A world record attempt at Flying Cloud Airport

16-year-old solos 10 planes on the first day he can legally fly solo

BY KEVIN R. HUMMEL

On Aug. 16, Na-te, a 16-year-old son of Steve and Krista Bruss, began his record attempt. To set a world record for solo flight, Nate had to fly 16 different planes solo in 24 hours. His father, Steve, said, “For me, this is about 55 hours of flight time, and I’d be able to do it and nothing can stop me from doing something and making it happen. It’s a craft.”

War-era Navy training aircraft got to take a ride in a Beechcraft Model A-28-161 to the World Record.

Nate’s dad Steve said his son saw a magazine article about a student pilot who set the record for flying the most conventional aircraft in a day. 7.

Nate decided to pilot the most three-place single-engine (planes with finding gear arranged in tricycle fashion) in a day.

Steve works of Flying Cloud Airport on Eden Prairie at Wings Insurance, which sponsored the event.

The Dayton, Minn., town has flown with his father since he was 2 years old, Steve said.

To set a new record, Nate rented to fly 16 different planes on his birthday.

Nate flew the 10 planes starting at 6 a.m. and ending at 5:15 p.m.

“By the end of the day, Nate felt like he had the most perfect pattern of the day. I just got a grin on my face,” he said. “It felt really good to complete the record that way.”

Steve said they were submitting the evidence to use if it was ever questioned, even in an official Guinness World Record.

At the end of the day, Nate turned his log book in a Beechcraft 34-Mont, a “Korean War and Navy training aircraft.”

“I had a really hard time getting the window open,” Steve said. “In the end, it worked out, and I was able to fly all 16.”

The last of the 16 planes Nate flew solo in a Cessna-172. Please see the attempt, Steve said.

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The planes, the planes

1) Nate solo in a Cessna-150 for three full landings at 6 a.m.
2) Nate solo another Cessna-150
3) Nate solo a Cessna-172 Skyhawk
4) Nate solo another Cessna-172
5) Nate solo a Beechcraft 34-Mont, a World Record.
6) Nate solo a three-place Piper PA-22-161 Warbirds.
7) Nate solo another Cessna-172 at 5:15 p.m.

Source: Steve Bruss

“Typically, to fly solo in the CSA, Nate had to pass medical examination and pre-flight written exam on each airplane. He flew four airplanes several times in the weeks looking up to the attempt,” the release said. He also had to have a student pilot certificate—and turn 16.

When asked if the anticipation of making his first solo flight is comparable to getting to drive a car for the first time, Nate said he didn’t know. “I don’t have my license yet,” he said. “I’ve never driven a car for myself.”

Steve Bruss made a world record attempt on Aug. 16.

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