

BLAINE AIRPORT PROMOTION GROUP

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8891 Airport Road C-2, Blaine MN. 55449

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THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR □ AUGUST 14, 2014

The First Air Show in Minnesota

The first powered flight was made at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in December, 1903, by Wilbur and Orville Wright. The public here, however, saw flying only when Glenn H. Curtiss and other aviators visited the Minnesota State fair to display their flying skills. These early exhibitions were immediately popular and through the years flying became increasingly common-place, but the public never lost its fascination with airplanes and the men and women that flew them.

In 1910 an association of the Minnesota State Fair and the Minneapolis Automobile Show Association contracted for the first air show in Minnesota, to be held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

Glenn Curtiss, Charles Willard, J.C. "Bud" Mars, Lincoln Beachey, Barney Oldfield, Ben Kircher and Eugene Ely were the aviators and racers scheduled to be the performers. Dirigibles were also hired to fly along with the airplanes and on the ground, automobile and motorcycles races around the oval track in front of an audience of 12,000.

At 4:00 P.M., Curtiss received huge cheers from the crowd as he took off and reached a height of 50'. Strong gusts of wind forced the plane down at about ½ mile and a hard landing damaged the aircraft. It was repaired and Curtiss returned to the skies around 6:00 P.M. This time however, the high winds caused the aircraft to hit the ground nose first and roll. Curtiss was not injured, but the aircraft was a wreck.



State Fair August 21-Labor Day- September 1, 2014

On Thursday, using a Hudson Flyer with a 50 HP V-8, Curtiss made a spectacular five minute flight, circling the grandstand and flying out to the northwest. When he landed the crowd again cheered wildly.

On Friday, the weather report recorded wind gusts of 24 miles per hour making the takeoff of the Hudson Flyer difficult but resulted in Curtiss performing the show's best flying. The first two flights were four minutes apiece. The third time he flew an incredible ten minutes. Curtiss flew his fourth flight for seven minutes, for a record twenty-five minutes in the air in one day that covered from 25-30 miles.

Glenn Curtiss continued a flying circuit that included major cities on both the east and west coasts and cities in between to promote aviation and his designs. The Wright brothers also traveled extensively bringing their Wright flyer to major cities that included Europe.

Charles Willard was a Harvard graduate and race car driver who was the first aviator that Curtiss trained to fly and became the chief engineer for Glenn Martin and designed flying boats with Glen Curtiss. J.C. Mars was the 11th pilot to be licensed in the United States. Lincoln Beachey became known as "The World's Greatest Aviator" even by his competitors. Eugene Ely was credited for the first shipboard aircraft takeoff and landing. Barney Oldfield was the first man to reach 60 miles an hour on an oval track. Ben Kircher also was a race driver in the same circuit with Barney Oldfield.

The Wings of Freedom Tour Celebrating the 25th Anniversary, with this 2014, 110-city Nationwide Tour



Anoka County-Blaine Airport -Key Air- July 11-13 2014

8th Air Force Historical Society of Minnesota

A 25 year anniversary showcase of the Collings Foundation "Wings of Freedom Tour" arrived at the Anoka County-Blaine airport on July 11-13, 2014. Since 1989, a major focus of the Foundation has been the "Wings of Freedom Tour" of WWII aircraft. This tour provided two fully restored bomber aircraft: a B-24 Liberator and a B-17 Flying Fortress. The newest addition to the tour is a WWII P-51C Mustang dual-control fighter aircraft.

The Foundation's 1944 vintage Consolidated B-24J Liberator is painted as "Witchcraft", an 8th Air Force bomber that flew a record 130 missions over Europe as part of the 467th BG. The B-17G Flying Fortress flies as "Nine-O-Nine", an 8th Air Force, 91st BG heavy bomber. The B-17 was the companion of the B-24 in thousands of wartime, bombing and reconnaissance missions. Together they were the backbone of the daylight strategic bombing campaign of WWII. Joining the bombers is the P-51C escort fighter "Betty Jane". The P-51 was affectionately nicknamed by the bomber crews as their "Little Friends". The P-51 Mustang and the pilots that flew them saved countless lives in the skies and on the ground, and helped turn the tide of WWII. The P-51 is arguably the finest fighter in the history of aviation.

The "Wings of Freedom Tour" has two goals: to honor the sacrifices made by our veterans that allow us to enjoy our freedom; and educate the visitors, especially younger Americans, about our national history and heritage. The Foundation encourages people to tour the planes, talk to veterans who come to visit the aircraft, and participate in a "flight experience". Celebrating 25 years, traveling the nation as a flying tribute to the flight crews who flew them, the ground crews who maintained them, the workers who built them, the soldiers, sailors and airmen they helped to protect; and the citizens and families that share the freedom that they helped to preserve.

Collings Foundation Website: www.collingsfoundation.org

EAA Chapter 237 held a Young Eagles event at Key Air on Sunday July 13, 2014. Robert Heavirland made note of the wonderful weather and great turnout!; Mark and Kirk did a good job getting the word out. 48 Young Eagles got rides and 9 adults plus some of our crew got rides. Key Air was a fantastic host! It was rare to have a B-24, B-17 and P-51 on the same ramp as Young Eagles and pedal planes. We even had some jet traffic come and go.



OPEN HOUSE AND FLY-IN August 9, 2014

Twin Cities Aviation, Anoka County Airport will host seminars, movies, and a great BBQ to enjoy from 10 A.M. and 5 P.M.

TCA is Minnesota's primary Cirrus service and flight training center, located on Airport Road near the airport tower. Enter the airport at gates located on 93rd Lane from Hi-way 65 or Hi-way 10

Contact Paul Perovich 763-780-4375 Email: ppovich@aol.com