of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

I was required to be a registered member of NAA and FAI and currently hold a certified license with the FAI, prior to establishing my six United States and World records in aviation. I still hold these records, as of this writing. My records were established by flying solo over an approved course, while flying the fastest speed between designated city-to-city airports covering various states, non-stop. The verification of records were administered and sanctioned by a directing official and designated observer of both the NAA and FAI.

As a United States and World Aviation Record holder my name and picture has been entered in the World and United States Aviation and Space Record Books of Aviation History. My six National Aeronautic Association and Federation Aeronautique Internationale Certificates of Records were presented to me by Scott Crossfield, the test pilot who first flew the X-15. The presentation was made during the annual awards ceremony at the Air and Space Museum in Washington, D. C. I received a letter from the President of the NAA that read in part:

“When you step into the company of National and World Record holders, you are no longer just a pilot who simply flies for a hobby, you now stand in the ranks of the Wright

Brothers, Charles Lindbergh, Chuck Yeager and others. You are no longer just one of the crowd – you stand above it. Being a National and World Record holder is an awesome responsibility.”

Also I have received the Pilot Proficiency Award and the Certificate of Achievement from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Within my little world – I have left my mark in the aviation world.

Other aviation organizations I belong to include:

SILVER WINGS FRATERNITY Membership number 11452

The Silver Wings is an international organization of pilots that encourages the advancement of aviation. To qualify as a member you have to be a licensed pilot of the United States and have flown solo in a powered aircraft at least twenty-five years prior to membership in the Silver Wings. Orville and Wilber Wright were the first eligible members of Silver Wings.

I also was honored as a “Golden Years Member”. “ First Solo Flight ” in a powered aircraft, fifty years ago in a Piper J-3 Cub, at Orange County Airport (John Wayne Airport).

“So let me fly on Silverwing - Until my day runs thin,
A greater skill will surely bring this airman gently in”.

THE STICK AND RUDDER-CLUB (SRC) NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TAIL-DRAGGER PILOTS

I qualified for a lifetime membership because of the type of aircraft I flew when I soloed. It was a tail-dragger. A Piper J-3 Cub, a stick and rudder type plane that you do a 3-point landing in.

THE NATIONAL AERO CLUB OF THE UNITED STATES.

It is one of the oldest aviation organizations, tracing it’s roots back to the early 1900s.

CHARTER MEMBER OF AIR AND SPACE, SMITHSONIAN

Member of WINGS, FAA Pilot Proficiency Award Program. It consists of a CFI flight course of selected maneuvers to evaluate flight proficiency and knowledge.

“A pilot can leap into the Sun through the crack between the Earth and the Sky, and pass from this World into forever.”

AMERICA'S AVIATION HERITAGE

The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) of the United States, founded in 1905, is the oldest and most prestigious national organization in the United States.

The Wright Brothers and other aviation pioneers founded the NAA over a century ago. In the years to follow the organization was supported by such aviation member greats as Glenn Curtiss, Wiley Post, Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart. Members later include Jeana Yeager, Dick Rutan, Barry Goldwater, Arnold Palmer, Cliff Robertson, Chuck Yeager and Jackie Cochran to name a few. As a member of NAA, they were his inspiration, Les added with pride.

FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

NAA is the U. S. representative of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale and is the oldest international aviation organization. The F A I is the sole international authority which oversees world aviation activity. FAI is the final approval authority for all world aviation and space records.

The NAA, on behalf of the FAI, sanctions and documents all record-making flights and must be observed and certified by skilled NAA personnel.

Les stated; " He probably started his long time love-affair with aviation when building model airplanes when he was about 12 years of age. A few years later, he would ride his bicycle out to the local airport to watch the planes, take-off and land.

As a Private Pilot, Les has made significant contributions to aeronautics and has reflected credit upon Private Pilot Aviation. For many years, Les promoted General Aviation Flying. He especially encouraged the " first time up " flyers. Les was willing to give anyone interested, a ride in his airplane. Some of them would have a fear of flying. To help them to overcome their, " not having both of their feet on the ground" fear of flying, Les' first step is to reassure the new flyer about safety and not to listen about aviation accidents. It is often said: " The only danger in flying is the driving to the airport. You are about 20 times safer in a plane than in a car." Les would let people sit in the plane and familiarize them to the workings of the aircraft. When I felt that they had overcome most of their anxiety, I would say: " Lets go around the pattern once." The flight would take about ten minutes. They have always said: "OK, lets go". According to Les: " He hasn't lost a passenger yet."

One of the most important safety tips on flying I ever received was by a man whose name is recognized throughout the world, Brigadier General Chuck Yeager. The Air Force's distinguished test pilot and a World Record Holder himself, advised all pilots to: "Always leave yourself a way out. Constantly look ahead when flying, anticipating a possible problem." Following Gen. Yeager's, Safety Rules of Flying, advice, I have had fifty-years of flawlessly flying and was awarded the "Golden Years Member Honor"

My objective has always been to fly competently and safely. If you make a habit of these goals, they will serve you well throughout the years. I have always applied these safety rules while driving my car – with flawless driving. I never have had an accident. If you find yourself getting lazy while flying or driving, increase your alertness as Test Pilot Scott Crossfield says: "Stay up on The Edge of your seat." This will increase your alertness. Another flying mentor of Les is Charles A. Lindbergh {Lucky Lindy}. He made his historical trans Atlantic flight in 1927, in the "Sprit of St. Louis, landing in Paris, France. Les points out that Lindbergh wasn't the first to fly across the Atlantic, but was the first to fly "solo" across the Atlantic. Several men lost their lives attempting the flight.

Les plans to attempt other United States and World Records, possibly in a Stearman, Bi-plane, the famous World War II trainer. This is the type of plane that when he was 14 years old, he had his first airplane flight in.

Les is currently in the process of completing his eligibility for "The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award". To be eligible for the award, candidates must have held a CAA/FAA Pilot Certificate with 50 consecutive years of flying experience, complete the FAA Pilot Proficiency Award Program, recommendations of FAA Certificate Pilots and have maintained a safe flight operation recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration among other eligibility requirements.