

RENO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AIR RACES
 SEPT. 10 THRU 14, 1980
 STEAD FACILITY
 RENO, NEVADA

QUALIFYING TIME TRIALS - SEPT. 10, 11 - 1 LAP OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#16	Ray Cote	"Shoestring/Circus,Circus"	46.8	254.06 (a)
2	# 3	John Parker	"American Special"	48.0	247.71 (b)
3	#81	Bob Moeller	"Boo Ray"	49.8	238.76
4	#44	Judy Wagner	"Wagner Solution"	50.7	234.52
5	#93	Bob Anspach	"Polecat"	51.2	232.23 (c)
6	#28	Bob Downey	"Falcon"	51.4	231.32
7	#11	Bob Drew	"Fang"	52.2	227.78
8	#25	Lawrence Jensen	Jensen "Penguin"	52.5	226.48
8	#32	Jack Hall	"Spring Fever"	52.5	226.48
10	# 5	Dusty Dowd	Dowd "Illusion"	52.8	225.19
11	#18	Don Beck	"Gnat"	53.0	224.34
11	#43	Jon Sharp	"Bilbo"	53.0	224.34
13	#69	Chuck Wentworth	"Flexi-Flyer"	53.5	222.24 (d)
14	#73	Jim Miller	"Texas Gem"	53.7	221.42
15	#35	Tom Summers	"Sump'n Else"	53.8	221.00
16	#14	Phil Fogg	"Ole Tiger"	53.9	220.59
17	#19	Bobby Budde	"Okie Streaker"	54.8	216.97
18	#98	Errol Roberson	"Mr. B"	55.7	213.47
19	#41	Bill Skliar	"Shark"	55.8	213.08
20	#97	Rocky Jones	"Ol Blu"	56.2	211.57
21	#17	Carl Swenson	Swenson "Anne"	57.3	207.50
22	#33	Carroll Dietz	Dietz "Red Tag Special"	57.7	206.78
23	#38	Tom Aslett	"Flying Dutchman"	1:01.2	194.28
24	#20	Tom Hayden	Hayden "Sierra Golf"	1:12.3	164.45
25	#12	Denny Polen	"Trick Chick"	--	-- (e)
26	#10	Bobby Budde	"El Bandito"	--	-- (e)
27	#71	Gary Wilson	"Aloha"	--	-- (e)

- (a) A new Qualifying Record. (Both Reno and National). Breaks the Reno Qualifying Record of 246.01 set by Ray Cote in #16 at Reno '79. Breaks the National Record of 248.47 set by Ray Cote in #16 at The California National Air Races in June of 1979.
- (b) This aircraft raced previously as "Wild Turkey". This qualifying speed also exceeds the previous Reno Record.
- (c) This aircraft raced previously as "Top Turkey", and should not be confused with #6, "Polecat", which was a completely different airplane.
- (d) This aircraft raced previously as "Vomet Comet" and "Passing Fancy".
- (e) None of these aircraft were able to qualify. Under normal circumstances, they would not have raced since the field was set up for twenty-four aircraft. However, a special "Tin" Race was set up for them to participate in on the first day of racing. This race had near disastrous results involving two of the three aircraft listed above. None of the three of them started in this race, nor did they race any further during this meet. Because of this, Friday's Heat Races were set up in the following fashion: Six aircraft in the first heat and seven each in the other three heats. From that point on, there were three races each day with eight aircraft in each.

TIN HEAT - SEPT. 12 - 6 LAPS OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#33	Carroll Dietz	"Red Tag Special"	5:28.8	212.59
2	#38	Tom Aslett	"Flying Dutchman"	6:00.2	194.06
3	#20	Tom Hayden	"Sierra Golf"	7:30.7	155.09

4	#12	Denny Polen	"Trick Chick"	DNS	(a)
5	#10	Bobby Budde	"El Bandito"	DNS	(b)
6	#71	Gary Wilson	"Aloha"	DNS	(b)

- (a) Pulled off and cut the throttle on the Race Horse Start to avoid the accident which occurred ahead of him and never got off the ground.
- (b) Bobby Budde in #10, "El Bandito", drifted over into the tail of Gary Wilson's #71, "Aloha", during the Race Horse Start of this race in gusty winds. Extensive damage was done to the vertical stabilizer and rudder of Wilson's airplane and further damage was sustained by it when Wilson chopped the throttle and spun around on the runway, dinging the left wing tip, bending the left landing gear leg, and smashing the left wheel pant. Budde's #10, "El Bandito", suffered damage to its prop, spinner, and engine cowl. Neither pilot was injured in this incident.

HEAT 1C - SEPT. 12 - 6 LAPS OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#14	Phil Fogg	"Ole Tiger"	5:15.2	221.76
2	#33	Carroll Dietz	"Red Tag Special"	5:23.8	215.87 (a)
3	#35	Tom Summers	"Sump'n Else"	5:31.9	210.61
4	#41	Bill Skliar	"Shark"	5:53.7	197.63
5	#98	Errol Roberson	"Mr. B"	6:09.3	189.28 (b)
6	#97	Rocky Jones	"Ol Blu"	6:15.3	186.25
7	#17	Carl Swenson	"Anne"	6:19.8	184.04

- (a) Bobby Budde was scheduled to start in this race in #19, "Okie Streaker", but could not after the incident in which he was involved in the Heat just prior to this one. Thus, Carroll Dietz in #33, as first alternate by virtue of his win in the Tin Heat, started in his place.
- (b) Actually crossed the finish line in fourth, but was dropped to fifth for cutting pylon #5 on the first lap.

HEAT 1B - SEPT. 12 - 6 LAPS OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#25	Lawrence Jensen	"Penguin"	5:17.7	220.02
2	#18	Don Beck	"Gnat"	5:17.8	219.98
3	#43	Jon Sharp	"Bilbo"	5:28.7	212.66
4	#73	Jim Miller	"Texas Gem"	5:29.4	212.20
5	#69	Chuck Wentworth	"Flexi-Flyer"	5:31.7	210.73
6	# 5	Dusty Dowd	"Illusion"	5:33.5	209.60
7	#32	Jack Hall	"Spring Fever"	5:36.4	207.79

HEAT 1A - SEPT. 12 - 6 LAPS OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	# 3	John Parker	"American Special"	4:44.9	245.35 (a)
2	#16	Ray Cote	"Shoestring/Circus, Circus"	4:48.2	242.54
3	#44	Judy Wagner	"Wagner Solution"	5:09.7	225.70
4	#11	Bob Drew	"Fang"	5:11.2	224.61
5	#81	Bob Moeller	"Boo Ray"	5:13.3	223.11
6	#28	Bob Downey	"Falcon"	5:15.4	221.62
7	#93	Bob Anspach	"Polecat"		DNF (b)

- (a) A new Race Record Speed. (Both a Reno and a National Record). Breaks the previous Reno Record of 240.09 set by John Parker in #3 in the Championship Race at Reno '79. Breaks the previous National Record of 245.09 set by Ray Cote in #16 in the Consolation Race at The California National Air Races in October of 1978.
- (b) Pulled out on the first lap with a blown engine. Installed a back-up for the remainder of the meet.

HEAT 2C - SEPT. 13 - 6 LAPS OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#93	Bob Anspach	"Polecat"	5:18.3	219.60
2	#19	Don Beck	"Okie Streaker"	5:24.0	215.74 (a)
3	#41	Bill Skliar	"Shark"	5:46.4	201.79
4	#98	Errol Roberson	"Mr. B"	5:48.9	200.34
5	#97	Rocky Jones	"Ol Blu"	6:05.1	191.45
6	#17	Carl Swenson	"Anne"	6:08.6	189.64
7	#38	Tom Aslett	"Flying Dutchman"	7:31.4	154.85
8	#20	Tom Hayden	"Sierra Golf"	8:19.3	140.00

(a) Don Beck flew #19 for Bobby Budde for the remainder of the meet.

HEAT 2B - SEPT. 13 - 6 LAPS OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#32	Jack Hall	"Spring Fever"	5:19.8	218.57
2	#18	Don Beck	"Gnat"	5:22.6	216.68
3	#73	Jim Miller	"Texas Gem"	5:31.6	210.80
4	# 5	Dusty Dowd	"Illusion"	5:32.3	210.42
5	#43	Jon Sharp	"Bilbo"	5:36.5	207.73
6	#69	Chuck Wentworth	"Flexi-Flyer"	5:37.9	206.87
7	#35	Tom Summers	"Sump'n Else"	5:39.8	205.71
8	#41	Bill Skliar	"Shark"	5:49.1	200.23

HEAT 2A - SEPT. 13 - 6 LAPS OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	# 3	John Parker	"American Special"	4:51.8	239.55
2	#44	Judy Wagner	"Wagner Solution"	5:04.2	229.78
3	#16	Ray Cote	"Shoestring/Circus, Circus"	5:11.0	224.76 (a)
4	#81	Bob Moeller	"Boo Ray"	5:12.8	223.47
5	#11	Bob Drew	"Fang"	5:16.1	221.13
6	#28	Bob Downey	"Falcon"	5:21.8	217.22
7	#18	Don Beck	"Gnat"	5:23.9	215.81
8	#25	Lawrence Jensen	"Penguin"	5:32.0	210.54

(a) The tail of #16 was being held by Crew Members at the Starting Line as were those of some of the other aircraft. As the aircraft came up to power for the start, a weld snapped on #16's tail. Thus, Cote was the last off and he flew the entire race with only partial rudder control.

BRONZE OR C SECTION FINAL (MEDALLION) - SEPT. 14 - 8 LAPS OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#33	Carroll Dietz	"Red Tag Special"	7:12.5	215.49
2	#14	Phil Fogg	"Ole Tiger"	7:17.8	212.88
3	#97	Rocky Jones	"Ol Blu"	7:45.5	200.22
4	#98	Errol Roberson	"Mr. B"	7:45.9	200.04
5	#17	Carl Swenson	"Anne"	7:53.8	196.71
6	#38	Tom Aslett	"Flying Dutchman"	8:26.2	184.12
7	#20	Tom Hayden	"Sierra Golf"	10:05.7	153.87
8	#19	Don Beck	"Okie Streaker"		DNF (a)

(a) Pulled out on the eighth lap with mechanical problems.

SILVER OR B SECTION FINAL (CONSOLATION) - SEPT. 14 - 8 LAPS OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

RACE					
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#18	Don Beck	"Gnat"	6:55.3	224.42
2	#25	Lawrence Jensen	"Penguin"	6:57.2	223.39
3	# 5	Dusty Dowd	"Illusion"	7:06.9	218.32
4	#73	Jim Miller	"Texas Gem"	7:09.9	216.80
5	#43	Jon Sharp	"Bilbo"	7:17.3	213.13
6	#69	Chuck Wentworth	"Flexi-Flyer"	7:20.6	211.53
7	#35	Tom Summers	"Sump'n Else"	7:26.0	208.97
8	#41	Bill Skliar	"Shark"	7:37.2	203.85

GOLD OR A SECTION FINAL (CHAMPIONSHIP) - SEPT. 14 - 8 LAPS OF THE 3.236 MI. COURSE

RACE					
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	# 3	John Parker	"American Special"	6:14.2	249.07 (a)
2	#16	Ray Cote	"Shoestring/Circus,Circus"	6:23.6	242.96
3	#44	Judy Wagner	"Wagner Solution"	6:30.3	238.79
4	#81	Bob Moeller	"Boo Ray"	6:40.8	232.54
5	#11	Bob Drew	"Fang"	6:45.5	229.84
6	#28	Bob Downey	"Falcon"	6:52.8	225.78
7	#93	Bob Anspach	"Polecat"	6:52.9	225.72
8	#32	Jack Hall	"Spring Fever"	7:08.3	217.60

- (a) A new Race Record Speed. (Both a Reno and a National Record). Breaks the previous Reno and National Record of 245.35 set by John Parker in #3 in Heat 1A earlier at this same event.

RENO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AIR RACES

SEPT. 15 THRU 20, 1981

STEAD FACILITY

RENO, NEVADA

QUALIFYING TIME TRIALS - SEPT. 15, 16, 17 - 1 LAP OF THE 3.11 MI. COURSE

RACE					
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#16	Ray Cote	"Shoestring"	45.8	244.72
2	#44	Judy Wagner	"Wagner Solution"	50.0	224.06
3	# 1	Phil Fogg	"Aloha"	50.3	222.81
4	#81	Bob Moeller	"Boo Ray"	51.2	218.67 (a)
5	#73	Jim Miller	"Texas Gem"	51.6	216.85
6	# 5	Dusty Dowd	"Illusion"	51.7	216.56
7	#69	Chuck Wentworth	"Flexi-Flyer"	52.6	212.93
8	#35	Tom Summers	"Sump'n Else"	53.0	211.33
9	#25	Lawrence Jensen	"Penguin"	53.2	210.61
10	#43	Jon Sharp	"Aero Magic"	53.5	209.27
11	#41	Bill Skliar	"Shark"	53.7	208.34
12	#14	Bob Drew	"Nitemare"	55.8	200.65
13	#38	Tom Aslett	"Flying Dutchman"	56.0	199.86
14	#98	Errol Roberson	"Love Bandit"	56.5	198.12
15	#77	Carroll Dietz	"Super Spook"	57.8	193.57
16	# 9	Marshall Wells	"Lil' Niner"	58.2	192.31
17	#19	George Budde	"Okie Streaker"	59.7	187.57
18	#28	Bob Downey	"Falcon"	--	-- (b)

- (a) After the accident involving Downey, Moeller decided to retire immediately after qualifying at Reno '81 and, hence, did not race at all.
- (b) On Wednesday morning, the 16th of September, Bob Downey was involved in a fatal accident while practicing on the course in his #28, "Falcon", prior to Qualifying. There was no evidence of structural or control failure on the aircraft and no evidence of heart attack or stroke, etc., with Downey. It is believed that he greyed or blacked

out momentarily under the strain of a severe diet that he was on and flew his airplane directly into the ground at over 200 mph. The "Ole Tiger" had been racing continually since 1948 and was almost 65 years of age.

HEAT 1C OR BRONZE HEAT - SEPT. 18 - 8 LAPS OF THE 3.11 MI. COURSE

RACE					
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#38	Tom Aslett	"Flying Dutchman"	7:29.4	199.29
2	#35	Tom Summers	"Sump'n Else"	7:29.8	199.14
3	#14	Bob Drew	"Nitemare"	7:34.6	197.03
4	#98	Errol Roberson	"Love Bandit"	7:37.7	195.69
5	# 9	Marshall Wells	"Lil' Niner"	8:18.4	179.73
6	#77	Carroll Dietz	"Super Spook"	8:34.7	174.03 (a)

(a) Cut pylon #2 on lap 1.

HEAT 1B OR SILVER HEAT - SEPT. 18 - 8 LAPS OF THE 3.11 MI. COURSE

RACE					
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#25	Lawrence Jensen	"Penguin"	6:49.4	218.76
2	#43	Jon Sharp	"Aero Magic"	6:58.8	213.89
3	#69	Chuck Wentworth	"Flexi-Flyer"	7:11.4	207.63
4	#41	Bill Skliar	"Shark"	7:16.6	205.17
5	#38	Tom Aslett	"Flying Dutchman"	7:31.2	198.50
6	#19	George Budde	"Okie Streaker"		DNF (a)

(a) Pulled out with engine problems.

HEAT 1A OR GOLD HEAT - SEPT. 19 - 8 LAPS OF THE 3.11 MI. COURSE

RACE					
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#16	Ray Cote	"Shoestring"	6:33.9	227.39
2	#44	Judy Wagner	"Wagner Solutioin"	6:44.3	221.57
3	#25	Lawrence Jensen	"Penguin"	6:50.9	217.99
4	# 1	Phil Fogg	"Aloha"	6:54.2	216.24
5	#73	Jim Miller	"Texas Gem"	6:59.6	213.47
6	# 5	Dusty Dowd	"Illusion"	7:06.4	210.04

BRONZE OR C SECTION FINAL - SEPT. 19 - 8 LAPS OF THE 3.11 MI. COURSE

RACE					
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	# 5	Dusty Dowd	"Illusion"	7:35.3	196.71
2	#14	Bob Drew	"Nitemare"	7:35.6	196.61
3	#98	Errol Roberson	"Love Bandit"	7:51.6	189.92
4	#38	Tom Aslett	"Flying Dutchman"	7:53.5	189.17
5	# 9	Marshall Wells	"Lil' Niner"	8:10.6	182.55
6	#77	Carroll Dietz	"Super Spook"	8:11.6	182.20
7	#69	Chuck Wentworth	"Flexi-Flyer"		DNF (a)
8	#41	Bill Skliar	"Shark"		DNF (b)

(a) As he rounded the #4 pylon and headed in toward the #5, Chuck Wentworth's #69 threw a prop blade. The severe vibration that was set up shook the engine loose from its mounts and it was hanging from the airplane by its safety cables. Wentworth did a superb job of flying! He cut inside the #5 pylon, came across the infield of the course, and, with the center of gravity almost totally aft on the airplane, he brought it safely down to within a few feet above the runway at which time it stalled and fell off on its right wing which, in turn, absorbed most of the initial impact. The aircraft was severely damaged, but Wentworth walked away from it with only a few minor bruises and some soreness. This all occurred on the fifth lap of the race.

(b) Skliar also pulled out on the fifth lap with a rough engine.

SILVER OR B SECTION FINAL - (CONSOLATION) - SEPT. 20 - 8 LAPS OF THE 3.11 MI. COURSE

RACE					
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#35	Tom Summers	"Sump'n Else"	7:05.4	210.54
2	#38	Tom Aslett	"Flying Dutchman"	7:42.2	193.78
3	# 5	Dusty Dowd	"Illusion"	7:48.0	191.39
4	#77	Carroll Dietz	"Super Spook"	7:55.5	188.35
5	#41	Bill Skliar	"Shark"	7:45.2	192.56 (a)
6	# 9	Marshall Wells	"Lil' Niner"	8:22.2	178.36
7	#98	Errol Roberson	"Love Bandit"	8:05.1	184.65 (b)
8	#19	George Budde	"Okie Streaker"	8:09.4	183.02 (c)
9	#14	Bob Drew	"Nitemare"	10:29.3	142.33 (d)

- (a) Actually crossed the finish line in second, but was dropped to fifth after a 32 second penalty had been applied to the above shown time and speed, for cutting pylon #3 on the first lap.
- (b) Actually crossed the finish line in fourth, but was dropped to seventh after a 32 second penalty had been deducted from the time and speed shown above for cutting pylon #3 on the first lap.
- (c) Actually crossed the finish line in fifth, but was dropped to eighth after a 32 second penalty had been deducted from the time and speed shown above for cutting pylon #3 on the first lap.
- (d) #14 cut the Scatter Pylon at the start and also cut pylon #4 on the first lap.

NOTE: You will note that there were nine airplanes running in this heat instead of the original eight that had been assigned to it. This happened because the First Alternate for this race, #5, Dusty Dowd, was launched when it looked like Bob Drew in #14 was pulling off the course, however, he did not and all nine planes ended up running. It made little difference since, in the end, Drew was guilty of multiple pylon cuts.

GOLD OR A SECTION FINAL - (CHAMPIONSHIP) - SEPT. 20 - 10 LAPS OF THE 3.11 MI. COURSE

RACE					
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#16	Ray Cote	"Shoestring"	8:02.3	232.13 (a)
2	#44	Judy Wagner	"Wagner Solution"	8:24.6	221.87
3	# 1	Phil Fogg	"Aloha"	8:25.4	221.51
4	#25	Lawrence Jensen	"Penguin"	8:35.2	217.30
5	#73	Jim Miller	"Texas Gem"	8:38.3	216.02
6	# 5	Dusty Dowd	"Illusion"	8:49.2	211.56
7	#35	Tom Summers	"Sump'n Else"	8:56.7	208.62
8	#43	Jon Sharp	"Aero Magic"		DNF (b)

- (a) This was Ray Cote's ninth Championship victory in the IFM or Formula I Class at Reno. It was, however, the last appearance for the famous and durable #16, "Shoestring", at the Reno National Championship Air Races. Even though it would be raced in Texas for the last time one month after this, it would never return to Reno again since it was being retired to the San Diego Air & Space Museum.
- (b) Pulled out on the ninth lap with carburetor problems which were caused by an Air-Intake which partially broke and interrupted the flow of air to the carburetor, thus, periodically causing the engine to quit.