

# **MY GRANDAUGHTER – THE PILOT**

**JESSICA MELLON ROBINSON**

As of October 2, 2011

Sometime after I started flying lessons with John Sibole, our granddaughter Jessica Mellon began her flying career, leading to a rapid licensure for both a fixed-wing plane and the helicopter. She was just seventeen and still in high school – home-schooled.

Jessie's first lesson was on February 1, 2007 in a Bell 47 helicopter with John Sibole as her instructor at the Lancaster, PA airport. Four months later on June 1, 2007, she soloed, and on April 18, 2008, she became a licensed helicopter pilot at the age of 18, still in high school.

Not totally content with her success in the helicopter and beginning to think of a life as a pilot with a Christian missionary organization, she began flying lessons in a fixed-wing airplane. Starting with John Sibole in his privately-owned CAP 10 tail-dragger plane at Keller Bros. Airport in Schaefferstown, she then went back to Lancaster, PA and completed her course in a Cessna 152 with instructor Zach Hurst. On August 11, 2008 she was licensed, still at the age of 18.

Presently, in October 2011, Jessie is attending LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, where she is enrolled in the aeronautic program. She will graduate with an A&P mechanic's license in May 2012. She then plans to complete her commercial and Certificated Flight Instructor ratings in both the helicopter and airplane after graduation. She has already logged over 275 flying hours.

On July 29, 2011 she married Andrew Robinson, a certified pilot and mechanic, who graduated from LeTourneau University in May 2010. He is employed by the University as a flight instructor and has logged over 800 flying hours.

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