

# ***Aviation Connection***

## **AVIATION CONNECTION PILOT MENTOR PROGRAM**

### **GENERAL AVIATION REALITY TODAY:**

North American pilot population is in serious decline though it is proven that millions of people want to become pilots. Those people are your neighbors, your friends, your working partners, your clients, your boss, members of your family.

Why don't they get out there and Fly? For many reasons including financial concerns; however we all know it always comes down to a question of priorities. Priorities are subject to the combination of sincere motivation and the support from family members, friends and mostly buddies who have gone through the same process. What is alarming is that once started, many pilots will drop out of training.

While new pilots lack support to pursue their dream, an increasing number of pilots have no one to FLY with, to share their passion with, or plan any kind of exciting cross country or cross continent Flying adventure.

Because this situation is prevailing across Canada & USA (less pilots = less flying)

- Pilots are losing landing fields to developers and Municipalities who see no interest in maintenance spending.
- More fees are being imposed
- Less power is given to Associations fighting to preserve our rights to fly.

### **The solution to the problem: Increase the number of pilots:**

Only pilots can generate new pilots - If each active pilot took this situation at heart and became a mentor to a student or low time pilot, he would contribute in increasing private and professional pilot numbers to almost double!

Canada is a land made by aviation and remains the ideal land for aviators. Where can a pilot dream of such airspace freedom, where can a pilot dream of such a multitude of landing fields scattered around for pilots to enjoy the great assets of this country: magnificent landscape and endless wilderness, Canadian aviation represents **FREEDOM** and **SAFETY** and we intend to keep this **FREEDOM** and **SAFETY** around for the next pilot generation to enjoy.

## **Aviation Connection Pilot Mentor Program**

### **How it got started and how it is evolving**

Since 2001, International Air Rally new pilots represent an average 30% of participants. Pilots with no more than 120 hours, or just plain student pilots accompanied by their instructor have benefited from Air Rally experienced and professional pilot's supervision to open their horizon and gain confidence. Most went straight to the IFR level of qualification right after their experience. The event represents an average of 25-40 hours flying time in unfamiliar airspace and sometimes total wilderness.

During the International Air Rally, pilots do not benefit from ONE pilot's experience but at least FIFTEEN highly qualified and well trained pilots from different origins ready to help and share knowledge about weather interpretation, navigation, flying procedures, landing tips, etc.... These experienced professional pilots include members of the Civil Air Patrol USA, CASARA members, as well as CFII with over 40 000 hours of accumulated flying time (group).

**Students and low time pilots joining the Aviation Connection International Air Rally** will improve Flying techniques and overcome fear while exploring NEW territories and securing long lasting relationships with pilots coming from different parts of the world:

***“A dream date for any pilot.”***

## **Aviation Connection Pilot Mentor program and the International Air Rally**

### **International Air Rally: years of experience**

International Air rally has built solid grounds with an international reputation and undeniable expertise in handling pilot groups. This event has developed a spirit of camaraderie and a sense of sharing.

-With the help of organizers, pilots from South Africa, Germany, France, USA, and Canada have teamed-up to participate to the Air Rally.

-The International Air Rally has helped numerous teams acquire the support of generous sponsors.

### **Aviation Connection, a non for profit organization will seek sponsors to support the Pilot Mentor program through donations:**

International Air Rally, a fund raising event organized for Aviation Connection, will be one of the principal sponsors.

Funding will also be acquired through Aviation partners. Fund raising activities will be organized to support the program with the collaboration of major Canadian pilot Associations and Air Cadets.

Pilot mentor program contributors will be brought forward as strong supporters of Canadian aviation.

Contributors are the direct beneficiaries of the Pilot mentor program initiative to increase pilot numbers. They are :

- Aircraft manufacturers
- Aircraft parts manufacturers
- Aircraft maintenance enterprises
- Aircraft insurance companies
- Aircraft traders
- Flying academies
- Flying clubs
- Flying schools
- Airports
- Fuel and lubricant suppliers
- Corporate transport companies
- Commercial airliners.
- Etc....

Donors/contributors will be identified in major Canadian aviation editorials as well as Aviation Connection and various announcements in aviation related media and websites.

## **Conditions to become a Pilot mentor:**

- Register to the Aviation connection Pilot Mentor program
- Find a low time pilot or request Aviation Connection for a match.
- Account for over 500 flying hours

## **Conditions to request a Mentor:**

- Be a low time motivated pilot (under 200 hours)
- Register to the Aviation Connection Pilot Mentor Program

## **Administration of Project Pilot Mentor program:**

Aviation Connection a non for profit organization and official Trustee of the Governor General's Cup will supervise the Mentor Program fund administration. An advisory Committee composed of distinguished members of the aviation community will meet twice a year.

For further information, please contact:

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