

For Interviewers: A few short questions to make you and I appear knowledgeable about airplanes.
For Program Editors and Webmasters: Trivia to dress up your publication

Is it true you built the Skybolt 300 yourself?

Yes! In my living room! The Skybolt is specially built just for air show demonstrations. It is powered by a Lycoming air-cooled engine with over 300 horsepower. It is constructed of wood and steel tubing with fabric covering. The special paint scheme was designed especially for the air show fans so everyone can tell exactly what the airplane is doing.

I understand you did such a good job building the Skybolt that it has won awards?

Yes the Skybolt has won numerous top awards at air shows and fly-ins through out the country for innovation and quality. It has also appeared in many aviation magazines, calendars and advertisements. Our greatest thrill was to win a Champion Award at the famous Oshkosh, WI, International EAA Airshow and Fly-in, in 1994.

Many of us know what a Pitts Special is. How is the Skybolt different?

The Skybolt was designed in the mid-seventies and is built much like the famous Pitts Special. However, the Skybolt is 25% larger than a Pitts. I've further modified the original design with larger control surfaces and a bigger engine. With over 300 horse power, this Skybolt will go well over 200 MPH and straight up over 1500 ft.

Were you apprehensive about flying in an airplane you built yourself?

A little. This is why I fly the Skybolt in air shows around the country - to demonstrate the possibilities available to someone who wants to build his own "homebuilt" aircraft. Patience and an understanding family are the two biggest necessities for building a plane. I do all of my own maintenance so that makes Linda and I feel a lot safer about what we do with the airplane.

Explain 'G forces' and do you pull a lot of G's when you perform?

Gs are forces of gravity slamming you down into the seat. During the show I pull up to 9 positive Gs. That means I weigh almost 2,000 pounds at times! It is difficult to hold your arms and feet up and your face gets pulled down so you momentarily look kinda ugly. Imagine how squished the seat cushion gets! We do grunting exercises like the fighter pilots to keep our G tolerance up.

Do you do any unique maneuvers that no one else does?

Yes! We do a tumbling maneuver like the famous Lomcevak, which is called the Wally World. The Grover Over is a really wild spin reversal at zero G and the Hammer Slide is like a game of chicken with the airplane falling toward the ground on its side with a last minute pullout.

Your company name is rather peculiar. Tell us what it means.

The word "Bearfeet" is a play on words: it means 'huge undertaking'. This refers to my building my air show airplane in less than ideal circumstances, i.e. it was built in the living room of a condominium!

Does your wife worry when you fly in shows?

I don't think she takes a breath during the show. She does do a great job looking after the ground support stuff and seeing that the kids get autographs in an orderly fashion.

Rumor has it you fly your show with no shoes on, hence the name Bearfeet.

No comment.