

About Limitless Horizons™

Matt Guthmiller has spent his life looking for fresh challenges to tackle and new obstacles to overcome. This spring he will attempt his latest and greatest when he starts on the first leg of his one month, 28,000 mile journey, which will take him everywhere from New York City to London, Greece, the Middle East, Hawaii and more, as he seeks to become the youngest person ever to fly solo around the world.

“Nothing is impossible,” says Guthmiller. “And I’ve never been the kind of person to just hang around and wait for great things to happen. If you really want to achieve something great you have to go out and get it.”

While not quite a scene out of William Pene du Bois’ novel *21 Balloons*, Matt’s incredible journey does have similar origins. His love of flying dates back even to before the hundreds of hours he logged on flight simulator games as a child, but the impetus for this latest adventure came when, while browsing the internet for fresh flights to attempt, he came across an AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) article about California’s Jack Wiegand, who set the record last spring by circumnavigating the globe at the age of 21.

“I immediately thought, I can do that” said Guthmiller.

Like du Bois’ character William Waterman Sherman, who simply decides to hop in a hot air balloon and take off for a year, *Limitless Horizons* was something that Guthmiller just made up his mind to attempt. Slightly more planning has gone into Guthmiller’s voyage, but a strong sense of adventure and determination pervades both narratives. However while Sherman set out with no particular destination or goal in mind, Guthmiller not only has a destination but a goal larger than even setting a world record.

“Setting a record is exciting, but records are made to be broken,” says Guthmiller. “My real goal is to inspire other young people to attempt things of a similar magnitude. That’s what I hope to accomplish with this flight.”

All proceeds (after expenses) from “*Limitless Horizons*” will be donated to Code.org, a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to expanding participation in computer science education by making it available in more schools, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color.

About Matt

Matt Guthmiller's first solo flight on August 14th, 2011, was a quick trip around the airport in his hometown of Aberdeen, South Dakota, in a tiny 1975 Cessna 150. But in May of 2014, Matt will set out on a one-month trip of over 28,000 miles in an attempt to become the youngest person to ever circumnavigate the globe on a solo flight. Born and raised in Aberdeen, Matt first began learning to fly at the age of 16, received his private pilot certificate on his 17th birthday, has gone on to earn his commercial pilot certificate and numerous ratings, and since logged over 500 hours in the air.

"I'm always looking for new challenges and unique experiences, but this is the biggest challenge I will have conquered," says Guthmiller. "Fewer people have flown solo around the world than have been to space."

"Limitless Horizons" is a combination of both Guthmiller's lifelong love of flying and his intense interest in computer science. A freshman at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) majoring in electrical engineering and computer science, Guthmiller is a self-taught software engineer who first began writing code in 5th grade. He started one of the very first iPhone unlocking businesses in 2007, and by high school he had moved on to producing algorithms that could predict crude oil prices and using supercomputers to analyze stock trades. During his senior year of high school, Guthmiller was a finalist for the 20 Under 20 Thiel Fellowship before dropping out of the finalist round to go to MIT.

"With this flight, and with Code.org, I hope to inspire other young people to attempt things of similar magnitude by showing them what's possible."

Guthmiller's plane of choice for his circumnavigation is a 1981 Beechcraft A36 Bonanza, a single-engine, low-wing plane with a 300 horsepower engine, six seats, and a normal range of about 1100 nautical miles (nm). For the flight four of the six seats have been removed to make room for extra fuel tanks, bringing the range up to 2800nm. For the trip, the Bonanza will cruise at approximately 160 knots (185 MPH). Guthmiller takes off from San Diego, California, at the end of May and is scheduled to touch down for his first stop in Aberdeen, South Dakota, seven and a half hours later, before reaching New York City within a few days. The trip itinerary also includes stops in the Azores, London, Rome, Athens, Cairo, Dubai, Calcutta, the Philippines, Australia, New Caledonia, American Samoa, Hawaii, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City and San Diego. Guthmiller is expected to arrive back in San Diego at the end of June to set the record and reach his hometown of Aberdeen by the first part of July.

About Code.org

Code.org® is a non-profit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science education by making it available in more schools, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented students of color. Their vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer programming. They believe computer science should be part of the core curriculum in education, alongside other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses, such as biology, physics, chemistry and algebra.

Frequently Asked Questions

What Kind of Plane?

- 1981 Beechcraft A36 Bonanza
- 2800nm range (with ferry tanks); 155-175 knots at cruise; 11,500 feet (roughly optimal cruise altitude)
- 6 seats (2 seats for the trip)
- One 300 horsepower Continental IO-550 engine; retractable landing gear
- Full glass cockpit (Garmin G500, dual GTN-750s, GSR-56, GDL-69A, GTS 800, ADS-B out)

Who's Flying?

- Matt Guthmiller
- Freshman, MIT, 19 years old, from Aberdeen, SD
- Entrepreneur/software engineer
- 500+ hours total flight time
- Commercial pilot certificate
 - Single-engine land, Single-engine sea, Instrument airplane, Glider

When Do You Leave?

Matt is currently scheduled to depart from El Cajon (San Diego), California on May 27th, 2014.

When Will You Be Back ?

Matt is scheduled to touch down back in El Cajon, California, to set the record on June 28th, 2014, and his hometown of Aberdeen, South Dakota, July 2nd. However the itinerary is subject to change due to weather and other factors.

Where Are You Stopping?

San Diego; Aberdeen; New York City; St. John's, Newfoundland; the Azores; London; Rome; Athens; Cairo; Dubai; Calcutta; Manila; Darwin, Australia; New Caledonia; Samoa; Honolulu; San Diego; Las Vegas; San Diego; Salt Lake City; Aberdeen

Hasn't This Been Done Before?

Guinness World Records currently recognizes California's Jack Wiegand as the youngest person to fly solo around the world (21 years, 7 days of age). However, Australia's Ryan Campbell set the record late last summer at 19 years, 237 days. This record is no small feat - fewer people have flown solo around the world than have been to outer space.

Why Code.org?

"The goal of this flight is to inspire other people to attempt similarly ambitious endeavors, and the best tool for people to achieve their dreams is computer science. Yet, most elementary and secondary schools don't even teach it, or at the very least treat it as an elective rather than something on par with math and other sciences.

Computers offer literally anyone the power to accomplish or build anything they want, and they're only becoming more powerful and controlling more things. Additionally, studying computer science builds critical problem solving skills and opens the mind to the infinite range of possibilities that exists. It's really rather difficult to fully articulate the enormous freedom and opportunity it represents.

Code.org is working to ensure that such an amazing tool is within the reach of every single student."

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