



Corporate Eagle Companies

Richard M. Nini
Biography

At an early age Rick Nini knew exactly what he wanted to do, and that was to become a pilot. At the age of sixteen, while living in Northwest Detroit with his parents and attending Henry Ford High School, Rick took advantage of an offer to clean and detail aircraft for an Oakland – Pontiac Airport based aviation academy. The work, which began in May of 1972, would be in exchange for flight training.

After over three years of cleaning aircraft in exchange for flight training, Rick received his Private Pilots License, Commercial Pilots License, Instrument Rating, Multiengine Rating and his Certified Flight Instructor Certificate. He was promoted to Flight Instructor and soon expanded his certification to include Instrument Flight Instructor as well as Multiengine Flight Instructor. Rick was on his way in a flying career building experience and hours teaching basic and advanced pilot ratings at the age of nineteen.

Over the next five years Rick worked his way up the pilot experience ladder from flight instructor to flying cancelled checks to passenger charter pilot. Then, after earning his Airline Transport Pilot Certificate in 1978, Rick went on to become a corporate pilot and in 1980 became a captain in the Volkswagen of America flight department.

It was 1982 when Rick and a partner started Tradewinds Aircraft Sales, Incorporated to buy, sell and broker private aircraft.

Expanding into the flight training and corporate aircraft management business, the company changed its name to Tradewinds Aviation; by 1985, Rick left his flying job at Volkswagen to become Tradewinds Aviation's majority shareholder and its President and CEO.

In the late 1980's and into the 1990's Tradewinds Aviation became the premier and dominant flight training and aircraft rental program in Southeastern Michigan and further

expanded into the owner flown fractional aircraft business with the Pinnacle Club Aircraft Partnership Program.

In 1994 Tradewinds Aviation organized the Corporate Eagle Flight Department and acquired the first Hawker business jet partnered with three Southeastern Michigan corporations, two of whom remain members to this day.

From 1995 and over the next ten years Tradewinds Aviation's Corporate Eagle Flight Department organized King Air and Hawker aircraft partnerships for nearly two dozen Southeastern Michigan companies and wealthy individuals.

By 2007 the Corporate Eagle Flight Department became the dominant operation of Tradewinds Aviation and a need for a Florida base became very apparent. More and more Corporate Eagle Flight Department members established needs for one-way travel to and from Florida and a need for service in the state.

In early 2008 Tradewinds Aviation, Inc embarked on a new company direction and business focus by changing the name of the corporation to Corporate Eagle Management Services, Inc, divesting the Pilot Center Operations (Flight School and Pinnacle Club), establishing a Florida base, creating an all new brand identity and marketing plan and re-documenting the Corporate Eagle Program to a local market focused fractional aircraft program.

Today, Corporate Eagle Management Services, Inc manages eleven King Air and Hawker corporate aircraft for over twenty members in this exclusive members only flight department. Organized for growth in Southeastern Michigan and The Tampa Bay Area, Corporate Eagle Companies has the aircraft capacity, staffing, facilities, a compelling and very competitive fractional program totally focused on delivering a high level of member services.

Over the next three years the Corporate Eagle Program will become a dominate corporate aircraft service provider in Southeastern Michigan and The Tampa Bay Area Market with an eye toward expansion to other strategic locations in the country.

In other activities, Rick was one of the founding members and past President of the Waterford Area Chamber of Commerce, the Waterford Area Business Person of the Year in 2006, a member of Legatus, which is a national organization of Catholic CEO's, and also a past board member, officer and membership chairman for Legatus. His involvement in many community causes includes hosting the Waterford Coalition for Youth, "Taste of Waterford" event, assisting Lighthouse Emergency Services, The Thomas Moore Law Center and many other local charities.

Rick resides in Clarkston with his wife Megan and has three children.

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