

Contact: Nicolette Lynn  
Public Relations Manager  
[nlynn@IBGBusiness.com](mailto:nlynn@IBGBusiness.com)  
[www.T6RaceTeam.com](http://www.T6RaceTeam.com)

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## **2011 National Championship Air Race Accident: Centennial based air race team, McDonald Racer #37 Official Statement**

CENTENNIAL, Colo., September 18, 2011 – Local air race team, the McDonald Racer #37, competing in the 2011 National Championship Air Races reports pilot and crew safe following widely publicized September 16, 2011 air race accident.

According to the Reno Air Racing Association (RARA), “at approximately 4:20 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16, during Unlimited Class qualifying, the P-51 Mustang “Gallop Ghost,” piloted by Jimmy Leeward, crashed into the box seat area in front of the main grandstand. It is a mass casualty situation and local emergency personnel are on the scene.”- RARA, September 16, 2011

John Zayac, pilot of the McDonald Racer #37 team, had the following to say regarding the accident:

*“Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by this accident. The air race community has been devastated by the severity of this crash. Our race team is passionate about, and honored to, compete in the National Championship Air Races annually and we extend our deepest sympathies to the all of the families involved in this tragedy.”* - John Zayac, Pilot

Zayac competes annually in the T-6 Gold Class National Championship Air Races, which are widely recognized as the “World’s Fastest Motor Sport”. As an experienced pilot, licensed for over 20 years and one of the top T-6 race pilots in the world, he has competed in the annual air races for the past 11 years. Zayac took home 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the T-6 Gold Class of the 2010 National Championship Air Races, reaching speeds up to 234.927 miles per hour.

The McDonald Racer Crew is a unique team of experts including skilled mechanics, pilots, race strategy engineers, photographers, business professionals and more. Although the crew members are as diverse as they come, they all share one definitive passion...T-6 Air Racing at the National Championship Air Races. The team’s 2011 air race goals include promoting children’s interest in aviation, breaking and maintaining the T-6 air racing speed record of 244.523 miles per hour and winning first place in the T-6 Gold Class. To learn more about the pilot and crew, please visit: [www.T6RaceTeam.com](http://www.T6RaceTeam.com).

### **About the McDonald Racer #37 Team:**

Since 2000, the McDonald Air Race Team has competed annually in the National Air Race Championships. They have steadily moved up through the race classes and currently compete in the T6 Gold Class. The crew is composed of expert mechanics, skilled pilots, race strategy engineers, photographers and business professionals, among others. For more information, please visit: [www.T6RaceTeam.com](http://www.T6RaceTeam.com).

### **About the National Championship Air Races:**

In September 2011, the National Championship Air Races and Air Show will return for its 48th year with six classes of racing aircraft and a first-class air show exhibiting some of the world's top pilots and aerobatic performers. Recognized as the “World’s Fastest Motor Sport”, the annual event regularly attracts 250,000 to 300,000 attendees. For more information, please visit: [www.AirRace.org](http://www.AirRace.org).