



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALASKA AIR SHOW ASSOCIATION TO CELEBRATE ALASKA'S CENTENNIAL OF FLIGHT

Fairbanks, Alaska – June 17, 2013 The Alaska Air Show Association will be commemorating Alaska's Centennial of Flight on Thursday, July 4th in Fairbanks, Alaska.

One hundred years ago, only a few years after the Wright brothers first successful powered flight in North Carolina, Fairbanks merchants arranged for James V. and Lilly Martin to bring their airplane from Seattle for a demonstration flight on July 4, 1913. The Martin's shipped their crated airplane from Seattle to Skagway by ocean steamer, from Skagway to Whitehorse by train, and from Whitehorse to Fairbanks by steamboat.

Once at Fairbanks, Martin and his wife, who was England's first woman licensed aviator, assembled their airplane. On the evening of July 3, Martin took off from Week's ball park and flew the plane over Fairbanks at an altitude of 200 feet and at speeds of up to 45 miles per hour. In all, Martin made five flights in three days at Fairbanks. One hundred years later, we are celebrating Alaska's aviation birthday by commemorating historic flights flown by some of Alaska's most recognized and beloved aviators.

Since May 9th, WWII and other vintage aircraft have been "barnstorming" Alaska. These aircraft include a Japanese Zero three North American T-6 Texans, one from the Heritage Flight Museum in Bellingham Washington, a classic Travel Air 6000, a Cessna 195, and an American Pilgrim to name a few. The Pilgrim might be the only flying aircraft of its kind in the world. Specific aircraft will have visited over 16 Alaskan communities that include Cordova, Valdez, Talkeetna, Homer, Kenai, Iliamna, King Salmon, Dillingham, Bethel, McGrath, Unalakleet, Nome, Kotzebue, Galena and Bettles. The "barnstorming" tour will continue through July 14th.

As part of the tribute to Alaska's aviation centennial, the Air Show Association is partnering with the Alaska Airmen's Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Fairbanks General Aviation Association, Alaska Aerofuel, the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, Fairbanks International Airport and UAF's Community and Technical College (CTC) to host a centennial of flight celebration. The event is scheduled to take place from 11am – 4pm on Fairbanks International Airport's East Ramp at UAF's Aviation Facility, 3504 South University Avenue. Activities include static aircraft displays, a "First Flight" Museum Exhibit, a sponsored picnic and other youth outreach activities.

Warbirds and other vintage aircraft will take off at noon and "parade" across the sky at Pioneer Air Park, the City of North Pole and the community of Ester, opening the day's festivities and picnics at all locations between noon – 1pm. After the flight, get close-up and personal with the aircraft and pilots during a "Meet and Greet" scheduled from 1-3pm at the static aircraft display at the CTC hangar. Drawings for free prizes and complimentary posters will be available for pilot autographs. Don't miss the grand re-creation of the first flight at 3pm when these historic aircraft take to air again, flying a "race-track" pattern at Fairbanks International Airport, honoring the demonstration flights that occurred in 1913.

For more information about the Centennial of Flight Celebration, including a full schedule of events, visit alaskaairshow.org.

About the Alaska Air Show Association

The Alaska Air Show Association goal is to recognize aviation achievement and make available a tangible, mobile museum that educates and inspires aviation enthusiasts and citizens at large of all ages. The core mission of the Air Show Association continues by bringing together the flying community and the civilian community. More information about the Alaska Air Show is available at www.alaskaairshow.org.

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Everyone is welcome!
Admission is FREE!



The Alaska Air Show Association presents

Alaska Aviation Centennial Celebration

Thursday, July 4th • Noon - 4pm

UAF Aviation Program

Career and Technology Center (UAF/CTC)

East Ramp, Fairbanks International Airport, 3504 South University Avenue

Join the Air Show Association, the Alaska Airmen's Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the Fairbanks General Aviation Association, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Pioneer Park and the community of Fairbanks for a celebration of Alaska's Centennial of Flight. Static aircraft displays, "First Flight" Museum Exhibit and Youth Outreach Activities. Enjoy turn of the century fare of hotdogs, popcorn and ice cream! Vintage aircraft rides available! Visit the Alaska Air Show Association website for details.

Noon - 1pm

Watch warbirds and vintage aircraft as they "parade" across the sky at Pioneer Park, the City of North Pole and the community of Ester, opening the day's festivities and picnics at all locations. Visit the Pioneer Air Museum located at Pioneer Park.

1pm - 3pm

Get close-up and personal with the aircraft and pilots during a "Meet and greet" at the static aircraft display. Drawings for free prizes and complimentary posters will be available for pilot autographs.

3:00pm

Watch as these historic aircraft take to air again, flying a "race-track" pattern at Fairbanks International Airport, honoring the demonstration flights that occurred in 1913.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



www.alaskaairshow.org