
LOW & SLOW

NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL AVIATION ASSOCIATION

MARCH, 2008

IAAA OPERATION SAFE FLY-IN

The Operation SAFE Fly-In will be held April 23-25, at the Coles County Memorial Airport near Mattoon. Plan to arrive by 3:00 p.m. on April 23 so that we can get the equipment set up and start making some runs. We will start early on the 24th and, hopefully, run all day. The 25th is planned as a backup day to the 24th in case of inclement weather and to finish testing aircraft if we run out of time on the 24th.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Inn Suites, a few miles from the airport. The block is for the nights of April 23 and 24. You should call 217-235-6745 and tell them you are with the Illinois Ag Aviation Association. The release date on the block is April 9. If rooms are no longer available there when you call, try the Hampton Inn at 217-234-4267 or the Fairfield Inn at 217-234-2355. All these motels are close together and we will provide the transportation to and from.

Please make sure your aircraft, hopper, and spray system are very clean. Personnel on the flight line are endangered if you have residue in your aircraft system. Aircraft being tested must be in license and fully insured. Water for testing will be available on site but, if you come with water in your tank, limit it to 100 gallons. If you have a dry-break loader or a 3-inch system, bring whatever fitting you need to connect with a 2 inch female coupler.

The identifier for the Coles County Memorial Airport is MTO and the unicom frequency is 122.7. The ASOS can be heard by dialing 217-234-8442 (obviously before you break ground) and is also available on 109.4, the VOR frequency. Both Jet A and 100LL are offered at a discount price and will be delivered by truck after parking. The approved traffic pattern for both runways is 1500 feet MSL and south of the runways. There is a hospital just north of the airport, and it is to be avoided at all times when flying in.

Dr. Scott Bretthauer, U of I, will be the Operation SAFE analyst and is anxious to make sure every aircraft leaves the Fly-In with the pilot confident he is doing a good job. Bring extra nozzles, tips, drops, etc. so that you can make any changes deemed necessary.

There is no charge for the Fly-In if you are an IAAA member. If not, the charge is \$200 per aircraft. If you would like to join the IAAA, log onto our website at www.agaviation.com and download the membership application.

MULTIPLE SPONSORS AT THIS YEAR'S FLY-IN

Syngenta set the bar with their unparalleled service to the IAAA for the manner in which they sponsored our Fly-In for the last 4 years. It is no reflection on their commitment, but the IAAA membership voted to encourage additional sponsors for this year's Operation SAFE Fly-In. There are two levels of support and we are unsure, at this time, who all will be represented there.

EVERYONE'S BRACING FOR A BUSY YEAR

(Re-run from last season, but still pertinent)

Unless something drastically changes, the month of July is going to be crazy. There are a ton of corn acres booked for fungicide spraying and the application window may be short. Throw some typical Illinois wind in there and it is fairly obvious to see there will be some very long days in the cockpit. Most everyone is finding some help from other states so there are going to be a lot of aircraft in the air at the same time.

The point is that we have a very real scenario for some safety issues, and that is as tactful as I can put it. We've seen some major bug runs in the past, so we know we can cover the ground. Let's do it without running over each other.

Please remember, as a pilot one of only two bad things is inevitable. 1. One day you will walk out to the aircraft knowing that it is your last flight. 2. One day you will walk out to the aircraft *not* knowing that it is your last flight.

SUBMIT TIER II REPORTS BY COMPUTER

The Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) requires the filing of the annual Tier II reports. In 2006, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) started requiring that all reporting facilities submit the information electronically. The deadline is March 31, so time is running out. They are reasonably serious about this report and the fines can be exorbitant.

Access the Tier II Manager link on the IEMA website at www.state.il.us/iema/disaster/serc_tier2.htm/ For a direct connection to Tier II Manager, type in <https://tier2.iema.state.il.us/tier2/>

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD

Each spring, the IAAA Board of Directors meets to address industry and Association issues. This year, IAAA President Rick Reed elected to call a special general membership meeting in lieu of the Board meeting. That meeting was held in a meeting room at the Coles County Memorial Airport on March 4.

If you are an IAAA member, you should have received a copy of the minutes of that meeting. It would have been forwarded to you via your e-mail address. If you did not receive a copy, and wish to, please call 217-234-9439.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

This issue of Low and Slow is going out as hard copy and also as a members' e-mail. In the future, and for the bulk of our communication, we plan to use the e-mail format almost exclusively. It's easier and more cost effective for the Association. However, if you would rather receive hard copy, please call 217-234-9439 or send me a note at 490 Airport Rd, Mattoon, IL 61938. We are happy to oblige.

OBSERVATION OF THE MONTH

"Just because you are unique, doesn't mean you are useful."

IAAA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The 2008 Directory will be out shortly. Thanks for your patience.

CALENDAR

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| April 23-25 | Operation SAFE Fly-In
Coles County Memorial Airport
Mattoon, IL |
| Nov. 5-7 | Mid-States Ag Aviation Conference
Isle of Capri Casino & Resort
Bettendorf, Iowa |
| Dec. 10-13 | NAAA Convention
South Point Casino
Las Vegas, NV |

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