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**T A K E
W I N G:**

Learn to Fly

I've been infatuated with flight since I was a kid, whether it was longing to fly like Superman in the comic books or stopping in the middle of a backyard baseball game to watch a jet soar overhead. But the decision to learn to fly was a long time coming. Somewhere along the line, my fascination with the magic of flight faded. Who knows exactly when it happened, but I have my suspicions. It was probably a slow, insidious process that began with my discovery of the "real" secret behind the Tooth Fairy, followed by the fall of the Easter Bunny, and, ultimately, the demise of Santa. As those fairy-tale icons vanished from my life, I learned — from well-meaning adults — that magic was not magic at all, once you understood the illusions behind it. And so a plane became just a collection of metal pieces and parts that used science and aerodynamics to make it fly.

For more than 20 years, I disregarded my passion for flight, its forgotten appeal buried deep within me. Not until my son, John, picked up where I

left off did my interest return. As I watched him discover airplanes within the pages of his favorite books and a happy little show on PBS named, "Jay Jay the Jet Plane," I suddenly saw the enchanting world of flight through his fresh and eager eyes. Even though he was too small to understand everything about a plane, he, like all kids, could see the magic that most adults had long since turned a blind eye toward. His enthusiasm sparked my own, motivating me to schedule my first flying lesson at Air Harbor Airport, a small strip in Greensboro.

Earning my pilot license was a high point for me, and I have a little six-year-old to thank for getting me started.

— *Chris Lancy* lives in Greensboro with his wife and three sons. A U.S. Navy veteran, Lancy was recently recognized by *The Business Journal* *Serving the Greater Triad Area* for their 40 Leaders under 40 Award.

WANT TO MAKE YOUR CAREER SOAR IN A NEW DIRECTION?

Check out the **UND Aerospace Flight Training Center in Lumberton** (www.ftc.aero.und.edu/). They offer degree programs in Air Traffic Control, Commercial Aviation, Flight Education, Aviation Systems Management, Airport Management, and Aviation Management. David Enkelaar, flight training center manager, offers his favorite spots to fly over in the state:

"Flying over North Carolina offers pilots so many different views! In one day, you can see snow-covered mountains, endless forests, changing colors of trees, and people enjoying the beaches and Outer Banks. ... Even busy cities like Charlotte, with its complex airspace, provide for a great environment for pilots."

CHECK IT OUT



Getting started is easy. Most flight schools offer discounted introductory lessons. Log on to www.beapilot.com to locate a nearby airport so you can stop dreaming and start flying.

ONE TO GET YOU STARTED:

Air Harbor Airport
150 Air Harbor Rd.
Greensboro
(336) 288-4275



RATHER BE A PASSENGER? Air Tours are a great way to see things from a new angle and to experience being a part of the crew. Fly over a shipwreck or see the beaches of the Outer Banks like never before.



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