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FOND DU LAC BIG BIRDS EXPECT TO SET NEW RECORDS

This year's Warbirds & Classics Remote Control Air Show to be held in Fond du Lac is expected to be another record breaker. According to officials of the Fond du Lac Aeromodelers Club which hosts the three day air show event, the air show will feature more than one hundred pilots and over two hundred flying aircraft, a new record up from last year's eighty pilots and one-hundred-fifty airplanes.

The local club is also preparing for a record number of spectators. Its last air show attracted over 3,000 spectators, up 30% from the year prior. This year the club is preparing for 4,000 to 5,000 spectators. It has become one of the top family events in Fond du Lac county.

"I think the reason the air shows are growing so rapidly" said George Becker, a spokesman for the club, "is because almost everyone who comes to the shows seems to have a really good time. RC air shows are fun for every age group and people come back year after year. It's a really fun way for the whole family to have fun together, from little kids to grandma and grandpa. Everyone seems to enjoy themselves."

The event is also a great family value with admission fees of only three dollars per vehicle regardless of how many people are in the vehicle. For many families, the air show becomes summer's last family fun day before going back to school.

The club is also welcoming a record number of pilots and guests from out of state. This year pilots are expected to travel to Fond du Lac to attend the event from Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Arizona, North Carolina, Kentucky, Texas, Florida, and even Canada. Some of the pilots arrive early. The air show is becoming a helpful event for our local economy with pilots and spectators staying at local hotels and patronizing businesses.

In only a few years the Fond du Lac event has grown large enough to rival other national air shows and has put Fond du Lac on the remote control map.

The first Fond du Lac RC air show in 2002 had twenty-eight pilots, similar in size to most Wisconsin RC air show events. The Fond du Lac event has grown to over one hundred pilots in 2009. The local RC club now hosts the two largest air shows in Wisconsin and the Warbirds & Classics show in August is the largest of its kind in the Midwest. Pilot turnout and spectator participation for the August air show is expected to rival even the most well-known national air shows.

The club feels that its air shows have grown so rapidly because of support of Fond du Lac spectators, the usability of their air field which is one of the best grass fields in the nation, and because of what they call the “special flavor” of Fond du Lac, friendly dispositions and good humor that make attending the air show a feel-good event for everyone, from pilots to spectators.

“Both pilots and spectators come to our air shows to be entertained and just feel good” said Becker. “Their first time, most spectators expect to see little plastic remote control toys that buzz around your head like flies. Most people are shocked and surprised to see how huge these big birds actually are, how life-like they look, act and sound, and how entertaining the whole show is. Everybody has a good time.”

With wingspans over nineteen feet, some of these RC planes are actually larger than real aircraft, such as some acrobatic planes that have wingspans of approximately seventeen feet. RC planes may be considered toys by some, but good luck trying to tell the toys from the real thing. These big birds glisten, maneuver and roar just like their real counterparts and are fun for the whole family to watch.

All planes are controlled by hobby pilots along the side of the airfield who control every move with joy sticks and knobs on an RC radio.

Some planes may drop harmless “dummy bombs” from the sky while others will amaze you with precise formation flying. Still others will excite the whole family with flight speeds of up to two hundred miles per hour... whistling in the air just like the real thing. Including the big birds and super big birds, over one hundred crowd-pleasing large planes of many different kinds are expected to fly during the three day event.

This year's air show will also feature an exciting new plane built and flown by national RC celebrity pilot Carl Bachhuber of Mayville. Bachhuber has been featured in many national RC magazines for his large planes and engineering techniques that make his planes look and sound remarkably real. Bachhuber's newest craft is a Convair B-36b Peacemaker with a whopping 19.2 foot wing span. You can see Bachhuber's aircraft on YouTube at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHz_8AoHmY.

Drake and Dan Edwards, a father and son team from North Carolina, are expected to fly a crowd-pleasing P51 Mustang, which they like to fly fast and low in front of spectators.

Other well-known national guest pilots are also expected to attend the Fond du Lac event, including Scott Prossen of Florida, who finished first place for workmanship with his T-28 Trojan aircraft in the Fun Scale Novice U.S. Scale Master Championships held in Florida last year. Celebrity pilots and scale masters Dennis Crooks from Indiana, and Bob Patton from Illinois are also expected to attend. Crooks just finished first place in the national aeromodelers championship in Muncie, Indiana. Patton was also a national top competitor and competed in the same event.

A tent called the "Canadian embassy" in fun will be constructed at the airfield to welcome and host Canadian pilots.

The Fond du Lac Aeromodelers Club will also unveil their new event t-shirt entitled "Fond du Lac Famous", commemorating the event's rapidly growing national popularity within the RC community. Many RC pilots all over the country refer to the Fond du Lac event not by its proper name "Warbirds and Classics Over the Midwest", but rather simply as "Fond du Lac". The t-shirts will be available to be won or purchased at the show.

The air show will feature large warbird aircraft from World War I to current. Visitors can see biplane and triplane aircraft from the days of the Red Baron, to today's modern, super fast F22 jet fighters. The show will also feature RC aircraft depicting classic aircraft predating 1960.

The Club also hosts a smaller one day air show in June each year.

Air shows are great fun for the whole family and the public is welcome. Flying will take place from 9 am – 4 pm each day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 14, 15, and 16, weather permitting. Brats, burgers, ice cream and soft drinks will be available and admission is only \$3 per vehicle, regardless of how many occupants are in the vehicle. There will also be a raffle including RC planes and other prizes. Limited seating is available but spectators are encouraged to bring their own chairs if they'd like to sit. Attending the event does not require a lot of walking.

The Air Show is located at Wellnitz Field, N4841 Hickory Road , two and one half miles south of Hwy 41 on Hickory Road.

For more information or to view video clips of flying RC aircraft, visit www.fdlaa.com, the website of the Fond du Lac Aeromodelers Club. The website also provides a map and gives local weather information.

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MEDIA: While this air show will officially begin on Friday, August 14, 2009, pilots will begin flying at the field starting on Wednesday, August 12 if you would like to take photographs.

- Photos of spectators and planes available at: <http://www.fdlaa.com/media/>
- Photographs of Carl Bachhuber's planes available at <http://www.carlb-rcplanes.com>
- Photo opportunity and/or media demonstration is also available.

Contact Information:

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Links:

<http://www.fdlaa.com/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHz_8AoHmY

<http://www.carlb-rcplanes.com/>

<http://www.carlb-rcplanes.com/B-36page1.html>

<http://www.midwestwarbirds.com/2009/>

DVD:

<http://www.createspace.com/241357>

<http://www.createspace.com/224734>