

FLY-BYES: 3-time champ to retire after air show

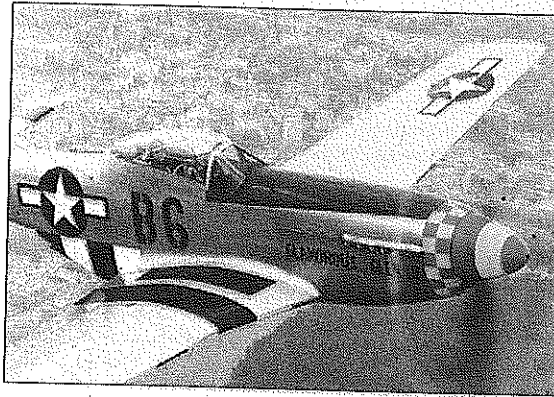
■ 2nd annual Winston-Salem Air Classic and Fly-In is set for Smith Reynolds Airport

By Kim Underwood
JOURNAL REPORTER

A three-time U.S. national aerobatic champion and a former Miss Winston-Salem are among those scheduled to perform as part of an air show being held this weekend at Smith Reynolds Airport.

The Winston-Salem Air Classic and Fly-In will be the last time that people can see Clint McHenry, a three-time U.S. national aerobatic champion, perform in his Russian Sukhoi SU-26M, a plane designed for aerobatic competition. He has said he plans to retire after the shows on Saturday and Sunday.

Connie Bolin, a former Miss Winston-Salem who grew up in Kernersville, is now a captain for Delta Airlines. She and her husband, Ed, also will participate in the show, as will pilots such as



WAR BIRD: Gary Honbarrier of Advance will fly Glamorous Glen III at the air show.

Gary Honbarrier of Advance, who will be flying his P-51 Mustang, Glamorous Glen III.

Lindsey Hess of Salisbury is scheduled to fly his plane upside down and use its propeller to cut through a ribbon suspended above the

runway. "It's real impressive," said one of the co-chairmen of the event, Robert H. Wells, the executive vice president for Piedmont Aviation Services.

The second annual air show is sponsored by the Airport Authority of Forsyth County as a way to promote Smith Reynolds Airport and aviation. This year's show features vintage planes from World War II, also called War Birds.

"We're trying to focus on the fact that this is the 50th anniversary of D-Day," said F.A. "Pat" Hatch III, the other co-chairman and director of aviation for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

Organizers expect at least 20 of the War Birds to be on hand, including P-51 Mustangs, a TBM Avenger torpedo bomber (the kind of plane that former President Bush flew), B-25s and B-17s. World II-era trainers such as the T-28, T-37 and T-45 also will be there, and members of the Experimental Aircraft Association and owners of other planes will be flying in.

Many of the planes will be available on

See AIR SHOW, Page 22

AIR SHOW

Continued From Page 21

the ground for inspection, and owners will be available to discuss their planes' histories. Other attractions on the ground include a simulator — similar to those NAS-CAR simulators — that will show a Navy fighter landing on the deck of an aircraft carrier.

Back up in the air, spectators can expect to see such things as "dueling Chipmunks," an acrobatic show of two forward-spotting planes from World War II, and formation acrobatics. "That's always spectacular to see," Hatch said.

An N.C. Air National Guard C-130 cargo plan will demonstrate aerial fire-fighting tech-

niques by dropping 40,000 pounds of water on the runway. The air show will open with members of a parachute team jumping at 5,000 feet and performing with streamers or smoke before deploying an American flag as planes participating in the air show circle it.

Depending on the schedules of various military planes, spectators may also see low passes by such planes as the U.S. Air Force F-117A Blackhawk, also known as the Stealth fighter.

Those who hanker for a trip into the wild blue yonder after seeing all the action in the air will be able to take a short ride in a helicopter for \$15.

Last year's air show, which was held in late October, was plagued by lousy weather. This year, Wells and Hatch said, they are hoping for substantially better weather and attendance.

The show includes many of last year's attractions plus several others. "We learned a lot from last year," Wells said. "I think we're going to have a great show."

■ *The Winston-Salem Air Classic and Fly-In will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The air shows will be from about 1 to 3 p.m. each day. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Senior citizens with a coupon will receive \$1 off, and children younger than 6 will be admitted free. There is an additional charge for the simulator, and concessions, such as hot dogs, hamburgers and soft pretzels, will be sold.*

Parking at the airport is limited. Parking also will be available at several nearby lots including USAir and Piedmont Aviation lots on North Liberty Street and lots on Fairchild Road and Akron Drive.