

Indiana Seaplane Pilots Association

*Safety, Education, Advocacy
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9-23-18

The 2018 , 16th Annual, Indiana Seaplane Pilots association Splash-In at the Pokagon State Park was held September 22nd and 23rd, 2018. Once again the event would like to report a 100% safety record and a lot of smiles. We enjoyed an excellent showing of aircraft with the official count at 20 including our very special guest appearance of Peter Bowers Beautiful Waco as our featured aircraft of the event. Peter Flew a impressive demonstration flight of the Waco on Sunday to an very impressed crowd. Just like last year we missed having some of our regulars, but every year we make new friends. A big thanks and standing ovation for all of our pilots who brought in their aircraft for the event, they all did a top notch professional job. I would like to extend my appreciation to the community for coming out to Pokagon State Park and Potawatomi Inn this weekend to enjoy amazing weather for our annual event.

The entire Midwest offered wonderful flying conditions for all of our pilots to have relaxed flying conditions for their journeys to and from. This allowed aircraft from Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Ohio.

Along with the glorious day at The Pokagon State Park we gave away 107!!! rides in our free drawing, along with volunteers, and media this was enabled by a total of 6 pilots sharing their aircraft fuel and time. Special thanks to the following Pilots, Chuck Marshal from Elkhart Indiana with his crowd favorite DeHavilland Beaver, Allison Wheaton Flying our locally based Maule M-7, a return of two of our locally based pilots Doug Schenkel Lake James Cessna 172XP and Matt Perry Snow Lake Cessna 172, Wally Hain in his 170 from Northern Il. And Daniel Kohr jumped in the mix after lunch for a couple rides in his Sedan. Great Job Pilots you made a lot of people smile!! One of the winners donated her ride to a Veteran who had never been in a seaplane before, that was a real special moment.

Additionally I would like to thank the Indiana DNR, and State Parks Administration, the staff of Pokagon state park, Manager Ted Bohman long with his assistant Tammy Sawvel who was on duty for the event for their great service to our event, Potawatomi Inn Manager Emily Burris and staff who attended to our needs at the Inn along with meal vouchers for our pilots. Terry Hallet who manages the Angola Airport his Staff for attending to our wheel plane and amphibian aircraft needs and all of the volunteers who assisted with set up teardown and safety, of course we can't forget the 20 Pilots who chose to make the trip, they all made it home safely Sunday afternoon after the event. Our Saturday evening Barbecue and Bonfire at my Runway on the other side of the lake was no less spectacular with the beautiful night with the Local Land Of Lakes Lions Club preparing our evening meal. We had a few land plane visitors come in for the cook out and a couple campers, we dropped one load of skydivers into our grass strip (myself-included) from our seaplane flown by Allison Wheaton. One of the Jumpers Rick Rumble carried the American flag in on his jump. I must not forget to mention and thank the Lake James Association who has been a supporter and sponsor of this event all 16 years running along with the Steuben County Visitors and Tourism Borough for

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their support. This year they again made us 500 toy seaplanes to give out to the crowd. We are grateful for the exposure and stories provided by the Herald Republican and Swick Broadcasting.

New support this came from Wipaire who donated 150 Fun Meters all of our volunteers sported them and every ride winner received a button and I didn't see I single one that was redlined! Thanks to Amy Gesch from Wip for making this happen.

Thanks to the following volunteers who assisted with set up tear down and aircraft safety; Ramp set up crew on Friday: Joe Willig, Zack Willig, John Merz, Mitchel Merz Jake Balyeat, Rick Rumble, Jeff Bell, Mike McBride, a Big Team from Elite Aircraft Service in Coldwater Mi. Ben Walkup, Sean Grunner, Gary Wulp, Emily Crowley, Jacob, Patric Avra, we did a full ramp and safety set up in a record breaking 50 minutes

Sundays on the water crew sharing tips with our visitors by boat on how best to enjoy the day were Todd Gorman, Tim Gorman, Barney Bryant Sporting orange and white checker flags

The biggest Aircraft Parking Safety crew in our history: Ramp Boss Joe Sweeney, Water front Boss Joe Willig, Adrian Willig Jeff Bell, Keith Danford, Larry Lyman, Zack Willig, Jim Parsell, Steve Campbell, Tony Salvaggio, Anna Marshall, Barb, Jessica and Jenn Rutledge, Grace Kendra, Jayden Pomaroy, Brandon Villafuerte, Jim Harris, Steve Cygan, Dennis Deforest, Sam Adams, the Elite Aircraft Service in Coldwater Mi. Most of the folks represented the following organizations, The Lake James association, the Tri State flying Club, and the Steuben county Board Of Aviation Commissioners. A special callout to the Willig Family for the endless things they do to support me and this event.

Registration table and raffle free ticket distribution, as always my folks Dale and Nadine Strebige run this well-oiled operation along with the Rutledge family. You always run the risk of forgetting a name and if I have please accept my apologies your assistance is no less appreciated.

A record number of volunteers this year, to serve a record attendance. WELL DONE and THANKS TO ALL! Without all of you there is just no way this would be possible.

Will be looking forward to next year's event the date is September 21/22 2019

Randy Strebige, President Indiana Seaplane Pilots Association/Indiana Field Director SPA

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