

Indiana Seaplane Pilots Association



*Safety, Education, Advocacy
Open Waters for All*

9-22-19

The 2019 17th Annual, Indiana Seaplane Pilots association Splash-In at the Pokagon State Park was held September 21st and 22nd, 2019. Once again the event would like to report a 100% safety record and a lot of smiles. We made the very best of this year's event as a weather system to our north blocked our participants from Upper Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin and our featured guest for the year was stuck in North Carolina with a fuel pump out, all in all we had 12 Aircraft attend between both days from nearby destinations. On Sunday, which is our big day at the Pokagon State Park where we share our aircraft with the public we enjoyed morning activities then the winds became stronger than we would have liked so we limited flight operations, up to that time we had some fun. First we honored Marcie Hensel for her 94th birthday, her daughter reached out to me and told me she wanted to ride in a seaplane for her birthday, come to find out she had an extensive aviation background with her husband many years ago and told us stories about her friendship with Margret Ringenberg a legendary gal in the aviation world and her friends who were WASPS, when she found out Allison was going to be her pilot she was so happy that she would have a lady pilot for her ride, her gratitude and smiles made the entire day worth it if nothing else happened all day. We also Honored several Veterans with seaplane experiences and was able to share the wonder of seaplane flight with about 30 visitors of all ages who also received "Fun-o-Meters provided by Whipaire. Special thanks to Allison Wheaton, Matt Perry and Ed Shumway for sharing their time and aircraft for the rides, and a special call out to Jay Tuthill in his Caravan who graciously opened up his airplane for tours and pictures, he had a line about 60 people deep for a couple hours and welcomed everyone on board, Jay then flew a demo flight in the Impressive Turbine C208 and Tom Glotfelty followed suit in the afternoon and had a line of visitors until after 2:30 doing the same thing, these two guys were awesome! Seaplanes make people smile regardless if they are flying or not. Our entire event is founded on advocacy and I can say without a doubt that we nailed the goal 100%. 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 our annual event.

Additionally I would like to thank the Indiana DNR, and State Parks Administration, the staff of Pokagon state park, Manager Ted Bohman 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 at KANQ and all of the volunteers who assisted with set up teardown and safety, of course we can't forget the 12 Pilots who chose to make the trip, they all made it home safely Sunday afternoon after the event.

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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 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 17 years running along with the Steuben County Visitors and Tourism Bureau for their support. This year they again in addition to their financial support gave away toy seaplanes to the crowd. We are grateful for the exposure and stories provided by the Herald Republican and Swick Broadcasting.

Thanks to Wipaire who donated 100 Fun Meters, all of our volunteers sported them and every ride winner received a button and I didn't see I single one that wasn't redlined! Thanks to Amy Gesch from Whip for making this happen.

Thanks to the following volunteers who assisted with set up tear down and aircraft safety:

First of all I have to say without Joe Willig I would be at a loss he has been a steadfast, iron clad, non-stop tireless support structure for almost each and every year we have had this splash in.

Ramp set up crew on Friday: Joe Willig, Rick Rumble, Keith Danford, Joe Sweeney, Mike Markle, Brian Kuryvail, Bob Magley, Jim Harris, and from Elite Air Service Bram Miller, Dennis Jones.

Saturday Steve Cygan, Brian Kuryvail, and Larry Lymon each took shifts providing aircraft movement safety at the park grounds

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

The Aircraft Parking Safety crew: Ramp Boss Joe Sweeney, Water front Boss Joe Willig, Adrian Willig Jeff Bell, Larry Lyman, Zack Willig, Jim Parsell, Steve Campbell, Barb Rutledge, Jayden Pomaroy, Steve Cygan, Dennis Deforest, Steve Crawford, Cindy Sigrist, Jake Balyeat Terry Hallet Austin Lucas, Bob Magley. 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

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The tear down crew consisted of Joe Willig, Joe Sweeney, Rick rumple, Austin Lucas, Jim Parcell, Zack Willig, Ben Mulholland, Jayden Pomaroy, and Bob Magley

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

WELL DONE and THANKS TO ALL! Without all of you there is just no way this would be possible.

Thanks to my unsung hero Steve Whitney who hasn't been able to attend for a few years but thanklessly updates the website and is rumored to be improving the web site for next year.

Will be looking forward to next year's event.

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

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