



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AIR RACES®

17 August, 2017

To: All 2017 Reno National Championship Air Races Participants:

The 54th Annual Reno National Championship Air Races are just a few short weeks away. To ensure an orderly and safe flow of aircraft into Reno Stead Airport for this weeklong event, we promulgate in the following paragraphs important procedural information. This information is applicable to **all** participant aircraft. To ease in interpretation, the letter is divided into eight sections listed below: The General Administrative Information section pertains **only to race aircraft and civilian air show performers**. The General Arrival and Daily Flight Information for Participant Aircraft section contains **information for all Participant Aircraft**. The General In-Briefing/Daily Flight Brief Information section pertains to race aircraft pilots, race aircraft crew, civilian air show performers/demo pilots, and any fly-by pilots. Sections 4-7 address additional specific procedures/information applicable to individual aircraft/pilot groups. Section 8 delineates post airshow departure procedures. Our goal in RARA is to make the 2017 Air Races a successful, safe, and enjoyable event. Stead Airport **will be controlled on Thursday, September 7th and Friday, September 8th from 0800-1700 and Saturday, September 9th from 0800-1130 for event arrivals**. Also on Saturday from **1130-1215 and 1500-1545** Race Control will be in Operation. The remainder of Saturday, Stead Airport will be **Uncontrolled**.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Title</u>
1.	General Administrative Information
2.	General Arrival and Daily Flight Information for Participant Aircraft
3.	General In-Briefing/Daily Flight Brief Information
4.	Race Aircraft Specifics
5.	Military Demonstration/Static Display Specifics
6.	Civilian Aerobatic Performer Specifics
7.	Commercial Exhibitor Specifics
8.	Post Event Departure Procedures

1. General Administrative Information: (Race Aircraft and Civilian Performer Aircraft only)

Upon your arrival, all Racers and Civilian Performers will need to register yourself, your aircraft, and pick up your Air Race Package, which contains your Race Credentials, Race Passes, and Vehicle Permits, etc. After you have secured your aircraft, this should be your first stop. (Racers only – see your class representative to pick up your arrival card and bring it to

registration to pick up your credentials. You must have this card when you come to registration. There are three registration stations this year. On the back of the arrival card, it will note where you are to go to register.) The main Registration Office is in the Southwest corner (behind the Pilots' Briefing Room) in the Reno Air Racing Association Hangar, (Hangar 5), located at the West End of the Airport. It will first be open for business Friday, September 8th from 1300-1700. Registration on Saturday, September 9th will be from 0800-1200 and 1300-1700. Civilian Performers arriving later than Saturday, September 9th should proceed to the RARA Hangar Office on the 2nd floor of the RARA Hangar to register and pick up your credentials, etc. Lori Crown, Director of Aviation Resources will assist you with registration for all Race and Performing Aircraft.

2. General Arrival and Daily Flight Information for Participant Aircraft:

a. Planned Race Aircraft Flying Summary:

Event Dates:	September 10 th -17 th , 2017	
Racer Practice Day:	Sunday, September 10 th	0800-0930 (CERT Rides) 0950-1700 (Racers only practice)
Racer Qual Days:	Monday, September 11 th	0800-1700
(Practice as required)	Tuesday, September 12 th	0800-1700
	Wednesday, September 13 th	0800-1200
Race Days:	Wednesday, September 13 th	1200-1605
	Thursday, September 14 th , through Sunday, September 17 th ,	
	Planned: 0800- ~1555-1625	(will vary slightly day to day)

Refer to **Section 4.** for Race Aircraft Specifics above and beyond arrival information contained in Section 2.e. below.

b. General Performer Flying Summary:

Event Dates:	September 13 th -17 th , 2017
Practice Day:	Wednesday, September 13 th
Performance Days:	Thursday, September 14 th through Sunday, September 17 th

c. General Arrival Dates/Slot Times Available for Non-Racing Participant Aircraft:

(Military Static, Civilian Aerobatic Performer, and Commercial Exhibitor).
Specific arrival time preferences and/or procedures for all non-racing participant aircraft

coming to Reno are delineated as appropriate in **Sections 5-7** and in some cases will be subject of separate correspondence from your individual **Arrival Coordinator**.

Sunday-Tuesday: September 10th - September 12th Arrive before 0745 or 1715-2000.

Wednesday: September 13th Arrive before 0745 or 1615-2000

Thursday: September 14th Arrive before 0745 or 1615-2000

Friday: September 15th Arrive before 0745 or 1650-2000

d. Waivers/TFR's:

A FAR Part 91 Waiver for Race Aircraft is **written** to go into effect beginning Sunday morning, September 10th at **0745** and remain in effect each day through Sunday, September 17th until **1730**. A separate Performer Waiver will cover all aerobatic performances. However, for any Waiver to be active, Race Control must be up and operating. **There will be NO FAA Part 91 Waiver in effect on Monday, September 18th**

TFR's will be published to be active commencing Sunday, September 10th from 1030-1730 and then from 0800-1730 each day beginning Monday, September 11th and lasting through Sunday, September 17th. These TFR's will cover all air race and airshow performer operations both laterally and vertically. However once Race Control secures, TFR airspace is released to NorCal TRACON and will no longer be active.

e. Field Operating Hours/Arrival Procedures:

(1) Temporary Tower Operations/Stead Field Operating Hours/Status:

There will be a Temporary Contract Tower at Reno Stead (RTS) prior to Race Week operating Thursday and Friday (0800-1700) and Saturday (0800-1130). There will also be a Temporary Contract Tower in operation from Last Racer on Deck (LROD) until **2000** each day during Race Week (Monday-Sunday). **Call signs are "Stead Ground" and "Stead Tower."** Controlling VHF Frequency for **"Tower"** is **133.3** and for **"Ground"** is **126.4**. UHF Frequency, if needed, will be **229.4**. **As a n o t e , the Temporary Contract Tower is a separate entity from "Race Control" which is the controlling agency while race aircraft are on the race course or while military or civilian aircraft are performing. Primary Race Control frequencies are also 133.3 and 126.4.**

Prior to Monday, September 11th, Stead Airport will be open 24 hours per day. Commencing Monday, September 11th through Sunday, September 17th, **Stead Airport will be uncontrolled from 0600-0745**, and will be controlled by either Race Control or the Temporary Contract Tower from 0745-2000; **Stead Airport will then be closed to all fixed wing operations from 2000-0600 each day Monday through Sunday of**

Race Week.

(2) Arrivals while the Contract Tower is in Operation:

Currently scheduled times of Operation are listed below. Monday-Friday FAA Tower start times are subject to change after publication of this letter; check with your coordinator for updated times:

Thursday	September 7 th	0800-1700
Friday	September 8 th	0800-1700
Saturday	September 9 th	0800-1130
Monday	September 11 th	1700-2000
Tuesday	September 12 th	1700-2000
Wednesday	September 13 th	1605-2000
Thursday	September 14 th	1605-2000
Friday	September 15 th	1620-2000
Saturday	September 16 th	1630-2000
Sunday	September 17 th	1630-2000

If arriving on an IFR Flight Plan during the hours the Temporary Contract Tower is operating as shown above, coordinate a hand off from NORCAL Approach on **126.3 or 119.2** to “**Stead Tower**” on **133.3** prior to entering the airport traffic area (5nm) for sequencing to land at the airport. **VFR arrivals** contact “**Stead Tower**” on the same frequency no later than 5 nm from the airport.

Note (1): The airspace centered on Reno Tahoe International Airport (KRNO) is Class C Airspace controlled by NORCAL Approach (126.3 or 119.2) extending out 10nm to an altitude of 8,400 feet MSL.

*Note (2): The Temporary Contract Tower is a different entity than Race Control; its function is to supplement the times of Race Control Operation. However, both Race Control and the Temporary Contract Tower operate out of the main tower at Stead Airport and while either controlling agency is in operation, **Stead Airport is a Controlled Airport.***

The ILS approach to Runway 32 will not be available from Friday, September 8th through Monday, September 18th.

(3) Arrivals while Race Control is in Operation:

Race Control will open on Sunday, September 10th at 0745. Race Control Standard Operating Hours, for that Sunday and continuing for the rest of the week will be **0745 to approximately 1555-1700 or last racer on deck (LROD; varies slightly day to day).**

Any Non-Racing aircraft (Statics, Exhibitors, Performers, etc.) that have a hard operational requirement and have received approval directly from the Air Boss to arrive during the hours **Race Control is in operation, i.e. during race practice/qualification periods/heats/races, (nominally 0745-1700 for the days you arrive), contact **“Race Control,”** on **133.3** and we will try to work you in as soon as possible. (You may be temporarily switched to **122.7** (CTAF) until Race Control is ready to bring you into the landing pattern at which time you will be switched back to **“Race Control”** on **133.3**). Be prepared for **holding for an extended period of time** and a **non-standard** arrival pattern due to **race aircraft operating on the Race Course to the north of the field.** **Non-Racing Fixed Wing Aircraft (participant or non-participant) will NEVER be allowed to land at Stead Airport while any Race Aircraft are on the Race Course.****

For non-racing aircraft expect that downwinds for **Runways 8/26** will be on the **South side of the runway** and to the **Northeast side of Runway 14/32**. After landing, **Stead Tower/Race Control** will switch you to a separate **“Ground”** frequency (**126.4**) for taxi instructions. Reno Approach Frequencies mentioned previously remain germane.

(4) Arrivals while Stead Airport is uncontrolled:

Adhere to KRTS Published/AIM standard pattern entry procedures and utilize CTAF (**122.7**). Due to local student flight training, **“overhead”** or **“break”** arrivals **shall not be flown unless pattern traffic acknowledges no interference will exist.**

(5) Operational Notes (Parking/Logistics Flights, etc.)

Normally, **all** participating aircraft, after arrival at Stead, will not be leaving until after completion of the event on Sunday, September 17th. However, in some instances due to logistics requirements, race aircraft support, etc., there may be a requirement for an occasional Race Aircraft, Race Support Aircraft, or Civilian Performers to come and go during race week. Any **Race Support Aircraft with this requirement must obtain permission from the Air Boss via email or phone call. You will be given a PPR. Race Aircraft (using Race #'s) are immune from this requirement. Performers/Performer Support Aircraft shall get this approval from the Performer Coordinator listed in Section 6.**

Air Boss Greg “Shifty” Peairs Email: RARAAirBoss@aol.com; Mobile: (916) 717-7099.

For any and all aircraft parking to the west of the grandstands (primarily Race Aircraft, Commercial Exhibitor Aircraft, and Civilian Airshow Performer Aircraft), there will be a No-Prop/Jet Turn line in effect 24 hours a day commencing upon your arrival until 1200 Monday, September 18th, 2017. No Aircraft are allowed to have their engine(s) turning, south or west of that double red and white line either while arriving or departing during those hours. When arriving, you must have your

engines shut down and your aircraft stopped north or east of that line. Coasting across the line is NOT allowed.

3. **General In-Briefing/Daily Flight Brief Information** – Attendance is MANDATORY for ALL Flying Participants (No Brief - No Fly) (N/A for Static Display Aircraft); ensure you sign in on the provided sign-in sheets:

a. **Race Pilots Mass In-Briefs/Cert Qual Flight Brief:**

Date: Sunday, September 11th

Location: Checkered Flag Club Hangar (East end of Pits just West of the Grandstands)

Times:

Special Short Flight Brief for Pilots desiring Sunday First Period for Cert Quals* Cert/√Ride* (Formula One)	0615	(Checkered Flag Club)
Mass In-Brief Formula One, Biplane, T-6*	0700	(Checkered Flag Club)
Mass In-Brief Sport, Unlimited, Jet*	1000	(Checkered Flag Club)

* Notes: (1) Those pilots who require a race pilot final certification √ ride during the early Sunday AM periods (0800-0930) **and** if they subsequently will be racing, will be required to attend a full in-brief at the 1000 General In-Brief prior to further practice/ aircraft qualification.

(2) Due to the timing of the Sunday Practice Periods, the 0700 Mass In-Brief is primarily for the Formula One, Biplane and T-6 pilots and the 1000 Mass In-Brief is for the Sports, Jets and Unlimited Class pilots. However either in-brief satisfies the in-brief requirement for any of the six race classes.

Other than flying during the early Sunday Certification period, all Race Pilots must attend a scheduled full Race Pilot In-Brief prior to flying on the Race Course.

- b. **For the Performers, all participating pilots must attend the appropriate Performer In-Brief as shown below:**

(1) **Initial Performer In-Brief:** This brief will also serve as the Daily Flight Brief for Wednesday Performer Practice Events.

Date: Wednesday, September 13th

Location: RARA Hangar Pilots' Briefing Room

Time: 0845

(2) Second Performer In-Brief/Daily Flight Brief (If Required):

Date: Thursday, September 14th

Location: RARA Hangar Pilots' Briefing Room

Time: 0845

** Note: Any Fly-by Aircraft who will not be staging out of Stead Airport will be given a separate flight brief over the phone by the Air Boss.*

c. Daily Flight Briefs:

Location: RARA Hangar Pilots' Briefing Room

Monday through Sunday there will be a total of three morning Daily Flight Briefs (split up among the six classes) for all those Race Pilots who plan to fly that day. In addition on Wednesday through Sunday, there will be a Daily Flight Brief (a total of four each morning) for civilian and military performers as applicable. **Attendance is MANDATORY if you are going to fly that day.** For performers, at a minimum, attendance by the flight/event lead for any particular event satisfies the Daily Flight Briefing Requirement. As shown above in Paragraph 3.b. there will be a combination In-Brief/Daily Flight Brief that will meet the daily flight brief requirement for those flying practice events on Wednesday afternoon.

Times:	Mon/Tue	Wed-Sat	Sun
Formula One/Biplane:	0700	0700	0800*
T-6/Sport:	0830	0730	0700*
Jet/Unlimited:	1000	0800	0730*
Performers:		0845 (Wed-Sun)	

* Note the out of normal sequence Race Class brief time starts on Sunday September 17th. This change in order is due to scheduling constraints.

d. Crew Chief Briefs:

There will be a general in-brief for **all race aircraft crew chiefs**. It is **mandatory** a minimum of one senior member of your ground support crew attend one of the below briefings. For those aircraft that do not have a crew chief the pilot must

attend one of these briefs. As with the Pilot Briefings, Sign-in Rosters will be maintained.

Location: RARA Hangar Pilots' Briefing Room

Times: Unlimited, Jet, and T-6:	0830 Sunday, September 10th
Formula One, Biplane, Sport:	1600 Sunday, September 10th
Make-up Brief (all classes):	1100 Monday, September 11th

4. Race Aircraft Specifics:

Arrivals for racing aircraft will normally commence on Thursday prior to Race Week. A detailed parking plan will be promulgated separately. However, looking at the big picture, the Biplanes and Formula Ones will be parking in the RARA Hangar; Sports will be parking in the Soule Hangar, in front of Hangar 6 and the Tom Hall Hangar, on the west pit ramp (rows 3 and 4) and John Parker's Hangar (Thunder Mustangs); T-6's will park on the ramp in rows 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; and the Unlimited's in the ramp area rows 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; and the Jets will be parked on the East ramp.

Refer to Section 2.e. for arrival procedures.

There will be a Temporary Contract Tower in operation for Thursday, Friday and Saturday arrivals, and the airport will be controlled from 0800 until 1700 Thursday and Friday and 0800-1130 (by the Contract Tower) and 1130-1200 (by Race Control) on Saturday. Adhere to "Stead Tower"/"Race Control" (as applicable) instructions on 133.3. If arriving before or after Stead Tower Operations, adhere to **KRTS Published/ AIM standard pattern entry procedures and utilize CTAF (122.7). Due to local student flight training, "overhead" or "break" arrivals should not be flown unless pattern traffic acknowledges no interference will exist. Arrival low passes/fly-by's are NOT allowed (The FAA Part 91 Waiver is not in effect!).**

If you are arriving at Stead between the hours of 0700 to ~1030 on Friday and Saturday, there will be over 100 Balloons airborne (The Great Reno Balloon Race) flying within a 5 nm circle centered on a point 39° 53' 00" N 119° 49' 40" W from the surface up to 10,000 ft MSL. This 5 nm circle will extend roughly up to 2 nm south of Stead Airport. Notwithstanding Reno Class C clearance, we highly recommend you be talking to NorCal Approach on 126.3 for flight following during these periods.

Race Aircraft, when arriving at Stead, practicing, qualifying, racing, or flying logistics/test flights, shall always use their assigned Race # vice N #!

As discussed in Section 2.e.(5) Commencing Sunday, September 10th through Sunday, September 17th, any Race Team Support Aircraft must have prior approval from the

Air Boss “Shifty” Peairs (RARA AirBoss@aol.com, (916) 717-7099) to land/take off from Stead Field. They will be provided a PPR#.

All race aircraft must be in-place at Reno Stead no later than 1200 hours on Saturday, September 9th. Any deviation from the arrival date/time must be coordinated by the appropriate class president with the RARA Director of Aviation Resources (Lori Crown RARA phone # 775-221-8070 or cell # 661-333-1001). Late arrivals due to weather or maintenance issues must be coordinated and approved to retain “on-time” or “conditional” entry status. (Note: Any approved late arrivals must comply with the 1700 Sunday deadline as specified in section VII: “Qualification of Aircraft”.) The intent of this rule is to ensure adequate time for the class aircraft compliance inspection teams to complete the required aircraft inspections and associated logbook entries, including any corrective actions, prior to allowing said aircraft on the race course for practicing, qualifying, or racing.

Any aircraft not flown into Stead (“trucked in and assembled”) **must** have its Class Aircraft Compliance Inspection prior to any flight.

The 2017 Rules of Operations and Competition discusses in more detail the above inspection requirements in Section III (Aircraft Eligibility).

The Race Course is only open when Race Control is operational. Additionally all racers must be checked in, approved, briefed (as appropriate), and have their Class Aircraft Compliance Inspections completed prior to flying the Race Course during Race Week commencing Sunday, September 10th, 2017.

All Race Pilots as well as their crew members must be familiar with and follow the Rules of Operation and Competition. The most recent (Draft or Final FAA Approved Rules) will be posted on the RARA Web Site (www.airrace.org)

5. Military Static Display/Flight Demo Specifics:

All Military Static Displays need to coordinate their planned arrival dates and times with the **RARA Military Coordinator: John Ternau**, (Email: jternau@sbcglobal.net/ Mobile # (775) 771-6754) or his Deputy Bill Cranston, (Mobile: (775) 813-6861). They **will give you an exact landing time.** Please try to maintain that time as close as possible, as there can be as little as five minute spacing between other military aircraft. Please keep them advised of any changes to your schedule. Parking for Military Static Display and Demonstration aircraft is located at the far east end of the Airport. **Refer to Sections 2.c. and 2.e. for general arrival procedures.** Military fuel trucks may not be available during the Air Races. Military aircraft will be fueled by the local FBO so bring your Blue Air Card to ensure the GOV fuel rate from the vendor.

6. **Civilian Aerobatic Performer Specifics:**

Civilian Performers shall coordinate their planned arrival dates and times with **Dan Ross (RARA Performer Coordinator)**, (Mobile (775) 843-6133). Also, please keep Dan advised of any changes to your schedule. **Refer to Sections 2.c. and 2.e. for general arrival procedures and allocated arrival windows.** After landing you will be directed to your parking area. As a note, the frequencies shown in **Section 2.e.(1)** apply to initial and any subsequent arrival and departure/return (from/to Stead/Beckwourth-Nervino) procedures. (If applicable, please **ensure Dan is aware of your to and from Beckwourth-Nervino flying plans to include dates and times both coming and going**). While flying performances during the air show days at the races or practicing at Stead, you will be operating on a single discreet performer frequency **(121.05)**.

7. **Commercial Exhibitors Display Aircraft Specifics:**

Arrivals - The preferred arrival time block for Commercial Exhibitor Aircraft (Static Display and/or Demo Aircraft) is Monday, September 11th (1715–2000). A backup arrival time block is on Tuesday, September 12th, (1715–2000). If you are unable to arrive during either one of these two time periods, (are still planning on arriving before or after Race Operations), special arrangements must be made with the RARA Exhibitor Coordinator, Tom Kilfoyle. We still need you to be on the ground and parked prior to 0745 or arrive after 1715 to de-conflict with Race Events occurring every day commencing Sunday, September 10th. As discussed in the General Arrival and Flight section {Section 2.e.(2)**}, contact “Stead Tower” on **133.3** for landing instructions and subsequently “Ground” for taxi on **126.4** if you arrive in the PM after Race Operations. If you arrive in the early am prior to commencement of Race Operations (prior to 0745), Stead Airport will be uncontrolled; adhere to **KRTS Published/AIM standard pattern entry procedures** and utilize CTAF (**122.7**). Parking for all Commercial Aircraft Exhibitors’ Aircraft will be west of the Grandstands. RARA personnel will be on the ramp to guide you in as appropriate. **Do not violate the No-Prop Turn Line!****

For **all** arrivals, contact **RARA Logistics, Tom Kilfoyle (Mobile (404) 769-1566)** to arrange for a specific arrival time during the above listed arrival windows. If due to **extremely extenuating circumstances** you need an arrival slot while Race Operations are ongoing (0745-1700), you **MUST** get prior approval directly from the Air Boss by email (“RARA AirBoss”) or by phone: (Mobile (916) 717-7099). If the Air Boss approves you for a non-standard arrival time, i.e. during Race Operations, **adhere to communication procedures delineated in Section 2.e.(3)** where it addresses arrival procedures while Race Control is operating. However, even if approved for a non-standard special arrival time, be aware you most likely will **experience extensive arrival delays due to the dynamic nature of the race events. Non-Racing Aircraft are**

NEVER allowed to land while any Race Aircraft are on the Race Course. Plan your fuel accordingly.

For those exhibitors who utilize dispatchers, **IT IS CRITICAL each dispatcher ensures all aircrew have a copy of this letter** so they are personally aware of all Stead arrival procedures!

8. Post Event Departure Procedures

On or before Sunday, September 17th, we will be asking all participants what their departure desires are. This is done to assist us in formulating an orderly departure of all participants. An aircraft departure plan will be promulgated the latter part of Race Week. There will not be a detailed choreographed plan but we will be asking for approximate days and times of departure so we can get a better idea of the departure flow. If any participant, (flying or static) has an operational requirement for a specific departure date/time, please notify your individual coordinator who will pass that information to the Air Boss. **All Race pilots pass your departure desires to your respective Class Presidents.**

After the Unlimited Gold Race on Sunday, Race Control will pass the control baton for the final time to the Temporary Contract Tower that will be in operation until 2000. Frequencies are the same as for arrivals. **After 2000 on Sunday, September 17th, Stead Airport will be closed to all Fixed Wing Operations until 0600 Monday morning.** On Monday September 18th, a “Stead Advisory” Service will be provided on CTAF Frequency (122.7) and using Race Control personnel from 0800-1200. All aircraft who wish to depart during that four hour window, please contact “Stead Advisory” on CTAF for taxi and takeoff. As a note, **if departing to the East, do NOT penetrate the Class E Extension/Departure/Arrival Corridor for KRNO without talking to NorCal Approach on 126.3. There will be no FAR Waiver in effect on Monday, September 18th.**

Greg “Shifty” Peairs
Air Boss
Mobile (916) 717-7099

Terry Matter
Director of Operations
Mobile (775) 846-6069