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NAA ANNOUNCES THE MOST MEMORABLE AVIATION RECORDS OF 2017

Washington, DC, April 17, 2018 – As the official record keeper for United States aviation, the National Aeronautic Association tracks dozens of world and national record attempts each year. New U.S. records are certified by NAA and those qualifying as world records are then ratified with the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI). At the end of each year, under the direction of the NAA Contest and Records Department, records certified for that year are reviewed and a list of the "most memorable" is created.

Below is a chronological list of the most memorable records of 2017:

Speed Over a Commercial Airline Route, Miami, FL to Milan, Italy: 553.97 mph

Record for airplanes (Class C-1—airplane flown during scheduled operation)



On April 3, Captain **Eugene Scholl** piloted an American Airlines Boeing 767-300 from Miami International Airport to Milan–Malpensa Airport in 8 hours, 54 minutes. The flight over the 4,930-mile course was the fastest commercial airline record of the year.

Large Formation Sequential: 111 skydivers, 3 formations

Record for parachuting (Class G-2—formation skydiving, general)

On July 25, 111 skydivers jumped from five Twin Otters and a Skyvan above Ottawa, IL. They all joined together in a freefall formation, and then transitioned into two additional formations before separating completely. They beat the previous record set in 2013 by 110 skydivers who completed two formations.

Distance Goal and Return: 139.32 mi

Record for model aircraft (Class F5S—radio control airplane, electric motor with rechargeable current)

On July 28, **Gary Fogel** hand launched his model aircraft near Nevada's Great Basin National park. He and his team then followed it in a car heading south along Highway 93 to the declared turnpoint in Pioche, NV, reversed course, and then returned to the start location for landing. The 8-pound model—constructed of carbon fiber, Kevlar, and balsa—has a 12-foot wingspan and is powered by lithium-ion batteries. The flight broke the previous record of 99 miles set in 2007.

Speed Over a 15-25 km Course: 147.20 mph

Record for unmanned aerial vehicles (Class U-2.b, Group I—autonomously controlled, internal combustion or jet engine UAV weighing 11 < 110 pounds)



The Ohio State University team launched the Avanti JetCat UAS from Kelleys Island in Lake Erie on August 30. The UAS immediately went into autonomous mode and then made two passes over the 15-kilometer course, at an average speed of 147 mph. The JetCat weighed 68 pounds at takeoff, has an 8-foot wingspan, and is equipped with a turbojet engine rated at 40 pounds of thrust.

Speed Over a 3 km Course: 531.64 mph

Record for airplanes (Class C-1.e, Group I—piston engine airplane weighing 6,614 < 13,228 lbs)

Flying the Reno Unlimited Racer *Voodoo*, a highly modified North American P-51 Mustang, **Steven Hinton** made a series of four passes over the runway in May, ID, averaging 532 mph. His flight on September 2 beat the previous record of 318 mph set in 2012.

Absolute Altitude: 52,221 feet

Record for gliders (Class DO—open class, general)



In Phase II of the ongoing Perlan Project, **Jim Payne** and **Morgan Sandercock** piloted the Perlan 2 glider to new heights in stratospheric mountain waves formed by the Andes mountain range near El Calafate, Argentina. Their flight on September 3 beat the previous record of 50,726 feet set in 2006.

Speed Over a Recognized Course, Farmingdale, NY to Paris, France: 620.92 mph

Record for airplanes (Class C-1.m, Group III—jet engine airplane weighing 99,208 < 132,277 lbs)



On one leg of their world record tour, Gulfstream pilots **Mark Assaid, Eric Henman, and Ivo Maia** flew a G650ER from Farmingdale’s Republic Airport to Le Bourget Airport in Paris. They flew the 3,607-mile course in 5 hours, 48 minutes, on October 5, setting the fastest speed record of the year.

“Once again, NAA recognizes aviation history, literally as it is being made,” said Greg Principato, NAA President & CEO. “The records we celebrate as 2017’s most memorable span the spectrum of aviation, from commercial, to gliders, to sky diving, to aeromodelling, and unmanned vehicles. Their achievements aren’t just about being slightly better than someone before them. They are about exploring the limits of what is possible and helping lead aviation to an even brighter future.”

The record setters will be honored at NAA’s Summer Awards Ceremony which will be held on May 16, 2018 at the Lockheed Martin Fighter Demonstration Center in Arlington, Virginia.

The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States. NAA is the caretaker of some of the most important aviation awards in the world, and certifies all national aviation records set in the United States. For information, visit www.naa.aero.

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