

About the race and racers



The U.S. Air Race goals are to promote the amateur sport of cross country air racing, improve pilot or builder skills through competition and with the help of sponsors, award Learn to Fly Scholarships. Since 1995 22 events have been held with a perfect safety record of over 500,000 race miles and over 3,000 safe landings. 26 scholarships have been awarded. Teams have been feted on TV and featured on the front page of many papers as a positive view of flying is presented. There are two types of speed races. One where different planes are equalized with analytically determined individual aircraft handicaps which make the race a test of pilot skills in PSR, Pilot Skilled Racing and APR, Aircraft Performance Racing where similar aircraft are grouped together and the measure of success is which aircraft completes the course at the fastest speed.

This is speed racing—speed gained through pilot skill or builder skill—

proven by flying cross country in day-light VFR conditions (that mean no flying in clouds). The PSR handicap system permits the team in a 115 mph plane built in the 1950s to compete with a team in a custom-built 300 hp fiberglass plane. Whichever team bests their handicap by the greatest amount by flying smoothly, divining what altitude has the best tailwinds and navigating precisely, wins trophies, cash and the all-important bragging rights.

APR or head to head speed racing for aircraft has been the hallmark of builder accomplishment. The difference here is the aircraft builders are amateurs that value how fast they can make their own aircraft fly. The 300-mile races are Sport Air Race League SABL sanctioned and points will be awarded. For both PSR and APR the on-course speed is measured by timing the teams as they fly-by a certain point after a normal take-off and then recording the finish time in the same in-flight manner so a normal landing

can be made. The elapsed time and the known distance yield the on-course speed. Results are announced after all planes have completed the course.

The passion for flight is a common thread that brings a diverse group of individuals together to share in fabulous camaraderie that develops as they accomplish something difficult. They've come from 42 states and three different countries. Some teams race once a year and call it vacation and other teams are fierce competitors and fly every race they can find.

2007 marks the 12th year of the U.S. Air Race events with three races: The 1800-mile Marion Jayne will be preceded and followed by the Wichita 300 and Stevens Point 300 Air Races, respectively. The Marion Jayne Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the team with the best combined score across all three races. Learn to Fly scholarships will be awarded by drawing to an equal number of women and men.