



High Velocity Events, LLC.  
Patricia Purcell  
945 Short Road  
Sadler, TX 76264  
[ppurcellk@aol.com](mailto:ppurcellk@aol.com)  
903-564-9410  
903-815-4959 (cell)  
[www.highvelocityevent.com](http://www.highvelocityevent.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IT'S RACE TIME! SPORT AIR RACING LEAGUE ANNOUNCES 2016 SCHEDULE

Sadler, Texas February 4, 2016

It's coming! Entries are open for early events. The 2016 air racing season is set to fly faster than ever! The Sport Air Racing League has offered open course cross country speed air racing since 2007. All pilots and all fixed wing propeller driven aircraft are eligible to participate. Yes, any pilot can be an air racer. The Sport Air Racing League offers a legitimate racing experience in a safe, fun and fair environment.

The 2016 season starts April 2<sup>nd</sup> and events are scheduled across the US through November. Races are mainly one day and range from 150 -400 miles. All flying is VFR in strict adherence to all FAR'S. No matter what you fly, there is a class for you. Planes are grouped into three categories and classed according to power and gear configuration. The experimental category provides the homebuilder a chance to test their plane, exchange ideas and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow builders. The factory manufactured aircraft compete in their own classes with like criteria. Aircraft range from Turbine powered twins to classic Ercoupes. There are classes for the Light Sport Aircraft in both categories. Classics, War Birds and antiques fly in the Heavy Metal Category. The race pits may sport a P-51 Mustang parked next to a little Quickie, and a classic Stearman. There are rows of Vans, Lancairs, Glasairs and Bonanzas, Mooneys , Cessnas and Pipers. Aircraft are individually timed over the course and safety is paramount.

You have to be the fastest in your class to win first place and set speed records. None the less, the League recognizes point champions annually that lauds the pilots who are out there racing and supporting the sport and general aviation in a big way. Points are awarded for placements and it is not necessarily the fastest plane that amasses the most point in a season. It is the plane that is out there participating the most and gaining the most points for placements.

It all starts April 2<sup>nd</sup> with a new League race taking place at Nacogdoches, Texas in conjunction with the local Azalea Festival. April 3<sup>rd</sup> racers will be flying the Sunshine Express 400 from Greenwood, SC to Winter Haven, FL. This event launched in 2016 as the Race to the Sun and now continues annually as the "Express". Racers will arrive at the doorstep of Sun 'n Fun. This is a 400nm event with an entry deadline of March 21<sup>st</sup>. For pilots staying to enjoy Sun 'n Fun there is the Sun 40 Sprint race on April 6<sup>th</sup> which gives them a chance to be part of the showcase and excitement of Sun 'n Fun. Racing is hot in April and May in Texas as the weather is *not* hot. July is highlighted by the annual Air Venture Cup race on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Head to Air Venture flying the race from Mitchell, SD to Wausau, WI. There is an early entry deadline. Races are currently scheduled in Texas, Washington, Idaho, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Colorado, Indiana, Ohio, South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana with events in the planning for Arizona and Alabama and Tennessee. The races do allow late entry the day of the race unless otherwise specified. Pilots are strongly encouraged to enter all races as early as possible. Racers receive no cash awards but take home trophies, awards and prizes. They go home with full bellies, new friends and an experience that is a winner in every respect.

Air racing is alive and well in many formats in the US and around the world. For those race fans who must “watch”, Red Bull Air Racing will be thrilling tens thousands around the world. Red Bull will launch their circuit in Abu Dhabi, UAE on March 11-12. Interest has been sparked in the races with the arrival of the first woman to race, Melanie Astles, France. Joining Melanie as a rookie is Kevin Colman, US who is the youngest Red Bull racer. For pilot/spectators, the anticipation of seeing what a winter of tweaking with new mods on the aircraft will bring is at an all time high. These races are never a given with extremely tight finishes.

Sport pylon racing is gaining momentum in Europe and is patterned after the Reno races. It started last year in Portugal and continues in 2016. The Air Race World Championship Tour has completed their 2016 Pylon Racing School and pilots will be racing in Lisbon with more locations to be announced. Handicap racing continues in England with the Kings Cup running continually since the earliest days of racing.

The All Women’s Air Race Classic is taking entries up to April 1<sup>st</sup> and will fill the field of 55 planes. To date this is the only handicap race running. It started in 1929 and has continued to this day. It is a tradition true to its origins being open to women only and flying the handicap formula. Aircraft are equalized by racing against their own top speed which tests the skill of the pilot. The goal is to cover the 2,500 mile course in the fastest time in relationship to your handicap.

In this day and age the opportunity for closed course spectator racing events is extremely limited. The Reno National Championship Air Races carry the banner for classic pylon air racing and is alive and well. The amazing Unlimited racers are the marquee race. These highly modified War Birds harken from ages past. They are beautiful and they go faster and faster every year. The cost to mount an Unlimited entry is substantial as well as fielding a Jet racer. Still, “Reno” provides racing for any pilot who is certified at the Pylon Racing School. The Sport Class, Biplane Class and Formula 1 class fields aircraft that are in the reach of most pilots. As an example the popular Vans aircraft run competitively in the Sport Class.

The only handicap race currently running is the All Women’s Air Race Classic. This format has been used from the onset of air racing. Handicapping equalizes all the aircraft and the pilot races against their own handicap which is the top speed of their ship. It is truly a test of pilot skill in seeing who can cover a course the fastest.

If you are a spectator now is the time to start planning that pilgrimage to Reno or setting your sites on Red Bull in Indianapolis and Las Vegas.

All pilots can enter events NOW for the early season races. The Air Race Classic will fill all of the 55 spots before the April 1<sup>st</sup> entry deadline so, Ladies get your entries in. The Sunshine Express 400 is open for entries until March 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a Sport Air Racing League event that takes the racers from Greenwood, SC to Winter Haven, FL and the doorstep of Sun n Fun on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you want to be part of Sun n Fun racers can compete in the Sun Sprint 40 on April 6. There are four Sport League event in Texas in April at Nacogdoches, Taylor, Sherman and Galveston. Pilots can get out and have some fun and test their planes after the long winter.

Yes, air racing is alive and well. Air racing sharpens and improves a pilot’s skills. It supports General Aviation and continues to be the impetus and test bed for our aircraft designs. Make 2016 your year to be part of all the excitement.

[www.sportairrace.org](http://www.sportairrace.org)

[www.highvelocityevents.com](http://www.highvelocityevents.com)

About Us: High Velocity Events, LLC specializes in producing and organizing cross country open course air racing events. Patricia E. Purcell, manager, is a retired air racer and corporate pilot. For over a decade, Patricia has continuously produced multiple air racing events in the United States and Canada. She served as Vice President of the U.S. Air Race, Inc. from 2001-2007 and since has produced racing events under her own banner. High Velocity Events can manage a one day event or multiple day races. We work with Air Shows and other aviation events and have produced cross country air races in conjunction with the Cleveland National Air Races, Wichita Flight Festival and the Texas Motor Speedway. The High Velocity web site covers all air racing and offers posting and entry for racing events.

About Us: The Sport Air Racing League was founded in 2007. Chaired by Mike Thompson, the League provides the racing format, rules and record keeping. A web site publishes all events and processes race entries with all records and information. An annual point championship is awarded and a Hall of Fame was

launched in 2012. The League has been the launch pad for bringing timed classed cross country racing into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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Photo File RneDugas.jpg

Caption: They are coming out for the 2016 racing season. Rene Dugas, Monroe, LA and his Turbine Legend

Photo FileTexoma-1.jpg

Caption: Mike Patey, Orem, Utah, shows how he built his Turbine Lancair Legacy to admiring racers. #32 is the only turbine Lancair Legacy and sports a 5 blade prop.

Photo File JoeDickerson3.jpg

Caption: Joe Dickerson, Oak Point, Texas multiple Sport League Point Champion, races the Trojan Phlyers T-28.

Photo File Texoma.13.jpg

Caption: Rookie racers Colin and Sharon Richardson, Justin, Texas fly their Vans RV12 in the new Experimental Light Sport Class.

Photo File

Caption: Dr. Jamon Pruitt, Springdale, Arkansas wins big in 2015 in the Factory 1RG Class in his classic Meyers 200D.

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