



@melanieastles



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Mélanie Astles

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—ASTLES

Born in Rugby (England) in 1982, she moved to the South of France with her family at the age of 3 and holds both French and British nationalities. Melanie studied in Beausoleil and then in Monaco at the Collège Charles III and the Lycée Alber 1er.

She left school and Monaco in 2000 at the age of 18, without having obtained her baccalaureate. She then started working in gas stations to earn a living and put aside her childhood dream of flying and becoming a pilot. At the same time, she studied to obtain the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, which she passed in 2004.

She took her first flight lesson only at the age of 21 and continued the lessons to obtain her PPL (Private Pilot Licence) with the minimum number of hours.

In 2006 she was offered the opportunity to learn aerobatics. She is immediately passionate about this sport and shows very early a talent for this discipline. She won her first title of French champion in aerobatics in 2007 (Espoir category). During the following years, she won several titles of French champion, at different levels.

In 2015, she was part of the French team of Unlimited aerobatics, world champion in team. Melanie is ranked among the top 5 female pilots in the world at the highest level of aerobatics.

From 2011 to 2016, she is an instructor for airline pilots at the prestigious Ecole Nationale de l'Aviation Civile (ENAC) in Grenoble.

From 2016, she participates as a Challenger in the Red Bull Air Race World Championship, the first and still the only woman in this sport. In 2 seasons, she made 4 podiums and a first place in Indianapolis in 2017.

In 2018, in Cannes, Melanie makes the best time but exceeds the 10G allowed, which earns her a 2 second penalty, and unfortunately places her in 4th place.

In May 2018, Melanie realized one of her biggest dreams: to fly on a fighter plane, the Rafale. Having the authorization to take the controls, she participates in a dogfight with a second Rafale.



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AEROBATICS ACHIEVEMENTS

2011-2013- 3 titles of French champion in two-seater
2013 - 1st female and 9th overall out of 51 at the European Championship in Radom (Poland)
2014 - 2nd at the French Open "Advanced" in Châteauroux
2014 - French Champion "Excellence" in Falaise
2014 - 1st female and 7th overall out of 66 at the World Championship in Dubnica (Slovakia)
2015 - French Champion "Unlimited" in Epernay
Member of the French Team, Unlimited World Champion in Châteauroux in 2015
2015, Melanie ranked 5th female of the Unlimited World
2016, Melanie joins the Red Bull Air Race at Challenger level
2018 - 3rd female, French Unlimited Championship
2018 - 3rd overall, French Open, Unlimited



RED BULL AIR RACE PRIZE LIST

2016 - integrated in the Red Bull Air Race in Challenger Cup
2016 - 2nd at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, U.S.A.
2017 - 3rd in Abu Dhabi
2017 - 3rd at Porto, Portugal
2017 - 1st at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, U.S.A.
2018 - 4th in each of the 4 races this year
2019 - 2nd in Abu Dhabi

In 2022, Melanie was promoted from the Challenger Class to the Master Class (Aero GP1) as the Red Bull Air Race was scheduled to resume, but the Covid pandemic ended the races

FROM DREAM TO REALITY

Melanie's passion for aviation is very strong and she is an accomplished aerobatic pilot. 6 times French champion at 5 different levels, from Espoir in 2007 to Unlimited in 2021, she makes aviation history by becoming the first woman to compete in the famous Red Bull Air Race as a Challenger. In 2019, she became the British champion, as well as the French Unlimited vice-champion and ranked 7th woman at the world championships in this category.

Her journey is an inspiring example of perseverance and determination. When she left school at the age of 18 to enter professional life, no one imagined that she would realize her childhood dream of becoming a pilot. But thanks to her passion, will and hard work, she reached unimaginable heights. Her story is made of passion, perseverance and surpassing oneself. All disciplines combined, she has logged 4500 hours of flight time. Mélanie is a personality on social networks, at conferences and air shows where she participates every year. She loves sharing her dreams with the public and inspiring people to follow their dreams.