

## THE 461<sup>ER</sup> PILOT PROFILE:



# ROBBIE

### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF EAA 461?**

I think it is two years now since I returned. I was previously a member but left for a while.

### **WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN AVIATION?**

Well, everything. I grew up around it. My grandfather told stories of taking lessons in a Curtiss Jenny, my father flew a bit and was a Lt Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol. Both of my brothers flew. I don't remember not being into aviation.

### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FLYING?**

I have been flying since 2001, but have been around aviation in many forms since the early 1970's.

I spent 17 years skydiving also.

### **HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU HAVE TO DATE?**

1200 plus

### **WHAT RATINGS DO YOU HOLD?**

Private pilot with a tailwheel endorsement, Instrument rating.

### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE AVIATION BOOK AND/OR MOVIE?**

Ernest K Gann wrote my favorite aviation book - "Fate is the Hunter"



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

Yes. US Navy, Battleship sailor. 1989 to 1994.

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

Oh, it was on a late summer afternoon at the Waukegan airport (KUGN). I learned to fly at the Stick & Rudder Flying Club there. The controller in the tower was nicknamed "chatty Patty" and I spent most of the time in the pattern going back and forth with her. It was fun.

### **WHEN DID YOU SOLO AND WHERE?**

KUGN sometime in 2001.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE AIRPLANE and WHY?**

The Douglas DC-3.  
When I was very young, one flew over the house low and loud. Ever since that moment I have had a love affair with DC-3's, and I made a bunch of skydives out of them.

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF AVIATION?**

Spend time with my family.  
Take pictures. This is why everyone calls me a camera geek.

**WHAT'S YOUR BEST PERSONAL AVIATION MEMORY OR STORY ?**

Wow. Hard to pick just one.  
The first flight of my Sonex in October 2015 would probably be my favorite.

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

More homebuilt aircraft related activities.

**WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES?**

Young Eagles rallies and any chance to banter with my friends in the hangar.

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

Legacy? Me? Ha!

I would say dream big and go for it.

I spent a lot of time dreaming of participating in aviation before I could afford to. Don't give up. If you work hard you can do anything you set your mind and heart to.

Blue skies!

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

The Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio.

**FINALLY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE COOKIE? 😊**

Chocolate Chip.

**THANKS, ROBBIE...**



**It was fun interviewing you and learning a bit more about you and your Aviation Adventures!**



**THANK YOU ALSO, FOR YOUR SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY, ROBBIE!**