

THIS GUY'S THE LIMIT™

EARL PANKONIN

Earl has logged more time flying to and from Hawaii than some of us have logged flying around McHenry County. That is, he has traveled more than 42,460 statute miles on his five visits to the big island. Earl and his wife Theresa first visited Hawaii in 1972. And, understandably, Earl has had Hawaii on his mind since that first trip. He says that when he retires he hopes to find a place where “the weather is warmer”. Do you wonder where that might be?

Earl bought his first new car in 1962. The very next day he got his draft papers and was shipped off to Fort Hood, where he hoped to be involved in aviation. No such luck. Instead, he worked on mortars, 50 caliber machine guns and 56 ton M88 tank retrievers. After his stint in the military Earl returned to care for his family's farm where he had lived since coming to McHenry county as a child in 1948.

In 1965 Earl started flying at Galt Airport. In 1969, after three years as a private pilot, and at the urging of his instructor Connie Tomlinson, Earl earned his Commercial and CFI ratings. His Multi-Engine & Instrument ratings came in '71 and his CFII in '73. Since that time he has logged over 10,000 hours. He has an astounding 8,000 hours in the right seat. That amazing amount of time, as an instructor, amounts to almost a year



aloft, flying in the practice area and in the pattern here at Galt! Earl conservatively estimates that he has made over 50,000 landings on runway 9 or 27. In the course of his 33 years as a Galt flight instructor, Earl has trained hundreds of pilots of all shapes and sizes. The exact number is so large that he has lost count. In addition, he has trained numerous husbands and wives. In his professional life, Earl has been in quality control with Wells Manufacturing for the past 26 years. Earl and Theresa Pankonin reside in Woodstock where they moved after purchasing their first home, in 1974, not too long after that first eventful trip to Hawaii. When departing from runway 270 here at Galt Airport, Earl can turn 4 degrees to the north, fly heading 274 for 3,684 miles and look for the big island of Hawaii. It's straight ahead!

**ONE
ZERO
CHARLIE**

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