



PILOT PROFILE Julia Harrington

Q. How did you get started in aerobatics?

A. I've been going to Oshkosh since I was 8, and I always wanted to fly aerobatics ever since I saw Patty Wagstaff perform in 1999. I started taking lessons more consistently about a year ago at Patty's school down in St. Augustine.

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

A. Yes, this is my first contest! After falling in love with aerobatics at air shows, I did my homework and found out that most of the great air show pilots did competition aerobatics, so I've wanted to compete for years! I can't wait to start!



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

A. I've done a few training trips down to St. Augustine over the last year, but more recently I've been flying at least once a week in my own Decathlon that I bought in late March!

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

A. Patty has been a great mentor and support, and coach from afar. I've also done some work with Jared Sabesta out of Lumanair at ARR, and gotten some ground coaching/critiques with the guys from IAC Chapter One at play days. I love getting different perspectives.

Q. Do you own or rent an airplane?

A. I just purchased my first airplane! It's a 1974 Decathlon 150HP with a constant speed prop. It's been so fun to fly, and a real dream-come-true to own an aerobatic airplane!

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

A. I'd love to see how far I can go in competition, and hopefully pursue air shows in the future!

Q. What is your favorite maneuver? and why.

A. My favorite is the hammerhead! It's just so satisfying when you fly the perfect vertical line and kick at the right moment - it comes together and feels awesome.

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

A. Yes! Spencer, IA in August and the Ohio Aerobatic Championships in September.

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

A. Not this year, but hopefully 2022!