

INSIDE

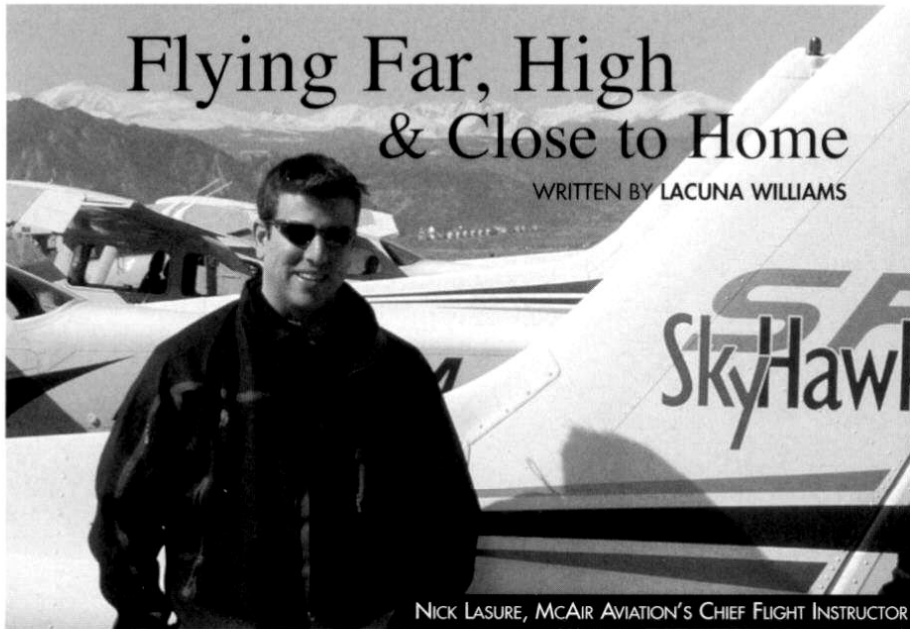
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CREATE A MOSAIC
STEPPING STONE

SPRINGTIME
SPRUCE-UP

HERITAGE EAGLE BEND
FABULOUS WEDDINGS & FANTASTIC GOLF



NICK LASURE, MCAIR AVIATION'S CHIEF FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR

Flying Far, High & Close to Home

WRITTEN BY LACUNA WILLIAMS

IMAGINE SOARING HIGH ABOVE YOUR OWN home, checking out your neighborhood from a whole new perspective, while you soar like a bird on the loft of what feels like pure Rocky Mountain sunshine. All the while, you are flying the plane yourself. Your hands are sure and steady on the controls, as you experience this exhilaration in the hands of the largest Cessna flight school in the world. I am here to tell you that it feels fantastic.

The Denver metro area not only rates as one of the top environments for private pilots to develop top-of-the line skills but also boasts one of the premier flight instruction centers in the world, McAir Aviation, based in Broomfield at Jefferson County Airport.

McAir, as a flight school, has a résumé a mile long. More than 100 candidates apply for every flight instructor opening. No airplane in McAir's fleet, of more than 20, is more than five years old and the company uses the newest safety technology available. Students come from all over the world to take advantage of the top-flight instruction and equipment McAir offers.

McAir also participates in the nationwide "Be a Pilot" program. For only \$49, you can spend one airborne hour at McAir for your very first flight lesson. Your "Be a Pilot" flight gives a true taste of the dynamic and safety conscious nature of private aviation. Your instructor walks through a 50-point pre-flight safety inspection while you get a good look at the airplane you will soon be flying.

A few minutes later, it's up, up and away. You are soon looking down on the Front Range communities and eye-to-eye with our mountains. Shortly after takeoff, you are ready to take over the controls.

The instructor makes it all seem a lot less complicated than you might imagine. "Keep your nose level by keeping the yoke steady. Pull up to gain altitude and push down to descend. Turning right and turning left are just like driving your car," said Nick Lasure,

McAir's Chief Flight Instructor.

Steering toward a fixed point on the horizon proved to be a challenge on the crystal clear, warm day I had chosen for my "Be a Pilot" flight. Light winds required small adjustments – right, left; left, right – to stay on course. That's what makes learning to fly so much fun – you are learning and celebrating an incredibly invigorating experience at the same time.

Once I had mastered flying in a straight line, it was time to try some turns high above the Denver Country Club. After a quick tour above City Park, Downtown and Coors Field, it was time to head back to land.

Nick, who took back the controls shortly before landing, has more than 11 years of experience in the cockpit. Gary Hulme, McAir's co-owner, has been flying for more than 25 years. That instills a lot of confidence. It is clear around the grounds at McAir that everyone, absolutely everyone, shares a profound love of flying.

Have you caught the love of flying already, or will you wait until after your "Be a Pilot" flight to catch it? One advantage of having a resource like McAir in your backyard is that, should you want to become a licensed private pilot, its top-flight instruction program can save you time and money.

The top-flight resources available to McAir students mean that the number of flight hours required to reach the skill level that the FAA requires can be reduced by as much as one-fourth. As an FAA-approved 'accelerated' facility, this premier flight school can offer you a much faster route to your private pilot's license. For the flight hours that you need, planes are available at \$98 an hour with an instructor at your side for \$37 an hour. With focus, a student can move through the curriculum in about four months and a total investment of less than \$8,000.

Of the 400 students enrolled with McAir, about half are career aviators and half are recreational enthusiasts. Both sets of students



DOWNTOWN WILL NEVER LOOK THE SAME AGAIN ONCE YOU HAVE SEEN IT FROM THE COCKPIT OF A CESSNA.



DENVER COUNTRY CLUB AND THE CHERRY CREEK AREA FROM MORE THAN 7,000 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL.

are learning side-by-side in classroom-based training, as well as in the state-of-the-art, quarter million dollar flight simulator. Facilitating the learning process are the incredibly sophisticated resources of Cessna's computer-based instruction system. The entire ground school program can be completed via CD-ROM interfaces tied to the McAir servers.

The software-server interface not only tracks your right and wrong answers, but retraces your steps through the instruction segment to show where the correct answer was presented. Your flight instructor, who works with you in the airplane as well, reviews your ground school results and spends extra time on troublesome spots in your ground school instruction. This is A+ learning, from start to finish. Once you are licensed, as long as you stay current with the FAA and in good health, you are licensed forever.

This is a program every Front Range resident with a hankering for flight should consider! You can be on the cutting edge and then you can begin heading far a field. As a licensed private pilot, you can rent an airplane – no instructor necessary – from McAir to head out wherever you would like, Wyoming, Arizona, or even as far as the sparkling blue waters of Florida. The freedom of flight has a lot to offer.

"Be a Pilot" has resulted in an increase in the number of people who are learning to fly. Since 1997, nearly 250,000 people have registered for the lesson and more than 30,000 are flying today as private pilots.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON "BE A PILOT" VISIT THEM ONLINE AT WWW.BEAPILOT.COM. THE MCAIR OFFICE STAFF IS AVAILABLE BY CALLING (303) 466-8730 OR ONLINE AT WWW.MCAIRAVIATION.COM.

THE FLIGHT CENTER IS LOCATED OFF OF HIGHWAY 36 AT 11945 AIRPORT WAY IN BROOMFIELD.