

THE 461^{ER} PILOT PROFILE:



RICH TICHY

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF EAA 461?

I joined Chapter 461 in 1974.
I was building my Pietenpol homebuilt and I needed a little help with some questions I had.

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN AVIATION?

My interest in aviation comes from my father.
He flew rubber band powered model airplanes.
I would chase after them and retrieve them.
That got me hooked on all airplanes.

HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU HAVE TO DATE?

I have 4,300 hours.

HAVE YOU EVER SERVED IN THE MILITARY, IF SO, WHAT BRANCH AND WHEN?

US Air Force from 1962 - 1966.

YOUR FIRST SOLO IS A DATE YOU'LL NEVER FORGET... TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST SOLO EXPERIENCE?

I was in the Air Force when I soloed.
I was stationed at an active fighter base
that had a 12,000 foot runway. My instructor said:
"Give me 3 landings, fly the length of the runway, and stay
at pattern altitude (which was 700 ft.) on downwind."
It took me almost an hour to complete the 3 landings....

I forgot to mention that I was flying a Champ.

WHEN DID YOU SOLO AND WHERE?

I soloed at K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base
in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.
2 months later, I was transferred to a flight crew.
I didn't fly again for almost 2 years.



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?

I soloed 51 years ago
(I was a mere child at the time)

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE AVIATION BOOK AND/OR MOVIE?

My favorite book is "God is My Co-Pilot"
and my favorite movie is "12 O'clock High"

WHAT RATINGS DO YOU HOLD?

As for my ratings, I just hold a private pilot
license.
I also hold an airframe and power plant license
with an inspection authorization.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE AVIATION MUSEUM THAT YOU HAVE VISITED OR WANT TO GO TO?

I like the Air Force Museum.
I think it's the best.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE AIRPLANE and WHY?

My favorite airplane was my first one.
I managed to buy a 1947 J-3 Cub, and then my Pietenpol.
Now I have a RV-6.
It's really a great airplane, but I do miss the low and slow flying.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF AVIATION?

I have been working with a Greyhound rescue group for 20 years.
We have had 7 Greyhounds in our house over the past 20 years.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST PERSONAL AVIATION MEMORY OR STORY ?

Best memories were the 2 test (first flights) flights I had in my home-builts.
What a thrill to fly in an airplane that has never been off the ground.

ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CHAPTER PARTICIPATE IN FOR THE FUTURE?

I think the Chapter is moving in the right direction with offering high school age people the opportunity to earn scholarships and grants for flight training and aircraft maintenance.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES?

I'm a chapter technical counselor, so I get to help and teach Members how to work on airplanes.
I'm working with 3 builders now.

And working with Young Eagles.

WHAT LEGACY WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE FOR YOUTH IN AVIATION? WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE TO FLY?

I would say to young women or men:
"You can do anything you put your mind too if you try."
And to older people:
"You're never too old to learn anything you want to do."
I think I'm proof of that.

FINALLY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COOKIE? 😊

And my favorite cookies are the one YOU make for me.
(Awwww, Thanks, Rich !!!)

THANKS, RICH ! 😊
It was really great interviewing you and learning more about you and your Aviation Adventures !

and... THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE in the AIRFORCE!