

Dave McElroy, father of North Bay FIC Specialist Sean McElroy, recently completed a flight around the world in a single engine Piper Comanche (C-FYHU). Dave was accompanied by Chris Elgar, C-FYHU's owner, for 25 per cent of the itinerary, and seven other co-pilots/passengers joined for much of the rest.

NAV CANADA contributed to the success of this project – FlyRTW80 – in two ways: the Company provided a corporate sponsorship of \$1,000 for the project benefitting the SickKids Foundation; and, of course, it also provided weather and flight planning services. (Many of Sean's colleagues also made personal donations.)

This was more than a simple circumnavigation. First, C-FYHU flew around the world – from Toronto to Toronto – for the benefit of SickKids. Two of Dave's grandchildren were the focus of the fundraising effort, as both have Asperger's Syndrome. But Dave also made a second overlapping global flight from Perth,



From left, Wylie McElroy (Dave's grandson and Sean's nephew), Sean's daughters Samantha and Kimberley, and Finn McElroy (grandson of Dave and nephew of Sean).



Chris Elgar (fellow RTW pilot), left, and Dave McElroy are interviewed by a CTV News reporter.



FlyRTW80 completes unique around the world mission

\$80,000 raised for SickKids Foundation, so far

Scotland and back again to raise money for Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA).

This meant a second Atlantic crossing after completing the Canadian round-the-world tour, followed by a third crossing to return the aircraft to its home base at Burlington, Ontario. Coincidentally, Dave was briefed by Flight Service Specialist Gary MacAdam in Halifax during each of the three crossings.

FlyRTW80 was just the 190th single-engine circumnavigation in aviation history, the fourth from Canada, and the second from Scotland. The average 129-knot groundspeed for the entire flight suggests an average headwind component of about five knots (a knot is equivalent to one nautical mile per hour).

C-FYHU's journey around the world lasted precisely 80 days. It launched from Toronto on May 12 and returned there, on schedule, on July 29. The immediate stop prior to Toronto was Oshkosh during the annual Air Venture

spectacular, where Dave delivered a trip report to the Annual Meeting of the International Comanche Society.

Adventures during the course of the flight were far too many to mention here. They included landing in a thunderstorm in India, crossing the International Date Line, crossing the equator twice, and a fabulous series of flights around the coast of Australia from Darwin to Brisbane.



Sean McElroy with daughters Samantha, left, and Kimberley.

Plus, the mother of all crossings: a 16:45-hour non-stop flight from Hawaii to California.

In response to many requests, Dave is now settling in to write a book about the entire adventure. These will be sold for the benefit of the two charities, SickKids and SCAA, and should be available in early 2015.

In the meantime the website remains open for donations, which can be made to either charity: www.flyrtw80.com. Dave can be contacted at: dave@FlyRTW80.com or +44 7787 731251, and is available to

make presentations to interested groups about his epic journey. ✈

Statistics	Canadian RTW	Scottish RTW	Total *	Percent
Total hours flown	235	235	281	
VFR Flight Plan			15	5
IFR Flight Plan			266	95
In actual IMC**			23	8
Solo			31	11
Nautical miles	30190	29953	35550	
Great Circle Miles			34136	
Kilometres	56244	55802	66230	
Avg groundspeed knots			129	
Airports visited	49	48	59	
Countries visited	29	29	29	
Countries overflown	12	12	12	
Countries total	41	41	41	
Fuel burn US gallons			2552	
Fuel burn litres			9659	
Fuel cost £			16331	
Fuel cost \$US			26946	
Avg fuel cost \$US/gal			10.56	
Avg fuel cost £/litre			1.69	
Highest cost £/litre		Muscat Oman	3.22	
Lowest cost £/litre		Acapulco Mexico	0.9	

*Based on overlapping Round The World trips. **Instrument Meteorological Conditions