

Kathy McDonald (Pilot) Bio



I became interested in flying many years ago when I worked for Hanscom Air Force Base. It was in my younger years, many years ago. When I worked there I was fortunate enough to be working with many pilots that test flew various planes. There the pilots where test pilots that tried out new and advanced equipment at Draper Labs. I learned a lot back then about flying, because they would take me up in various aircraft to many destinations. Originally, they thought I would get sick, but I never did.

As the years went on, my life went in many other directions, family and education became the priority. It was not until I was in my early 40's that I actually learned to fly.

I had had a few opportunities, but this time I knew if I did not learn to fly, I never would.

So, along the way, I have had many wonderful people in my life for support and encouragement. The door to aviation was once again opened, except this time I bought my first plane for \$15,000.00 before I had my license. I guess I considered it good incentive to learn. Anyway, it did take awhile due to weather, instructors, and various other situations. But, I finally did get my license to fly.

The very first real cross-country I took was a flight to Gillespie Field in San Diego, CA. There I was to start my first air race and end in Pratt, Ks. I did not realizing that so many more air races would follow. This will be my 5th air race in 2006. I have now flown into or over 40 states in this country. This air race will add to my list of states making the total of 43 or 44, if I add Montana and North Dakota to my list this summer.

Flying the United States of America, East to West and back was one of the most thrilling experiences I have ever had. The US is such a beautiful patchwork quilt of many patterns and designs, especially from the sky. There has never been any special place because each has its very own personality. Many people ask me which place is the most beautiful and I always answer that we live in one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Within this beautiful country we have the most impressive hard-working people. This country does have fields of grain, with very beautiful and clear dawns in the early light.

I am also very lucky to have been able to fly with many wonderful women pilots in these previous air races. But now, Janet will join me as a first time racer. I met Janet and her husband 2 years ago at Lock Haven, PA and I told her if she learned to fly I would fly with her in an air race. She took the challenge and exceeded it and I will be very pleased to be flying the 2006 Air Race from Mesa, AZ to Menominee, MI.

Well I hope everyone stays tuned to our flight this year and I look forward to hearing from everyone. Thanks for your support.