

Press release of July 13, 2007 (13)

Second leg of rose-painted plane's round the world flight starts

Pilot Carstensen puts his friend from Husum in the cockpit

On August 1, private pilot Uwe Thomas Carstensen from Hanover in Germany will set off from Sydney on the second leg of his round the world flight. And he's putting his old school friend Hans Christian Albertsen (59) in the cockpit as co-pilot. In 45 days, the North German crew plans to cover some 30,000 km (16,200 NM) in a single engine rose-painted plane. The route covers Indonesia, South-East Asia, Taiwan, Japan, Russia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland. The trip is scheduled to finish on September 13 at the airfield in Husum.

The private pilots have been friends since the third grade and already flown together in Germany, Scandinavia and Czechoslovakia. "I was totally amazed when Uwe Thomas asked me", says Albertsen excitedly about the adventure. During their youth, both of them danced the light fantastic in villages around Husum, recalls Albertsen. He thinks the pilots' long friendship is strong enough to stand anything.

During the scheduled 135 flying hours in the narrow cockpit of their Cessna T206H they will face plenty of aeronautical challenges. For example the longest non-stop flight of the round the world trip at 10.5 hours. Some 2,400 kilometres (1,300 NM) separate Petropavlovsk on the Russian peninsular of Kamchatka from Nome in Alaska. As Cessna's range, despite extra tanks on the wing tips, is only 1,850 kilometres (1,000 NM), an extra tank will be put in the baggage hold of the small plane in Sydney. Australian pilots use this "ferry tank" for transporting small aircraft from the USA. Flying over the Bering Straits to Alaska, the little rose-painted plane will cross the international date line.

- Start of the second leg on July 31 in Sydney
- New on board: Co-Pilot Hans Christian Albertsen from Husum in Germany
- 135 flying hours still to complete. The longest flight is 2,400 kilometres (1,300 NM) and takes 10.5 hours
- Pilots to visit German Foundation for Global Population project (DSW) in Cambodia
- Pilot to visit his 88-year-old father in Canada
- Return to Husum is scheduled for September 13



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