

MIDWEST FLYER

MAGAZINE

APRIL/MAY 2009



Published For & By The Midwest Aviation Community Since 1978

midwestflyer.com



Neil Robinson of Waunakee, Wisconsin in his Citabria.



Good Snow Made For Good Ski-plane Fly-In

Story & Photos by Geoff Sobering

PIONEER AIRPORT, OSHKOSH, WIS. – One of the area's most unique and colorful events, the annual EAA Ski-plane Fly-In, was held January 24, at the EAA AirVenture Museum's Pioneer Airport in Oshkosh, Wis.

The ski-plane fly-in is free of charge to the public. Shuttle services also operate from Basler Flight Service and Orion Flight Service for those who landed on wheels at Wittman Regional Airport.

Holding a ski-plane fly-in can be a tenuous affair. Not only do you need all the normal flying conditions (visibility, winds, etc.), but also enough snow. Conditions at this year's EAA ski-plane fly-in were almost perfect: clear skies, moderate winds with not too large a crosswind component, and nice snow cover. Of course, since it was winter in Wisconsin, there was one

meteorological parameter unaccounted for: temperature. It started out around -2°F in the morning, climbed through zero as most of the planes arrived, and rose to only about $+8^{\circ}\text{F}$ as people were leaving in the early afternoon. Irregardless, it was still a perfect day, and the cold temperatures only made the warm chili and camaraderie inside the hangar that much more enjoyable.

Per tradition, Audrey Poberezny, wife of EAA Founder Paul Poberezny, cut the first slices of her birthday cake and the crowd sang "Happy Birthday" to her. Wandering around outside looking at the planes, nobody seemed to mind the cold much.

Twenty-seven planes and crew braved the frigid temperatures to attend. Amy Gesch, a Minnesota State University-Mankato student,

originally from Waukesha, drove 5 hours just to get in some mid-winter stick-and-rudder time, flying from Capitol Airport (02C) with Todd Ritzman in his Luscombe 8F. Neil Robinson and his son, Jake, had a shorter trip from Waunakee, Wisconsin (6P3). After a bowl of chili and some cake, they headed their Citabria over to the ski-plane fly-in in nearby Wautoma, Wis. that afternoon (www.airventuremuseum.org). □

Classifieds Continued From Page 60

HANGARS FOR RENT at Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport (JVL), Janesville, WI. JVL is an all-weather, full-service airport with three runways, precision and non-precision approaches, conveniently located between Rockford, Illinois, and Madison, Wisconsin. JVL has a restaurant on field and the Glen Erin Golf Club and Cursing Stone Pub, an 18-hole public golf course and restaurant, is located on the airport within walking distance of the main terminal. For hangar rates and availability, call **608-757-5768**.

HANGAR SITES ready to build, available for lease at the Orr (Minnesota) Regional Airport. For rates and additional information contact **Rod Dunn** at **218-757-9994**.