

## Big Bird Fly-In; June 24-26, 2016

This year's fly-in brought together a diverse set of big model airplanes that together provided enough eye candy to make us all proud. Our event attracted 23 pilots four of which were from out of town, 3 flying Marvel Comics Superheroes, 3 meticulous Jets, a plethora of military birds and 2 one-third scale giants.

### THE JETS



Cliff Sands, Paul Eagon from Vancouver and Bruce Tharpe all flew their jets with grace and style and just a bit of adrenaline mixed in.





**THE SUPERHEROS**

John Parks (Batman), Calvin Emigh (Superman) and Cliff Sands (Skeletor) proved that Agate Skyways is a secret superhero lair. These figures are hand launched and fly surprisingly well and are here being tuned up for a wild air-show act in late August.







***THE WARBIRDS***

Dale McCuistion and Ron Dilday must have a Mustang franchise! Together they brought 3 giant Mustangs and flew the wheels off of one of them. Rick Lindsey joined in with a Balsa USA 1/4 scale Nieuport 17 powered by a Saito 170 triple.

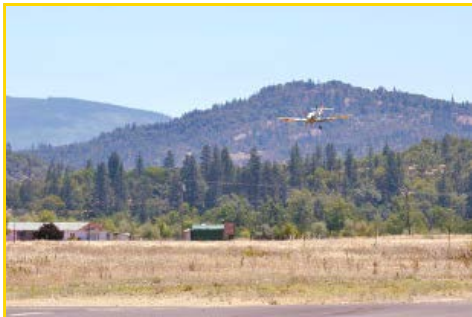




***THE RETRACT PROBLEMS***

The bane of most every warbird flyer is retracts that "let you down". There are so many things that can go wrong with landing gear that retracts into a wing that too often one of them seems to happen. The Dilday-McCuiston franchise suffered a collapsed wheel strut as did Rick Lindsey's 1/4 Spitfire. The results are predictable.





### THE CALM PILOT

Jay Strickland made a rare appearance and proceeded to calmly demonstrate the proper landing technique for a Super-Tiger engine. That is to say, a dead stick landing. All turned out well.



### THE REALLY BIG PLANES

Martin Sherman and Cliff Sands are both well known for having the baddest big planes around. Martin was flying a majestic 1/3 scale Fly-Baby Biplane powered by a Laser V-Twin 3.6 inch four stroke and Cliff was flying his Le Savage One that is a monster Biplane as well. Both always make it look easy.







***THE UNSUNG HEROS***

Gary Neal was CD for this event and deserves a shout out for how smooth everything was handled. To put on an event of this nature requires a lot of work before the first tent is pitched. Then managing the actual event itself... a BIG Thank-You!!!

Thanks also to Pat Dunlap and Rich Hume for taking some pretty darn good pictures!

Updated: Sunday, July 31, 2016