

PILOT, what's YOUR story?

Pilots love to learn about pilots - no matter who they are, where they're from, or what they fly - and we have randomly selected individuals from our readership to share their aviation background, inspirations and first flights. We look forward to all of you becoming a part of it. **So, pilot, what's your story?**

AO: Please state your name for the record...

TC: Terry Carbonell.

AO: What is your favorite breakfast cereal?

TC: Special K with Blueberries.

AO: Where did you do most of your flying when you were building time?

TC: South FL initially, then all over the US. My first venture out of south FL was a trip to Westminster, MD (6-1/2 hours) to visit my mother. After that was a trip to Nashville, TN then it snowballed - there was no stopping me going to wherever.

AO: Do you remember your flight instructor's name? What did you solo in?

TC: My flight instructor was local icon, Ed Wilson. He was 75 when he taught me to fly. We share the same birthday I soloed in a C 172 N5603R. I can remember some famous "Ed-isms": "I am not going to teach you how to fly. I am going to teach you how to survive." I also recall the first real flight with Ed (not our introductory flight) where he



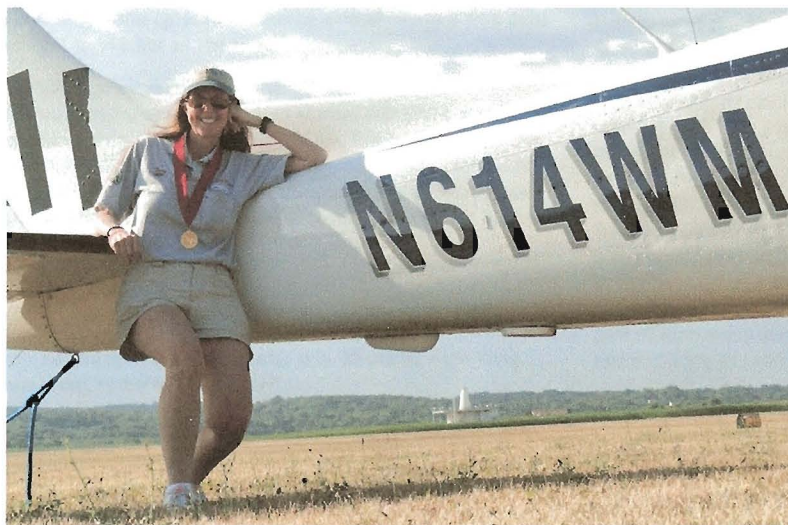
asked me if I had a Miami sectional. I proudly handed to him whereup he open it, looked at it and covered up the instrument panel completely, telling me, "There is nothing inside of this airplane you need to look at. Keep your eyes out the window."

AO: Tell us about your favorite \$100 hamburger.

TC: Patty's Settlement at Kentucky Dam Sate Park. Kindof a long burger run for me but with 2" thick pork chops, sawdust pie and potted bread, it gets my vote.

AO: What inspired you to become a pilot?

TC: My husband, Mario, who had been a pilot since he was 16, got Alzheimer's Disease. He asked me to get my license so I could fly him around in the time he had left on this earth. We flew nearly 1000 hours together all over the US in the last 3 years of his life so, in essence, I fulfilled a dying wish for him. I was terrified of becoming a pilot since it was something that i had never even thought of before - but I could not say no when Mario asked me. A friend, Rob Weber, had just gotten his pilots license and asked me if he could take Mario for a flight one Friday afternoon. I knew Mario would enjoy it and left it for him as a surprise. Much to my surprise, I also went in Rob's Cessna 172 and that became the first airplane that I flew. Mario was so happy being back in an airplane.





AO: How long have you been flying?

TC: 6 years. Because of Mario being ill, I wanted to get with the program and get the job done. I studied Gleim every night and flew every day and in 46 days - start to finish - I had my certificate.

AO: Who is your favorite aviator and why?

TC: I cannot say that I have a favorite. I like the underdogs - the ladies who never give up. Last year at the 2010 Air Race Classic, Sandra T and Heather W broke down on the first leg and got stuck there for 2 nights. They could have flown to the end of the course and just bagged out on the whole race, but they did not: they flew the race, got the worst winds, were there all by themselves but they completed the journey. They have guts, they have spunk, they have determination and they earned my respect.

AO: How do you feel about AO doing a feature on you?

Are you excited, nervous, delighted?

TC: I have never been shy so I think it would be really cool.

AO: What was the very first plane that you bought? Do you still have it?

TC: N5603R and I just financed the sale of her to a new pilot so I get to see her all the time.

AO: What are you currently flying?

TC: My primary airplane is "Wild Mama" N614WM, a 1978 182 RG and I also fly a Citabria 7GCAA. We have dubbed the Citabria "Wild Child" because she is an aerobatic plane. I took aerobatic lessons but stopped temporarily when Mario was still ill. I have not had the time to resume aerobatics but I do like flying up-side-down.

AO: How many ratings do you have?

TC: CFI ASEL ASES.

AO: Taildragger, amphib/floats, skis, bi-plane, high-wing, low-wing, turbine, heli? Why?

TC: Float planes are fun - I wish I had one. There is just such a different perspective landing on the water. It opens up so many new runways! High wing because that's what I learned on and the view of the ground is better. One of my most favorite flights was in Alaska last summer when I rented a

float plane. We flew up over the Harding ice field and down the glacier, fling just off the water in front of the face of the glacier. It was a spectacular flight.

AO: Jif or Skippy?

TC: So long as it is extra crunchy, who cares.

AO: Favorite flying phrase?

TC: "I've got a wheel and a green light." ... because I know all is well. Flying a retractable gear plane, you want to know the wheels are there. I have had a couple of instances where they were not and had to use the emergency gear lowering procedure. Green lights are wonderful things!

AO: Favorite runway and/or approach?

TC: The Puddy Tatt approach. I have never flown it but I like the plate. Sedona, AZ was a great place to land. The scenery in Sedona is spectacular but the feeling of landing on an "aircraft carrier" was cool. One thing I would jump at the chance at is to land on and be catapulted from an aircraft carrier ... I don't even have to be the pilot. I just think that would be the coolest thing in the world ... well, that and a ride with the Blue Angels ...

AO: If you could own any aircraft, *your dream aircraft* (and not have to worry about maintenance or fuel), what would it be? Why?

TC: It's all about the journey. I love my RG. She is my dream plane because she get me there and I have fun doing it. I think it is all about the toys in the airplane that makes it special: best to have a fully tricked out panel.

AO: What else would you like us to know about you?

TC: First: Be sure to visit my web site (teamwildmama.com) to see what I have really been up to in the aviation world. In spite of the name, it is a very G rated site (Wild Mama is the name of the airplane and the site is all about aviation.) Second: I got involved in aviation at the age of 44 and have wondered why. After the death of my husband I discovered that I needed to pay forward what I have learned and started working with kids. I love getting kids interested in aviation and getting them excited about the fun things that are yet to come to them in life. Through the Air Race Classic (a whole nother story) I have been working with the girls at the Mobile Boys and Girls Club. They have learned about aviation but also about opportunities, perseverance, hope and to believe in themselves that they can do anything the set their minds to. Third: air racing is fun and has become a passion. The last part of June every year is the Air Race Classic and I will be there so long as I can climb into an airplane!

AO: *Thank you for your time, Terry.*

Would you like to be part of "Pilot, What's Your Story?" Contact us at News@AircraftOwner.com and we'll send you a questionnaire. See you next month.