



## AIR RACE CLASSIC 2019 FACT SHEET

### **What is the Air Race Classic?**

The Air Race Classic is an all-women, transcontinental airplane race that traces its roots to the 1929 Women's Air Derby, aka the Powder Puff Derby. This is the 42nd annual ARC. The 2019 race will be extra special — it is an international event, starting in the U.S. and ending in Canada, and it marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that historic first all-women's airplane race.

### **When is this year's ARC?**

Teams depart at 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 18 from Jackson, Tennessee, and must arrive in Welland, Ontario, by 5 p.m. Friday, June 21.

### **Who flies the Air Race Classic?**

Women pilots of all ages and from all walks of life, competing in teams of two or three. Racers range in age from college students to veteran pilots in their 80s.

### **What is this year's course?**

This year's race covers 2,538 miles across 10 states and one Canadian province. It extends from as far south as nearly the Gulf of Mexico to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the north before crossing the border and proceeding across the province of Ontario.

### **Where are the Start, Terminus and intermediate stops?**

This year's ARC starts at McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport in Jackson, Tennessee, and ends in Welland, Ontario, at Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport, which was recently renamed in honor of one of Canada's legendary aviatrixes. Intermediate stops are in LaGrange, Georgia; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Bryant, Arkansas; Lee's Summit, Missouri; Fairmont, Minnesota; Wausau, Wisconsin; Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario; North Bay, Ontario; and Brantford, Ontario.

### **How does the ARC work?**

Each race plane receives a unique handicap. The team that beats its handicap by the largest margin wins. This enables faster and slower planes to compete on an equal footing. At each stop, teams do a flyby over a timing line, with timers on the ground and electronic trackers recording their time between stops. ARC's scorers calculate each team's times at the end of the race and determine the winners.

### **How long does flying the ARC take?**

That depends on airplane speed, pilot strategy and weather. The fastest planes are capable of completing the course in two days. Slower planes may need all four days and may not finish until just before the arrival deadline.

### **What are the pilot qualifications?**

Pilots and copilots must have at least a Private pilot certificate and a minimum of 100 hours as pilot-in-command in order to qualify for the race. In addition, one of them must have at least 500 hours as pilot-

in-command or a current instrument rating. They may bring a teammate who must hold at least a student pilot certificate.

### **What types of airplanes can compete in the ARC?**

Race planes must have non-turbocharged and non-supercharged piston engines between 100 and 600 horsepower, rated for continuous operation at maximum engine speed. Jets are not allowed.

### **Can ARC racers fly at night?**

No. The ARC is flown during daylight hours in visual flight conditions.

### **Where do the racers stay overnight?**

Racers may stay overnight at any stop. Depending on their airplane, teams may fly a timing line and keep going, or they may land to refuel before taking off for the next stop. Most teams decide toward the end of the day whether to stay where they are or try to make one more stop before nightfall.

### **How do racers prepare for the ARC?**

Safety is a primary focus of the ARC. Racers must take online aviation safety courses at home and attend in-person briefings at the Start, discussing terrain, weather, airspace, flight rules, full-throttle operations and flyby procedures. Racers spend months studying the course and preparing their airplanes.

### **How can the public meet the racers?**

Some events at the Start and Terminus are open to the public – see the ARC web site, [www.airraceclassic.org](http://www.airraceclassic.org). Airplane enthusiasts can come to any of the stops to watch racers fly the timing line and maybe meet them on the ground. At each stop, volunteers help the racers with water, food, fuel, transportation – whatever they need. In addition, racers may participate in youth education programs at the Start and Terminus.

### **How can I follow the racers?**

The ARC web site, [www.airraceclassic.org](http://www.airraceclassic.org), has a map with the course and real-time tracking of the racers' locations. Some teams post on Twitter (@AuthenticARC), Facebook or their own web sites.

### **Who organizes the race?**

Air Race Classic Inc. is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization with a mission of encouraging and educating current and future female pilots, increasing public awareness of general aviation, demonstrating women's roles in aviation, and preserving and promoting the tradition of pioneering women in aviation.