

Greater Kansas City Vintage Fly-in – Hosted by VAA Chapter 16

VAA Chapter 16 held its 5th annual Greater Kansas City Vintage Fly-in at Gardner, KS on June 25th and 26th this year. Airplanes from at least six states attended, including one from Florida, 2 from Arkansas and one from California. As is often the case with Summertime events in the Midwest, what had been mild Spring-like weather turned hot and sweltering just in time for this year's Fly-in. In spite of heat indexes above 100 degrees that greeted arriving pilots, there was a decent turnout with about 75-80 airplanes of all types in attendance. One positive about hot dry air is that you usually don't have to contend with storms, so the weather across the entire Midwest was basically clear and dry.

The Fly-Market did a steady business with items such as instruments, carburetors, propellers, books and tapes, all for sale by individuals. This year's t-Shirts were a big hit with the theme of "Tailwheels, grass runways, just plane fun", and the breakfast, burgers and hot dogs, ice cream, and cold drinks were all in high demand. The knowledgeable and entertaining Bill Hare handled announcing duties and spun a few yarns about some of the history behind popular models of aircraft. We had a number of interesting airplanes in attendance. There were several WWII vintage airplanes brought over by our friends at the CAF-Heart of America Wing, including 2 Stearmans, a PT-19, an Aeronca L-16, A Piper HE-1 Air Ambulance, an L-2 Taylorcraft, and an L-19 Bird Dog. There were a couple of very nice Super Swifts, four Stinsons, a Beech Staggerwing D-17S, belonging to Kevin Pratt, Mark McCasland's immaculate Waco UBF, Tom Seitz's Beautiful Classic Waco, Cam Blazer's 1936 Monocoupe just out of restoration, a Beech 18 and a bunch of Luscombes, shortwing Pipers, Classic Cessnas, etc.

After lunch, we conducted the flying events, with several pilots testing their skills at the bean bag drop, estimated takeoff distance and spot landing contest. As the day wound down, we handed out some awards and relaxed, and as we rolled into evening we all gathered one more time for the awesome Shrimp Boil, which is quickly becoming a tradition among fly-in attendees.

The award winners for the 2010 Fly-in were:

Grand Champion – Bill Bradford's Clipped Wing Luscombe, East Kansas City, Missouri

Sweepstakes/People's Choice – Mark Mc Casland's Waco UBF, Kansas City Missouri

Ladies Choice – CAF Stearman, New Century, KS Flown by Ron Wright

Best Antique – CAF's Stearman, New Century, KS

Best Classic - Cessna 195, Dustin and Stephanie Stephenson of Kingsville, MO

Best Contemporary – Tom Seitz's 1992 Waco Classic, Gardner, KS

Best Vintage Light Sport – Eric Jaderborg's Champ from Crescent City CA

Longest Distance Travelled – Eric Jaderborg, Crescent City, CA (1,800 miles ONE WAY!)

Flying Events

Winner-Bean bag Drop – Steve Zimmerman, Aeronca L-16

Winner Spot Landing Contest – Eric Jaderborg, Crescent City, CA

Winner Estimated Takeoff Contest – Eric Jaderborg, Crescent City, CA

All of us in VAA Chapter 16 would like to thank those who attended our event and helped make it the success that it was. We're glad you came and we welcome you back. We also couldn't have put on such a successful event without the tireless work of all of the members of VAA Chapter 16, and other volunteers who stepped in to lend a hand. This year's travelling trophy, in recognition of commitment above and beyond the call of duty in support of the Chapter went cumulatively to the ladies of the Pratt family, Linda Pratt, McKenzie Pratt, Nancy Winn, and Carol Womack. Many thanks to all who assisted in this year's Fly-in. We couldn't do it without you!

We'll see you next year, same time, same place! Mark your calendar for Gardner, 4th Saturday in June

In the meantime, remember... Tailwheels + Grass Runways = Just Plane Fun!!!