Mazda Wankel rotary engine powered Van's RV6 goes 229 MPH at Reno!

Dave Leonard went 229 MPH in a qualifying race in the Sports Class at Reno before all remaining races were canceled due to the Galloping Ghost P51 tragic crash. Dave built the rotary powered RV6 several years ago and acquired 600 hours on the near stock 1991 RX7 Mazda Turbo II engine. Dave is a former Navy Commander and current anesthesiologist in private practice residing in Carlsbad California. When the Galloping Ghost P51 crashed Dave volunteered to help the injured spectators.

Dave won the Everett Hatch memorial $1000 prize for a rotary powered aircraft exceeding 220 MPH in a sanctioned air race. Former winners were Tracy Crook for exceeded 210 MPH in the Sun 100 in his rotary powered RV4. Tracy narrowly missed winning the 220 MPH prize by going only 217 MPH in a later Sun 100 Race. The prize bar is
now raised to 240 MPH. The prize money is donated to the Everett Hatch memorial fund by subscribers to the free Rotary Engine Internet News letter. The late Everett Hatch was a pioneer in developing the Mazda rotary engine for use in home built experimental aircraft.

Mazda rotaries were first used in experimental aircraft as far back as 1973. Since then hundreds have been installed and many are still flying.

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