

Life-long goal realized! From Ted Warnock:

I am sure the picture to the right, with a smile on my face, could have been taken several times over the last two years. There were a number of successful moments in my flight training. The first “good” landing, first takeoff, the first night landing, my first solo, my first cross-country, or even my night flight through Class “B” airspace over the top of Hartsfield Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, GA. However, the smile with me at the controls was taken following the successful completion of my FAA practical and obtaining my private pilot certificate. This picture was taken on my return trip home from Collegedale, Tennessee. Yes I was all smiles and at 5,500 feet I am not sure I could have been any happier.



To be fair, there are many people that need to be thanked as part of my achieving this accomplishment. Yes it is important to thank my wife who encouraged me throughout the entire process and continues to encourage me to move forward with IFR training. Without her support and commitment, there is no way this goal could have been realized.

Then there was the training. Fortunately, I was able to find an excellent Certified Flight Instructor, Mike LaFountain, who patiently listened to my countless questions and encouraged me during every phase of my training. Clearly Mike's training, guidance, patience, and encouragement provided me with the direction needed to obtain this accomplishment.

Air Ventures at Peachtree DeKalb Airport (KPDK) northeast of Atlanta, Georgia, (a Class “D” airport) was home for most of my training. Here, I met other pilots and staff that always greeted me with a smile and a warm welcome. It was here that I also flew a single flight with Jon Hope who provided encouragement. I also flew twice with Chief Flight Instructor, Juan Leon who gave me my first flight when I began at Air Ventures, and then my final briefing and check-ride before going for my FAA practical. From my first day at Air Ventures, Cessna Skyhawk N5175Y (172SP) was my aircraft. This was my ride through the completion of my training.



In this last picture, you cannot see me smiling. However, the smile is most assuredly there. My wife, Carla took the picture of me following our flight. We had just returned from an hour long flight. It was our first flight together. Nothing special about the flight – hazy, a few showery moments, a view of Lake Lanier, a trip around a small hill, and back to PDK. But the landing, my first with my wife on board, was picture perfect. I could not think of a better way to begin this chapter of our flying together. My thanks to everyone.