

RENO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AIR RACES  
 SEPT. 7 THRU 12, 1976  
 STEAD FACILITY  
 RENO, NEVADA

QUALIFYING TIME TRIALS - SEPT. 7, 8, 9 - 1 LAP OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

RACE						
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT		TIME	SPEED
1	#09	Don Whittington	"Precious Metal"	P-51D	1:20.4	438.81 (a)
2	# 6	John Crocker	"Sumthin' Else"	P-51D	1:20.8	436.63 (b)
3	# 5	Mac McClain	"Red Baron"	RB-51	1:20.9	436.09 (c)
4	#25	Lefty Gardner	"Thunderbird"	P-51D	1:31.7	384.73 (d)
5	# 9	Jimmy Leeward	"Miss Florida"	P-51D	1:32.0	383.48
6	#85	Clay Klabo	"Iron Mistress"	P-51D	1:33.8	376.12
7	#11	Howie Keefe	"Miss America"	P-51D	1:40.0	352.80
8	#28	Lefty Gardner	"Topsy Miss"	P-63C	1:42.6	343.86 (e)
9	#96	Bob Love	"Grey Fox"	P-51D	1:42.9	342.86
10	# 4*	Jack Flaherty	Flaherty King Cobra	P-63E	1:43.0	342.52 (f)
11	# 1	George Roberts	"Flying Undertaker"	P-51D	1:44.4	337.93 (g)
12	#76	Dave Norland	"No Name Dame"	P-51D	1:49.2	323.08
13	#13	Lefty Gardner	Gardner Lightning	P-38L	1:51.5	316.41
14	#39*	Ed Messick	Messick Airacobra	P-39	1:53.8	310.02
15	#62*	Robert Forbes	Forbes Tigercat	F7F-3	1:54.4	308.39 (h)
16	#20	John Wright	"Philippine Mustang"	P-51D	1:58.4	297.97
17	#86	John Putman	"Ciuchetton"	P-51D	--	-- (i)

\* All of these race numbers were unofficial and were used for this race only.

- (a) A new Qualifying Record. (Both Reno and National). Breaks the previous Reno and National Record of 435.56 set by Darryl Greenamyre in #1 at Reno '75. This aircraft previously raced using number #81.
- (b) This qualifying speed also breaks the old Reno and National Records. This aircraft previously raced as #34, "Miss Foxy Lady".
- (c) This qualifying speed also breaks the old Reno and National Records.
- (d) This aircraft previously raced as Gardner Mustang.
- (e) Lefty Gardner qualified three airplanes at Reno '76; his own Mustang, #25, John Sandberg's King Cobra, #28, and his own Lightning, #13. He raced his own Mustang in the Medallion Race and the Championship Race and raced his own Lightning in the Consolation Race. Gary Levitz ended up racing John Sandberg's King Cobra in the Consolation Race.
- (f) Jack Flaherty qualified his own #4, but it was raced for him, in the Consolation Race, by Steve Hinton.
- (g) The Red Baron Racing Team's stock Mustang, #1, "Flying Undertaker", was qualified by George Roberts, but was raced in both the Consolation and the Championship by Darryl Greenamyre.
- (h) After qualifying, the pilot of this aircraft elected to withdraw from further competition.
- (i) Was unable to qualify due to electrical problems, but was permitted to race from the last qualifying position.

NOTE: Again, in 1977, the Unlimited Aircraft qualified directly into the Medallion, Consolation, or Championship Races and no Heat Races were flown.

MEDALLION RACE - (OR SECOND CONSOLATION) - SEPT. 11 - 6 LAPS OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

RACE						
PL.	NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT		TIME	SPEED
1	#20	John Wright	"Philippine Mustang"		10:00.4	352.57
2	#86	John Putman	"Ciuchetton"		10:12.9	345.37
3	#85	Clay Klabo	"Iron Mistress"		10:21.2	340.76

4	# 6	John Crocker	"Sumthin" Else"	10:23.1	339.72 (a)
5	#25	Lefty Gardner	"Thunderbird"	11:53.0	296.89 (a)

(a) Both of these aircraft were scheduled for the Championship Race and flew in this race as fill-ins.

CONSOLATION RACE - SEPT. 11 - 6 LAPS OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	# 1	Darryl Greenamyre	"Flying Undertaker"	9:34.0	368.78
2	#86	John Putman	"Ciuchetton"	10:00.4	352.57
3	#96	Bob Love	"Grey Fox"	10:02.7	351.22
4	#76	Dave Norland	"No Name Dame"	10:52.5	324.41
5	# 4*	Steve Hinton	Flaherty King Cobra	11:00.7	320.39
6	#13	Lefty Gardner	Gardner Lightning	11:43.6	300.85
7	#28	Gary Levitz	"Topsy Miss"	11:45.5	300.04 (a)
8	#39*	Ed Messick	Messick Airacobra	12:14.5	288.20
9	#20	John Wright	"Philippine Mustang"		DNF (b)

(a) Gary Levitz was available to replace Lefty Gardner in #28 in this race due to the fact that he had blown an engine in his own P-38, #38, "Double Trouble", enroute to Reno and was, thus, without an airplane to race from that point on.

(b) Pulled out on the fourth lap with fouled plugs while leading the race.

CHAMPIONSHIP RACE - SEPT. 12 - 8 LAPS OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#25	Lefty Gardner	"Thunderbird"	12:23.5	379.61
2	# 1	Darryl Greenamyre	"Flying Undertaker"	12:50.4	366.36
3	#11	Howie Keefe	"Miss America"	14:51.0	316.77 (a)
4	# 9	Jimmy Leeward	"Miss Florida"	15:31.5	303.00
5	#85	Clay Klabo	"Iron Mistress"		DNF (b)
6	# 5	Mac McClain	"Red Baron"		DNF (c)
7	#09	Don Whittington	"Precious Metal"		DNF (d)
8	# 6	John Crocker	"Sumthin' Else"	--	-- (e)

(a) #11's slow speed is accounted for by the fact that he blew off an exhaust stack during the race, but stuck it out and finished.

(b) Pulled out on the sixth lap with a leaking V-Drive and excessive oil on the windscreen.

(c) Pulled out on the fourth lap while running in second when his Blower Gears let go.

(d) Pulled out on the third lap while duelling with McClain for second when his engine threw a rod and blew two jugs.

(e) Had led the race from start to finish and crossed the finish line the apparent winner at an average speed in excess of 427 mph. Early in the race, his prop seal had developed a leak and had sprayed oil on the windscreen, thus, it was necessary for him to fly the course high and wide. In so doing, the Officials claimed that he broke the Race Deadline on all eight of his laps and was, thus, disqualified.

RENO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AIR RACES

SEPT. 13 THRU 18, 1977

STEAD FACILITY

RENO, NEVADA

QUALIFYING TIME TRIALS - SEPT. 13, 14, 15 - 1 LAP OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#85	Clay Klabo	"Iron Mistress"	P-51D 1:27.6	402.74
2	#09	Don Whittington	"Precious Metal"	P-51D 1:28.9	399.55
3	#69	Cliff Cummins	"Miss Candace"	P-51D 1:28.2	397.30

4	# 5	Darryl Greenamyre	"Red Baron"	RB-51	1:31.6	385.15
5	#17	Mac McClain	"Escape I"	P-51D	1:33.1	378.95 (a)
6	#86	John Putman	"Ciuchetton"	P-51D	1:33.7	376.52
7	#20	John Wright	"Philippine Mustang"	P-51D	1:34.8	372.15
8	#11	Howie Keefe	"Miss America"	P-51D	1:35.0	371.37
9	#25	Lefty Gardner	"Thunderbird"	P-51D	1:36.2	366.74
10	# 9	Jimmy Leeward	"Miss Florida"	P-51D	1:37.9	360.37
11	# 1	John Muszala	"Flying Undertaker"	P-51D	1:38.1	359.63
12	# 2	John Crocker	Hovey Mustang	P-51D	1:39.8	353.51 (b)
13	# 8	Don Whittington	"Precious Bear"	F8F-2	1:40.6	350.70 (c)
14	#38	Gary Levitz	"Double Trouble"	P-38L	1:47.3	328.80
15	# 7*	Tom Summers	"Jay Bee"	P-51D	1:48.3	325.76 (d)
16	# 3*	Bill Harrison	Harrison Mustang	P-51D	1:51.2	317.27
17	#71	Lefty Gardner	Hobbs Mustang	P-51D	1:54.4	308.39 (e)
18	#13	Lefty Gardner	Gardner Lightning	P-38L	1:54.5	308.12
19	# 4*	Ed Messick	"Minute Man"	P-51D	2:01.5	290.37
20	#12*	Gerald Martin	CAF Wildcat	FM-2	2:03.2	286.36
21	#76	Dave Norland	"No Name Dame"	P-51D	--	-- (f)

- (a) By 1977, Mac McClain and the Red Baron Air Racing Team had gone their separate ways. The RB-51 was now being flown by Darryl Greenamyre and McClain was flying the late Jack Sliker's Mustang, #17, "Escape I".
- (b) Crocker was racing #2, Hovey Mustang, in place of his highly modified #6, "Sumthin' Else," since that aircraft had been damaged in a forced landing prior to this Race.
- (c) Don Whittington qualified both his regular #09, "Precious Metal", and his #8 Bearcat, "Precious Bear", and raced both of them as well. This aircraft previously raced as Mathews Bearcat, #Tom's Cat", "Miss Priss" and "Sweet P".
- (d) This aircraft previously raced using number #15.
- (e) Lefty Gardner again qualified three aircraft; his own Mustang and Lightning, both of which he would end up racing, at least partially, and the #71 Hobbs Mustang which was raced by Vernon Thorp.
- (f) Was unable to qualify due to mechanical problems and was, thus, out of the competition.

\*All of these race numbers were unofficial and were used for this race only.

HEAT 1 - SEPT. 16 - 4 LAPS OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED	
1	#69	Cliff Cummins	"Miss Candace"	6:02.3	389.51	
2	#85	Clay Klabo	"Iron Mistress"	6:02.5	389.30	
3	#17	Mac McClain	"Escape I"	6:14.8	376.52	
4	#25	Lefty Gardner	"Thunderbird"	6:16.9	374.42	
5	# 8	Don Whittington	"Precious Bear"	7:38.3	307.92	
6	#20	John Wright	"Philippine Mustang"			DNF (a)
7	# 1	John Muszala	"Flying Undertaker"			DNS (b)

- (a) Pulled out on the third lap with engine problems.
- (b) Was unable to start due to mechanical difficulties.

HEAT 2 - SEPT. 16 - 4 LAPS OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	# 5	Darryl Greenamyre	"Red Baron"	5:35.8	420.25
2	#09	Don Whittington	"Precious Metal"	5:54.1	398.53
3	#86	John Putman	"Ciuchetton"	6:19.5	371.86
4	# 9	Jimmy Leeward	"Miss Florida"	6:47.4	346.39
5	# 2	John Crocker	Hovey Mustang	6:53.4	341.36
6	#11	Howie Keefe	"Miss America"	6:59.4	336.48
7	#38	Gary Levitz	"Double Trouble"	7:22.4	318.99

FIRST TROPHY RACE - SEPT. 17 - 5 LAPS OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	# 7*	Tom Summers	"Jay Bee"	9:00.8	326.18
2	# 3*	Bill Harrison	Harrison Mustang	9:02.8	324.98
3	#13	Gary Levitz	Gardner Lightning	9:16.3	317.10 (a)
4	#71	Vernon Thorp	Hobbs Mustang	9:31.3	308.77
5	#12*	Gerald Martin	CAF Wildcat	11:46.4	249.72
6	# 4*	Ed Messick	"Minute Man"	10:14.5	287.06 (b)
7	#26*	Walt Estridge	Fill-In Mustang	11:15.7	261.06 (c)

- (a) Gary Levitz flew #13 for Lefty Gardner in this race.  
 (b) Actually crossed the finish line in the fifth position, but was dropped to sixth for cutting the #6 pylon on lap 5.  
 (c) Walt Estridge flew an unqualified Mustang as a fill-in in this race. He actually crossed the finish line in sixth, but was dropped to seventh for multiple pylon cuts.

CONSOLATION RACE - SEPT. 17 - 6 LAPS OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	# 9	Jimmy Leeward	"Miss Florida"	9:16.1	380.65
2	#20	John Wright	"Philippine Mustang"	9:16.3	380.51
3	# 2	John Crocker	Hovey Mustang	9:53.2	356.84
4	# 8	Don Whittington	"Precious Bear"	10:40.0	330.75
5	# 1	John Muszala	"Flying Undertaker"	10:43.6	328.90
6	# 7*	Tom Summers	"Jay Bee"	10:58.5	321.46
7	#38	Gary Levitz	"Double Trouble"		DNF (a)

- (a) Pulled out on the final lap and landed with his right engine feathered. The engine had quit just prior to the end of the race simply because someone had forgotten to fill the right hand fuel tank just prior to the race.

SECOND TROPHY RACE - SEPT. 18 - 5 LAPS OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	#38	Gary Levitz	"Double Trouble"	8:49.5	333.14
2	# 4*	Ed Messick	"Minute Man"	8:51.9	331.64
3	# 3*	Bill Harrison	Harrison Mustang	8:55.3	329.54
4	#71	Vernon Thorp	Hobbs Mustang	8:56.1	329.04
5	# 7*	Tom Summers	"Jay Bee"	9:08.7	321.49
6	#13	Lefty Gardner	Gardner Lightning	9:15.3	317.67
7	#12*	Gerald Martin	CAF Wildcat	11:42.2	251.21

CHAMPIONSHIP RACE - SEPT. 18 - 8 LAPS OF THE 9.8 MI. COURSE

PL.	RACE NO.	PILOT	AIRCRAFT	TIME	SPEED
1	# 5	Darryl Greenamyer	"Red Baron"	10:55.3	430.70 (a)
2	#09	Don Whittington	"Precious Metal"	11:03.0	425.70
3	#69	Cliff Cummins	"Miss Candace"	11:05.1	424.36
4	#85	Clay Klabo	"Iron Mistress"	11:31.9	407.92
5	#86	John Putman	"Ciuchetton"	12:05.4	389.08
6	#17	Mac McClain	"Escape I"	12:16.0	383.48
7	#25	Lefty Gardner	"Thunderbird"	12:33.3	374.67

- (a) A new Race Record Speed. (Both a Reno and a National Record). Breaks the previous Reno and National Record of 429.92 set by Lyle Shelton in #77 in the Championship Race at Reno '75.