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Lake In The Hills Airfest

by Geoff Sobering



Small airshows can be really fun, and they don't get much smaller than the one at the village of Lake in the Hills, Illinois, just northwest of Chicago, June 23. What the show lacks in sheer size, is easily made up with variety.

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Airshow performer, Skip Stewart.

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LAKE IN THE HILLS FROM PAGE 8

This year, in addition to the clown on stilts and the "Lowe's Kid's Workshop" hangar, they held the first round of trials for the "Summer Sunset Idol" talent competition before the airshow.

Filling out the "fun for the whole family" act, was a collection of carnival rides. The airshow itself was well worth the drive down from Madison, Wis. for me.

The show opened with a fun demo by a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter from the Illinois Army National Guard. The helicopter demonstrated the precision control of the big bird by playing "peak-a-boo" in the small valley on the other side of the runway from the crowd.

There were three single-ship aerobatic performers: Skip Stewart, one of the members of the "X-Team," flew his highly modified Pitts biplane;



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A Chicago-based U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter playing "peak-a-boo" in the valley behind the runway.

Susan Dacy brought "Ole Red," her 450 Super Stearman; and Doug Dodge flew his Pitts.

"Team Aerostars" featuring pilots Harvey Meek, Paul Hornick, and David Monroe, put on a great formation flying program with their three Yak-52s. For folks who like fast jets, Paul van den Heuvel's MiG-21 and

David Burdine's MiG-17, did the trick. Two performers unfortunately had to cancel at the last moment. Herb Baker and his T-28 "Ditto" had engine problems the week before the show, and Mike Keenum's Hawker Sea Fury, "Riff Raff," was kept on the ground by bad weather at Chiago-Midway Airport.

The weather at the Lake in the Hills Airport wasn't perfect, with clouds all day, but the drizzle stopped just as the gates opened, and the cloud-base was high enough for all the performers to "do their thing." The airshow box was placed a bit away from the main show grounds, but it was close enough that most people had a good view. □

FIELD OF DREAMS FROM PAGE 14

produce the annual fly-in breakfast and "free" airshow to promote the airport, aviation, and to thank local residents for their support.

Airshow performer, Randy Harris, of Tulsa, Okla., learned to fly model airplanes at age 12, and full size airplanes at age 25, just after completing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His current "day job" is with a major U.S. airline. Before that he was a flight test engineer with McDonnell Douglas where he learned a disciplined approach to flying. His entertainment background includes radio personality, aviation writer, and night club DJ.

Harris is a do-it-yourself kind of

guy. He built the Skybolt 300 himself so that he could modify it as necessary for doing air shows. Among some of his self-created maneuvers are the HammerSlide, GroverOver and Happy Puppy Pass.

Harris and his wife, Linda, currently reside at Gundy Airpark located just outside of Tulsa, Okla.

The skydivers were Kerry McCauley and Joe Johnson from "Skydive Twin Cities" out of Baldwin, Wis. (www.skydivetwincities.com).

Located just 1 mile from the Grand Casino & Grand National Golf Course, Field of Dreams airport isn't only convenient for guests, but also has self-service fuel at reasonable prices. The price for 100LL was only \$3.59.

Field of Dreams has two large, heated hangars for company, customer, and transient aircraft, as well as Weidendorf's personal Cessna 206 on Wipline amphibious floats. The main hangar has a spacious pilot lounge with bathrooms, showers and a pilot briefing room with weather computer. The airport features a 75 x 2,754 ft. paved runway (06/24) with pilot controlled lighting on 122.9. Weidendorf's company, "Eagle Air," offers aircraft rental, flight training, and air charter.

There are three campgrounds located nearby, and under-wing camping is welcomed at the airport, although accommodations are available at the casino. Ground transportation is available through the casino and Lee's Limousine Service. Lee's owner, Lee Casto, is a pilot and aircraft owner, and for the day of the fly-in, he was the air boss and emcee.

For additional information about the airport, casino or area recreational opportunities, contact Matt Johnson at 320-384-6667 (www.fieldofdreamsairport.com). □

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