

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:*

RICHARD KEYT WINS BIG IN COPPERSTATE DASH AIR RACE

Phoenix, AZ – Flying his 30-year-old Polen Special, Richard Keyt of Granberry, TX. smoked the competition in the Sixth Annual Copperstate Dash Air Race sponsored by Aircraft Spruce & Specialty. Keyt covered the 304 nm in 1:13:18, giving him a course speed of 249 knots. He crossed the finish line 20 minutes ahead of the next competitor and 50 knots faster in average speed. Second place in the Millennium Category was won by John Daniels, in a Berkut and Fran Donnelly was close behind in his RV4A. The other entries in the Category, which included aircraft with 180 hp or less, were all flying RV's.

There were four pilots competing in the 160 hp Phoenix Experimental Division and Tom McIntyre, of Belmont, CA got their first in his RV-3, averaging 196 knots and completing the course in 1:33:04. Bob Holliston was second in his Long-EZ and Alan Larson place third in his Glasair. Four certified aircraft were entered in a separate Phoenix Category and Andrew Elliot, of Mesa, placed first logging a 1:56:44, for an average speed of 156 knots, in his AA1 Yankee. Twenty minutes back was Robert Lee Watson in a Grumman AA1B, followed by John Sims in his Skyhawk.

Three Variezes fought it out in the Flash Gordon Experimental Group (120 hp or less), with Gary Hertzler of Mesa, in the lead (1:34:33/193 knots), followed across the finish line by Bob Eckes and the Bill James.

There were only two entries in the Flash Gordon certified category and Karl Keating won in his Diamond Xtreme. He covered the course in 2:40:11, which gave him and average speed of 114 knots. John Drexler was second in his Luscomb 8E.

Two competitors flew the certified Roadrunner race, with Dale Jensen of Bensen, AZ flying a Cessna 120 and edging out Wayne Woollard's Alon A2 Aircoupe.

Ron Caraway, of Apple Valley, where the race started, bested four others, covering the 304 in 1:59:04 for an average speed of 153 knots. His Cosman 1 had a 65 hp engine and was flown in a category that allows up to 90 hp. Kim Prout was second in his Europa and David Carlson came in third in his Quickie.

"All 28 entries finished the course safely," said Aircraft Spruce President Jim Irwin. "We all had a great time staging and participating in the Copperstate Dash and look forward to returning every year. It was Aircraft Spruce's 21st race and it has been a thrill working with each one of them."

The Copperstate Dash Air Race is held each year in conjunction with the Copperstate Fly-in. The event is sponsored by Aircraft Spruce & Specialty and co-sponsored by the EAA. The two organizations also sponsor the Sun 100/Sun 60 races and the Golden West Air Races. For information on next year's air races, contact Jerry Aguilar at Aircraft Spruce: (800) 824-1930.

PHOTO CAPTION: Richard Keyt easily won the 2000 Copperstate Dash Air Race, beating 27 other aircraft to the finish line in his Polen Special.