

AIRCRAFT OWNER AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION – JULY 2001

News from Oshkosh 2001

World speed record set at AirVenture 2001

Oshkosh, July 29, 2001 – Dick Keyt has broken the 500-km closed course world speed record for class C1-b aircraft flying the Polen Special with a speed of 307.4 mph. Rich Gritter, flying a Questair Venture, previously held this record since 1989. Keyt's speed bested the existing record of 284 mph by an impressive 8 percent. Flying between 18,000 and 21,000 feet, Keyt covered the 360 miles between Oshkosh and Monticello, Iowa, in 1 hour 10 minutes 3 seconds.



The Polen Special first flew in 1972. Built by Dennis Polen, this one-of-a-kind airplane is powered by a Mattituck-prepared turbocharged Lycoming IO-360, four-cylinder engine, turning a Hartzell propeller. Keyt and the Polen Special are undefeated in three years of cross-country air racing. The fact that this 30-year old airplane can so thoroughly dominate its category is a true testament to the vision of Dennis Polen.