



PILOT PROFILE

Michael Hare

Q. How did you get started in aerobatics?

A. Since I was a child, I've been looking up at airshows trying to imagine how cool it would be to fly those awesome airplanes.

Q. Is this your first contest? If it is, what was the deciding factor that made you want to compete?

A. This will be my second contest. My first was the Snowbird Classic at Williston just recently. (March 25-27)



Q. If this is NOT your first contest - what tips would you give to a new competitor?

A. Don't wait!! The skies are friendly, people want to help you get better and you'll have a ton of fun.

Q. What practice time have you been able to put in leading up to this contest?

A. I'm trying to fly twice a day. Some days are good, others aren't. Today I only flew once, but it was a nice practice.

Q. Do you have a coach or coaches (formal or informal)? And/or who has been your mentor or biggest cheerleader?

A. At the Williston contest I made some contacts that are informally coaching me. One of my fellow Sportsman competitors, Mark Buckner, and I are conspiring to help each other. Our first mutual session will be this Friday.

Last year I spent a week at Patty Wagstaff's school learning some basics. That week definitely lit my fire, Patty and Allen are awesome and I can't wait to get back over there for some more training.

I also spent two days with Greg Koontz at his Sky Lodge working on some basics there, another great experience.



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Q. Do you own or rent an airplane?

A. I bought this Decathlon Extreme last October with the express purpose of competing as a Sportsman for this season to see how much progress I can make. The airplane's first owner was airshow performer, Greg Koontz.

Q. What "big picture" goals do you have in aerobatics?

A. Mainly to have fun. Making improvements and becoming a better pilot is fun, so in a way that is tied to the competition thing.

Q. What is your favorite maneuver? and why.

A. The Hammerhead. I just love waiting for that "just right" moment to start the turn back down the line I just came up.

Q. Do you plan on attending any other contests this year? If so, what ones?

A. I'm going to as many contests as I possibly can. I had to cancel the Rome contest when I developed a conflict with another flying opportunity, but I'll be looking for others. Have Decathlon, Will Travel!

Q. Are you planning on going to the U.S. Nationals this year? As a volunteer or pilot?

A. Absolutely!! I would love to compete