

FLYING STUNTS: GREAT WAY TO END SUMMER

All Eyes to the Sky



JOURNAL PHOTOS BY LAUREN CARROLL

The crowd at Smith Reynolds Airport watches pilots Dan McClung and Buck Roetman of Red Eagle Air Sports fly toward each other.

Large crowd turns out for Winston-Salem Air Show

By Fran Daniel
JOURNAL REPORTER

Michael McCammant is just 9 years old, but he's already an airplane enthusiast.

He got his fill of planes yesterday at the Winston-Salem Air Show at Smith Reynolds Airport.

"I like the stunts," Michael, of Kernersville, said, as he sat with his parents, Mike and Jennifer, and older brother, Adam.

His favorite maneuver is the barrel roll. That's when planes spiral in the air.



View a photo gallery from this weekend's air show at www.journalnow.com/photo-galleries.

Michael's father started taking family members to the local air show 10 years ago.

"Both of my boys like airplanes and this is a (chance) for us to spend some time together out in the sun and enjoy the end of summer," Mike McCammant said.

The annual Winston-Salem Air Show is a nonprofit event sponsored by the Airport Commission of Forsyth County.

Steve Flippin, the air show's director, said the exact numbers for the two-day show which ended yesterday, won't be available for about a week. But he believed that despite rain on Saturday, the 2010 air show surpassed last year's attendance of about 26,000.

"We had an outstanding show," Flippin said. "It was fantastic. We had great crowds. The

parking lots, I think, went well. Our gates seemed to go well. Everyone enjoyed the activities on the ground and the performers seemed to have a great time and did a good job."

Traffic at the air show was heavy as usual, however, there didn't seem to be any major problems, organizers said.

"I have not had any really bad reports," Flippin said.

Richard Geiger, the president of Visit Winston-Salem, said the air show is "a great event for the community and the region."

He estimated the economic impact from the show would be about \$3 million.

"I think a lot of it's going to be spent in restaurants, bars, people coming and getting gas, admission tickets to get into the event, and dollars that are spent there while they're at the event," Geiger said.

Based on past events, Visit Winston-Salem expected that overnight guests who attended the air show would use about 200 hotel rooms.

This year's show included the Geico Skytypers, a variety of stage entertainment, wing walkers and a jet-powered tractor-trailer truck.

The Tora! Tora! Tora! Bomb Squad made its first appearance this year at the show. The squad of pilots, ground crew, maintenance and pyrotechnic experts performs at air shows across the country, producing walls of fire.

They helped end this year's Winston-Salem Air Show with smoke, fire and explosions on the ground.

Ken Singletary of Winston-Salem had never seen a wall of fire.

"It was exciting," he said. "Next time, I'll bring my grandson with me. I'm sure he'll love it."

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Pilots McClung and Roetman fly a large loop while maintaining their distance. Michael McCammant (below) looks straight up to find planes.





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PHOTOS BY H. SCOTT HOFFMANN/News & Record

Pilots from the Red Eagle Air Sports team pass each other Saturday as the Winston-Salem Air Show marks its 99th year, making it the world's longest continuous air show.

