



NAA ANNOUNCES THE MOST MEMORABLE AVIATION RECORDS OF 2014

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Washington, DC: May 13, 2015 - 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 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.

Here is the list for 2014:

Free Three Turnpoint Distance: 1,052.37 miles
Record for gliders (motorgliders, flown single-place)

After self-launching a Glaser-Dirks DG-1001M motorglider from Nahuel Huapi airport, near Bariloche, Argentina, **Jim Payne** soared along the Andes mountains for over 14 hours. His flight on January 2 set a record for distance of 1,052.37 miles, beating the previous record of 1,024 miles set in 2004.

Speed Over a Recognized Course, Palm Beach, FL to Birmingham, UK: 619.71 mph
Record for airplanes (jet engine, weighing 35,274 < 44,092 lbs)

On the morning of January 24, **James Blase** and **Stephanie Ruyle** departed Florida's Palm Beach International Airport in a Gulfstream G280 bound for Birmingham, UK. The pair made the 4,306-mile flight, in 6 hours, 57 minutes, establishing the first record along that route at an average speed of 619.71 mph.

Speed Over a 15 Kilometer Course: 378.63 mph
Record for airplanes (piston engine, weighing 1,102 < 2,205 lbs)

Lee Behel flew the homebuilt GP-5 (a Reno racer powered by a 575 horsepower Chevrolet V8 engine) along a predetermined 9-mile course, just north of Mojave, CA, on April 12. Flying once in each direction along the course, his average speed for the two runs was 378.63 mph, beating the previous record set in 1989 by more than 75 mph.

Speed Over a 5,000 Kilometer Closed Course: 207.81 mph

Record for airplanes (piston engine, weighing 2,205 < 3,858 lbs)

Starting from California's Mojave Air and Space Port on April 20, **Zachary Reeder** took the Rutan Catbird on a flight that would last more than 15 hours and cover more than 3,110 miles. Reeder made ten laps of the 311-mile course (from Mojave to Inyokern, CA and on to Big Pine, CA), averaging 207.81 mph and establishing the first record for a course of this distance.

Distance in a Straight Line: 18.64 miles

Record for model aircraft (radio controlled helicopter, electric motor)

On April 26, **John McNeil** launched a 12-pound, battery-powered, remote control model helicopter from the Soda Dry Lake Road in California Valley, CA. McNeil and his observers followed the helicopter by car to a predetermined landing spot, which they arrived at some 25 minutes later. The 18.64 mile flight beat the previous record, set in 2004, by over 15 miles.

Exit Altitude: 135,898 feet

Record for parachutes

Wearing a space suit, a life-support system, and a parachute, **Alan Eustace** took off from the Roswell, NM, International Air Center while being carried aloft by a 400 foot high helium balloon. His ascent into the stratosphere on October 24 lasted a little more than two hours, and when he released from the balloon at 135,898 feet, he set the world record for "Exit Altitude." He beat the previous record, set by Felix Baumgartner in 2012, by more than 8,000 feet.

Duration: 80 hours, 2 minutes, 52 seconds

Record for unmanned aerial vehicles (remotely controlled, internal combustion & jet engine, weighing 11,023 < 22,046 lbs)

The Aurora Flight Sciences "Orion"—an 11,200 pound, twin piston-engine, unmanned vehicle—took off from Ridgecrest, CA, on December 5 and landed 3 days later, after spending 80 hours, 2 minutes, and 52 seconds airborne. **Peter LeHew, John Cody Allee, David Paul Gerhardt, Joel Walker** and **Thomas Washington** remotely piloted the Orion from a nearby trailer, establishing the first duration record in this class.

The record setters will be honored at NAA's [Summer Awards Ceremony](#) which will be held on July 14, 2015 at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Historic Terminal A, Washington DC. Specific information will be provided at a later date.

The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering America's aerospace leadership and promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States.