

Neal Vernon Loving (1916–1998) — Chronology

- 1931 Enters Cass Technical High School in auto-aero department
- 1935 Receives Project of the Month Award from *Mechanix Illustrated*
- 1935 Begins taking flying lessons
- 1936 Completes first glider NLG-1 but plane irreparably damaged after being displayed
- 1939 first solo flight; organizes St. Antoine YMCA Glider Club for boys 14+
- 1941 Begins teaching at mostly white Aero Mechanics High School; classes expand to adults in 1942 after US enters WWII
- 1942 Organizes black Civil Air Patrol squadron with Earsly Taylor
- 1943 Begins Wayne Aircraft Company with Taylor, building his 2nd glider, S-1; first aircraft production facility owned and operated by blacks
- 1944 Crashes glider and loses two legs below the knees
- 1946 Forms the Wayne School of Aeronautics with Earsly Taylor—an early black-owned flight school
- 1950 Completes and flies midget racer WR-1 (Loving's Love)
- 1951 Becomes first African American licensed as a racing pilot. Late in life he was still the only double amputee — black or white — rated a racing pilot
- 1954 Wins EAA Most Outstanding Design award / Best of Show for Loving's Love
- 1955 Marries Clare Barnett; enrolls at Wayne State University to study aeronautical engineering
- 1959 Builds first roadable plane WR-2, scraps it in 1961 after initial tests
- 1961 Graduates Wayne State University at age 45
- 1961 Hired as Aeronautical Engineer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, moves to Dayton, Ohio
- 1968 Wins Meritorious Civilian Service award
- 1968 builds and flies second roadable plane, WR-3, flies it until 1991
- 1982 Retires from Wright AFB, aerospace engineering position
- 1991 Distinguished Achievement award, Organization of Black Airline Pilots
- 1992 Fails flight physical and retires from flying after 54 years

1994 Smithsonian Press publishes his autobiography, *Loving's Love*
1995 Wins Major Achievement Award, Experimental Aircraft Association
1995 Honorary Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots
1997 Inducted into the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame
1997 Wins Aviation Trail's Trailblazer Award
1998 Dies in Yellow Springs, Ohio on December 19
2001 Inducted into Wayne State University College of Engineering Hall of Fame
2003 Inducted into Dayton Walk of Fame on 100th anniversary of flight

Chronology Source:

<http://encyclopedia.jrank.org/articles/pages/4358/Loving-Neal-Vernon-1916-1998.html>

Revised by Mark Martel