

DR. D's Old-Time Aerobatics
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FACT SHEET

PILOT: Dr. Frank Donnelly, now a retired psychology professor from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California. He has over 40 years of flight experience.

AIR SHOW EXPERIENCE: Dr. D. flew 55 shows in the last five years, which represented 130 actual performances. These shows included fifteen night performances where he had 30 strobe lights on the plane. Air show attendees have requested his return at every show he has performed in. He has a level one (ground level) waver.

UNIQUE QUALITY OF DR. D's ACT: "Very few pilots are flying old-time aerobatics. I want people to see what air shows were like in the 50s and 60s. The Taylorcraft flies slowly and gracefully, rather than doing the abrupt, neck-wrenching tumbles of modern aerobatic airplanes," says Donnelly. The evening/night strobe light show is also a unique viewing experience.

DR. D'S FAVORITE AEROBATIC MANEUVER: The engine-off landing. "Landing with the prop stopped takes a lot of planning. So do the loop and roll that I perform with the engine off. I love 'em and the crowd does, too," Donnelly remarks. The evening/night performances are also Donnelly's favorites as doing aerobatics in the dark is a unique experience. He is the only air show performer doing such a night show.

AIRCRAFT FLOWN: 1946 Taylorcraft (N6588C) with a Swick conversion to improve aerobatic performance. The plane has shorter wings (clipped-wing conversion), one seat rather than two seats; larger control surfaces; 120-hp Lycoming engine rather than a 65-hp Continental; and experimental rather than standard category licensing. It also qualifies as a Light Sport Aircraft.

TAYLORCRAFT N6588C: Until 2000, Taylorcraft N6588C was flown in the Southeast, where it was eventually converted to an aerobatic airplane. Over the years it deteriorated, and when Donnelly purchased it, the plane needed a total overhaul. It took him three years and approximately 800 hours to complete the transformation.

DR. D'S TOTAL FLIGHT TIME: More than 6,000 hours in dozens of mostly old-time airplanes.

AIRCRAFT RATINGS: Commercial pilot single-engine land, private pilot glider and certification as a glider tow pilot. He is also an advanced ground instructor. In addition Donnelly has an Airframe/Powerplant mechanic's license and an aircraft Inspector Authorization.

OTHER AVIATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 1995, Donnelly raced his Van's RV-3 in the Sun 100 Air Race in Lakeland, Florida. He clocked the fastest RV time of the race. In 2000, he placed third in the Copperstate Dash Air Race from Apple Valley, California to Coolidge, Arizona flying the RV-3. In 2001, he was honored to serve as a mechanic for the U.S. Unlimited Aerobatic Team when it competed in the World Air Games in Burgos, Spain. Donnelly also has more than 2,000 hours towing gliders.

BOOKING INFORMATION: Dr. D's Old-Time Aerobatics is available for the 2010 air show season. For information, call 951 532-1203, 909 592-1928 or e-mail fadme@aol.com.