

# RAFE Canard Flight Academy Formation Training Syllabus

www.RutanAircraftFlyingExperience.org



Preserving and Promoting Rutan Aircraft,  
the Homebuilts that led to Space!

Canard Flight Academy utilizes the Formation Flying, Inc. Policies and Procedures.

Prior to attending flight training at the Canard Flight Academy study the [FFI Formation Guide](#), [FFI Program Manual](#) and [LongEZ – Varieze Supplement](#). These are the foundation of how formation flying is accomplished.

**Review the FAST documents:** [Radio Comm and Visual Signals](#), and FFI [Airshow Ops Supplement](#) . At some point you will need to take the *Airshow Operations Quiz* [online](#), (available on the [FFI.AERO website](#)).

Training starts with a 2 hour Ground School that will cover all the material you will need for your flights followed by aircraft familiarization. Speed Canard Pilots will get a thorough checkout in the Speed Canard followed by one familiarization flight. Owner provided aircraft must have full dual controls, to include stick, rudder pedals and throttle AND a method for the canopy to be opened from the rear seat, or that have a Cozy type aircraft. Each flight will begin with a thorough brief and end with a thorough debrief. All formation training flights will be in a 2 plane formation with an experience Lead Pilot flying a LongEZ. (Advanced 4-plane training is available)

**Flight 1:** Utilize all procedures and protocols described in the Formation documents in a learning environment. Start, taxi, interval takeoff, join up, fingertip station keeping, route, fingertip turns, echelon turns, pitchout-rejoin, under-run, lost sight procedures, rejoin, recover to overhead break, interval landing, hot-side/cold-side rollout, taxi in, shutdown. Instructor will demonstrate maneuvers, training pilot will execute maneuvers with instructors coaching/monitoring.

**Flight 2:** Repeat of Flight 1. Training Pilot continues to develop skill set, situational awareness and proper protocols and procedures.

**Flight 3:** Build on Flights 1 and 2. Add tasks as Training Pilot progresses to include close trail, extended trail and fingertip maneuvering in pitch and roll.

**Flight 4:** Continued skill building. If progress allows, introduce section takeoff. Continued emphasis on station keeping during maneuvering and pitchout-rejoins.

**Flight 5:** Training Pilot should by now have fundamental grasp of procedures and protocols to the point that instructor coaches less or very little. Training Pilot should be able to demonstrate satisfactory understanding and skills for each maneuver, controls aircraft so the outcome of any maneuver or position in the formation is never without a doubt. Training Pilot should be able to recognize errors and execute proper actions to correct them.

**Continued Formation:** Training Flights 6 and beyond are at the digression of the Training Pilot. 4-plane training can be provided however this takes much more coordination, assets and expenses.

Canard Flight Academy formation training is not intended to accelerate a pilot from little to no formation skills to getting an FFI wingman card. Though the skills and knowledge to fly formation can be acquired with just a few flights, the refinement of those skills and retention of the knowledge is only gained through continued training and grasping opportunities to fly formation. This is a *VERY PERISHABLE SKILL!* CFA formation training is intended to give the new formation pilot a foundation of skill sets that allows them to proceed down the path to a wingman card as a safe solo wingman. The path to a wingman card is:

**Attend an FFI formation clinic.** A clinic is where you'll get to see "the big picture" on what formation flying is all about. Leads, Wingmen and other pilots learning formation flying will help guide you through this with your new skills

**Do not be surprised if your first flight at a clinic is a 2-plane. Unless someone has flown with you before there has to be a method of evaluating your skills and knowledge.**

In your formation clinic experience you will conduct 4-plane formation training. This is the best opportunity to gather with qualified participants that can create a 4-plane flight. Expect to have a qualified lead pilot and qualified formation instructor in your aircraft (Speed Canard or Trainee's dual control canard). New wingman will fly #2 and #4 until *recommended for safe solo 4 plane wingman..*

**Continue** to develop your formation flying skills and return to a formation clinic as many times as you can until you can demonstrate the skills and knowledge to fly as a carded Wingman. Then keep flying formation!

**Get recommended for a wingman check ride!** After being evaluated as a 4-plane wingman your Lead will endorse you based upon demonstrated ability to complete required maneuvers and possession of required knowledge.

**Fly your check ride!** Includes in-depth oral exam in accordance with the FFI Evaluation Supplement, followed by a 4-plane flight with an FFI Check Pilot either in the aircraft you are flying or flying in the formation. When complete submit all your paperwork to FFI for issuance of the appropriate card.

Congratulations on taking the first steps to becoming an accredited formation Pilot. We hope your experience at the Canard Flight Academy Formation Syllabus has prepared you for that journey.

END

