

#### Aerobatics

#### International Aerobatics Club, Chapter 12 aka Rocky Mountain Aerobatics Club



## **Presentation Outline**



- Who are we?
- Why fly aerobatics?
- Ways to be involved
- Regulations
- Safety & accidents
- Aerobatic Aircraft
- Competition
- Intermediate Sequence Video
- Getting Started



# Who are we?



- Bob Freeman
  - President, RMAC
  - Married to Pam, father of 2 great boys
  - Profession: Seagate Engineering Mgt
  - Aviation background
    - Model airplanes
    - Fuel / line boy to pay for flying lessons in high school 1972
    - BS in Mechanical Engineering
    - Former regional airline pilot
    - Former US AWAC (Advanced) team member
    - Aspiring US WAC (Unlimited) team member





## Who are we?



- Earl Allen
  - Vice President, RMAC
  - Married to Maralyn Mencarini
  - Profession: Computer Support
  - Aviation background:
    - Flew Chinese diesel-powered models in the Philippines in the '60s
    - First small airplane flight with friend in J-3 Cub at Manila International Airport
    - Learned to fly 1991, 152, 172, Champ; Comm, ASEL, Instrument
    - 100 hours dual in Pitts before soloing
    - Sportsman this year, Intermediate next





## Who are we?



- DJ Molny
  - Treasurer & Webmaster, RMAC
  - Married to Cindy
  - Profession: Software Consultant
  - Aviation background
    - Cessna "Learn to Fly" \$25 coupon, 1982
    - Comm. ASEL + Instrument rating
    - Hasn't logged a single minute of night or IFR time since first aerobatic flight in 1998





# What is IAC Chapter 12?



- IAC is a Division of EAA
- IAC Chapter 12 = Rocky Mountain Aerobatic Club
  - About 80 members primarily along the Front Range
  - Majority don't compete, just love aerobatics
  - Most competitors in Primary, Sportsman, Intermediate
  - 8 compete in Advanced and Unlimited



# Why Fly Aerobatics?



- Challenging
- Exciting
- Rewarding
- Skill building & safety
- Camaraderie
- Inspiring
- Esteem and ego
- Congenital Vitamin G Deficiency





# The Aerobatic "Type"



- Ambitious
- Extremely Driven
- Independent
- Organized
- Perfectionist
- Tenacious
- Satisfaction from personal achievement rather than social approval

From "Peak Performance for Aerobatics" by Fred DeLacerda



#### Ways to Satisfy Your Vitamin G Requirements



- Recreational, totally independent
  - Basic Akro loops, rolls and spins
- Give rides but be careful here (legal, safety and ethical issues)
- Competition for fun it's a blast
- Competition to drive to the top
- Competition to test your personal limits
- Training for your own skill development & safety
- Prepare for a career in airshows 😊



## Safety & Accidents



- Outstanding safety record in IAC competition
- Typical Accident Causes
  - Poor judgment
    - Showing off, spontaneous & unplanned aerobatics
    - Lack of appropriate training
    - Insufficient altitude
  - Fuel mismanagement
  - Structural or control failure
    - Very rare inside the IAC –a/c properly maintained
    - Detailed walk around
    - Tech tips manuals & IAC email list



## Aerobatic Regulations



- FAR 91.303: No aerobatics...
  - a) Over congested areas
  - b) Over open air assembly i.e. no airshows
  - c) Within Class B, C, D, or E airspace (below is OK)
  - d) Within 4 miles of centerline of airways
  - e) Below 1500 AGL
  - FSDO issues waivers for contests & practice areas
- What constitutes aerobatic flight?
  - "Intentional maneuver involving an abrupt change in an aircraft's attitude, an abnormal attitude, or abnormal acceleration, not necessary for normal flight"
  - What would an FAA examiner say?
- FAR 91.307(c): Parachutes
  - Required if there is more than one person on board, and
  - Bank exceeds 60 degrees or pitch exceeds 30 degrees
  - Required at all IAC events



## Aerobatic Aircraft



- Stressed for at least +6, -3Gs
- High power-to-weight ratios
- Inverted fuel and oil systems for sustained -G
- Predictable stall, spin and recovery
- Phenomenal control authority
- Symmetrical airfoils
- Redundant seat belts required for competition



#### Some Popular Aerobatic Airplanes





















## Introduction to Competitive Aerobatics Gettin' yer Vitamin G's in a safe competitive environment!



#### Contests



#### • 39 U.S. Regional Contests in 2006

- From February through November
- Chapter 12 has sponsored three per year
- Six Regional awards based on points
- US National Aerobatic Championships
  - September Sherman/Denison, Texas
  - 80 to 100 competitors
- World Championships (Adv. & Unlim.)
  - Slovenia, Poland, Florida, Spain, etc...
  - National teams from 15 to 20 countries, 60 to 80 pilots







- Much like figure skating, pilots fly a routine that is scored by a panel of judges
- Every figure is compared with ideal geometry, and assigned a score from 0 to 10
- Each figure has a "K factor" indicating difficulty
- Total points determined by multiplying figure scores by K Factor, then adding up across all figures
- Positioning within the box is also graded
- Deductions for boundary infringements & low calls



## Typical Regional Contest Format



- Friday
  - Contestants arrive, register, airplanes and paperwork inspected
  - Sign up for practice in the box
- Saturday
  - Pilots briefing: order of flight, weather, area, safety
  - Known sequence flown for all categories, some freestyles
  - Dinner Banquet
- Sunday
  - Pilots briefing: order of flight, weather, area, and safety
  - Known sequences for Primary and Sportsman, Free programs finish, Unknown sequences flown
  - Awards ceremony



## Flight Programs



Known: Compulsory, changes annually Freestyle: Showcase your strengths Unknown: Music "sight reading" analogy Four-Minute Freestyle: "Anything goes"







- Primary
  - Known sequence is flown 2-3 times
- Sportsman
  - Known sequence is flown 2-3 times, optional freestyle
- Intermediate
  - Known, Free, and Unknown sequence
- Advanced
  - Known, Free, and Unknown sequence
- Unlimited
  - Known, Free style, Unknown sequence, and optional 4 minute free style
     <sup>19</sup>



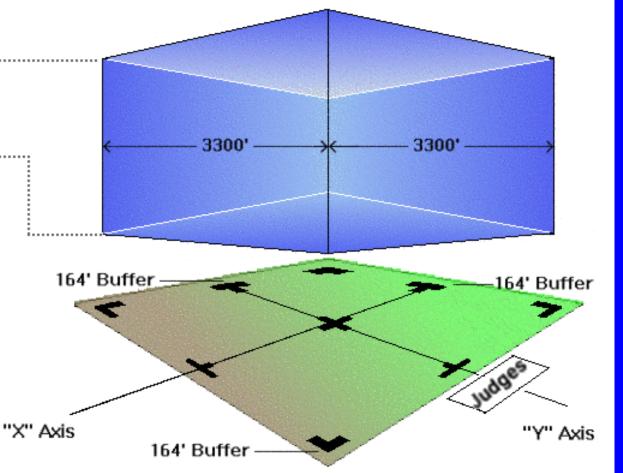
## The Aerobatic "BOX"

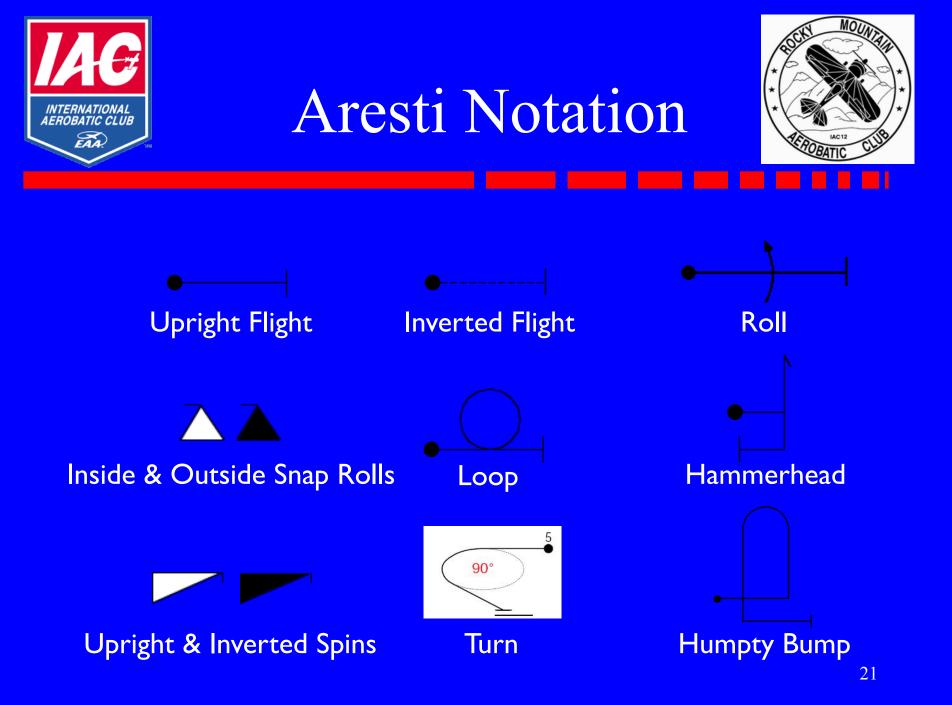


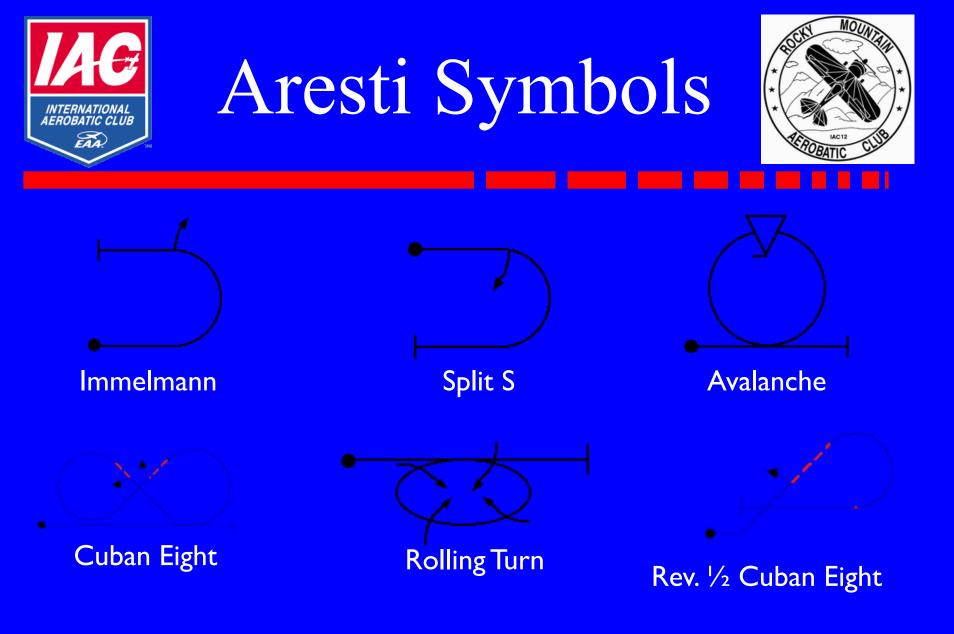


UPPER LIMITS 3280' AGL Unlimited 3500' AGL All Others

LOWER LIMITS 1500' AGL Basic & Sportsman 1200' AGL Intermediate 800' AGL Advanced 328' AGL Unlimited





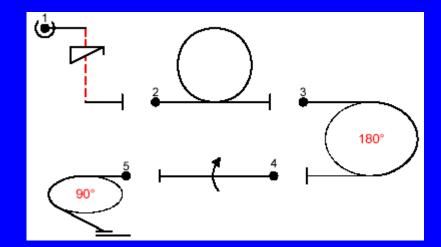




## Primary Sequence



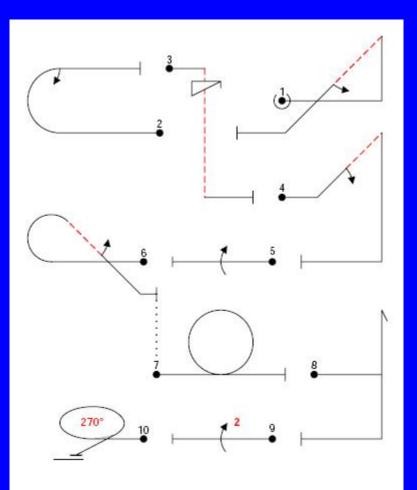
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## Sportsman Sequence

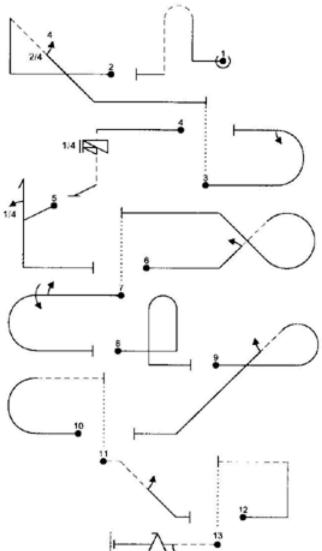






## Intermediate Sequence

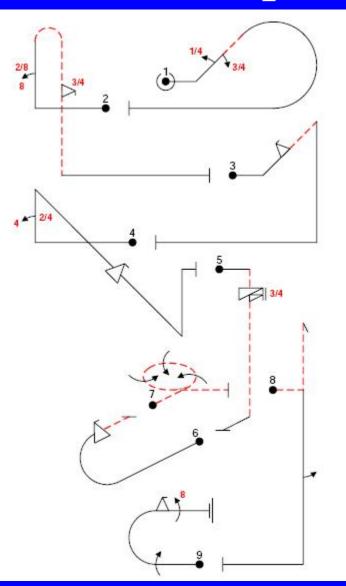






# Advanced Sequence

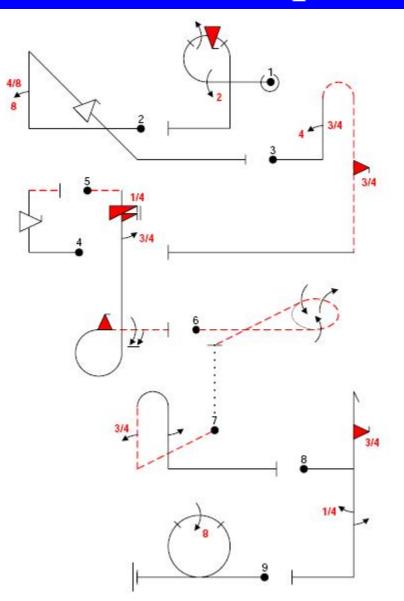




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## **Unlimited Sequence**









#### • Flying the Intermediate Known (video)



## Next Steps & Q&A?



- Introductory aerobatic rides
  - Longmont Vance Brand airport
    - Extra 300L: Tom Edwards, DJ Molny
    - Pitts S-2B: John Blum
    - Super Decathlon: Roz Jones
  - Date is TBD
- Flight Schools & Instructors:
  - John Blum: New Attitude Aerobatics, Jeffco: Decathlon & S2B
    Pitts
    - FlyAerobatics.com
  - Dick Bevington: Air West Aviation, Longmont: Decathlon and Citabria



#### Resources



- People: Any RMAC officer or director
- On the Web:
  - IAC: http://www.iac.org
  - RMAC: http://www.iac12.org
  - Email list: http://acro.aerobatics.ws/iac\_exploder.html
  - "How to Shop for Quality Aerobatic Training": http://www.richstowell.com/howto.htm
- Books:
  - "Basic Aerobatics" by Szurovy & Goulian (ISBN 0070629269)
  - "Better Aerobatics" by Alan Cassidy (ISBN 0954481402)





## **THANK YOU!**