

Millionaire Begins Solo Flight Around World

Monday, February 28, 2005

Associated Press



SALINA, Kan. — Millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett took off Monday night on his attempt to become the first person to complete a solo trip around the world in an airplane without making a single stop.

Fossett, the first person to circle the globe solo in a balloon, launched his GlobalFlyer from the Salina Municipal Airport shortly before 7 p.m., beginning a 66-hour journey by climbing northeast into a darkening sky.

The 23,000-mile flight had already been postponed several times because of shifting jet stream patterns or weather at the airport.

Aviation pioneer Wiley Post made the first solo around-the-world trip in 1933, taking more than seven days and stopping numerous times along the way. The first nonstop global flight without refueling by a duo was made in 1986 by Jeana Yeager and Dick Rutan, brother of Burt Rutan, designer of the GlobalFlyer.

The flight plan was adjusted once more later Monday after Algeria closed a portion of its airspace, mission control director Kevin Stass said. The change, he said, would slightly reduce the overall length of the flight and save some of the 18,000 pounds of fuel aboard the single-engine jet.

Fossett planned to fly at an average speed of 287.5 mph and rely on the jet stream to stretch his fuel. The GlobalFlyer will have about 15 percent extra fuel to allow for weather conditions or other changes to the flight plan, said Jon Karkow, chief engineer for the flight.

Fossett became the first to fly a balloon solo around the world in 2002 after nearly dying twice in six attempts to set the record. He has also tried to break the world gliding altitude record for the past four years in New Zealand but has failed because of poor conditions.

1. At approximately what time did Fossett, the first person to circle the globe solo in a balloon arrive at his designation?
2. Approximately how many feet are in this around the world journey?
3. How many years ago was the first solo flight around the world?
4. How many ounces of fuel must the plane carry to successfully complete this mission?
5. If Fossett flies at an average speed of 287.5 mph how many hours will it take to circle the world?
6. The GlobalFlyer will have about 15 percent or _____ gallons of extra fuel to allow for weather conditions or other changes to the flight plan
7. What new information have you learned in this edition of The Daughtry Times?