

SHAWANO FLY-IN AND CAR SHOW

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A NEW MEDIA, INC. SPECIAL SECTION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023



The annual Fly-In and Classic Car Show will return Aug. 19 at the Shawano City-County Airport, 248 Airport Road, with events slated from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Entry and parking are free.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Fly-in, car show returns to airport

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The annual Fly-In and Classic Car Show will return to the Shawano City-County Airport, 248 Airport Road, with events slated from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 19.

Organizers expect the 2023 event to be bigger and better than last year. Attendees can expect to see classics and antiques, warbirds, skydivers, helicopters and modern aircraft.

Free EAA Young Eagles flights for those 8-17 will be available.

Entry and parking are free, and all are welcome to attend.

Registration for the car show will be from 9 a.m. to noon, with awards distributed at 1 p.m.

Classes for the car show are 1959 and older, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990 to the present, and best of show. There will be one trophy for best of show, while the other classes will all have trophies for first and second places.

All show cars should enter at the north gate.

In case of inclement weather, the event will be held Aug. 20. Check the website <https://shawanoairport.com> for updates.

For more information, contact Doug Engel, airport commission secretary, at 312-925-2337 or email info@shawanoairport.com.



Two children get a closer look at the cockpit of an airplane, as they look to learn more about the aircraft during the 2022 fly-in at the Shawano City-County Airport.

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Saturday, August 19 • 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Airport Grounds 248 Airport Rd., Shawano

Rain Date Sunday, August 20

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 9:00 -2:00 | Antiques • Classics • Warbirds |
| 9:00 -2:00 | Car Show & Equipment Displays |
| 9:00 -2:00 | Learn to Fly - Intro Discovery Flights,
with Pilotsmith, Inc. (Fee Required) |
| 10:00 -1:00 | EAA Young Eagles Flights (age 8-17) |

For more information and pre-registration for Intro-Discovery Flights
and EAA Young Eagles Flights, see our website: www.shawanoairport.com

Free rides during the fly-in



A helicopter begins its descent to the Shawano City-County Airport after taking children on a ride around the city during the Shawano Airport Fly-in last year. At this year's event, set for Aug. 19, free EAA Young Eagles flights for those 8-17 will be available.

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Planes line the runways during Shawano Airport fly-in



Clouds shroud the sky as airplanes are parked on the runway of the Shawano City-County Airport during last year’s fly-in event. Organizers expect the 2023 event to be bigger and better than last year. Attendees can expect to see classics and antiques, warbirds, skydivers, helicopters and modern aircraft.

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Airport terminal honors World War II veteran

It's been almost four years since the terminal building at the Shawano City-County Airport was dedicated to Shawano native and World War II hero Sgt. Wilmer Zeuske, a member of the United States Army Air Corps, the Flying Tigers and the First American Volunteer Group (AVG).

The terminal was dedicated in Zeuske's honor Oct. 15, 2019.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zeuske, the 21-year-old was a gunner on board a B-25C Mitchell, a medium bomber, when it was hit somewhere over Burma on June 3, 1942, with an eventual destination of Kunming, China, the headquarters of the American Volunteer Group (AVG). While the rest of the crew survived, Zeuske was killed by Japanese Zeros who gave chase following the bombing run.

Zeuske was the first Shawano area aviator to die in World War II. The B25Cs were to be the first light bombers sent in support of the Chinese.

Zeuske joined the United States Army Air Corps prior to the outbreak of the war and was stationed for several months at McChord Field in the state of Washington, where he was trained to be a radio technician, gunner and bombardier.

Zeuske and his bombing group of six B25Cs would become part of what was called the First American Volunteer Group (AVG), a part of which was later nicknamed the Flying Tigers. They were essentially on loan to the Chinese prior to the beginning of, and in the early part of the war, to defend that country from the Imperial Japanese Empire.

The initial AVG was comprised

entirely of volunteers and first began assisting the Chinese in 1940. With additional aid from the Army Air Corps (including Zeuske's bombing group) and following Pearl Harbor, the AVG engaged the Japanese only weeks later, and many of the pilots in the Flying Tigers were part of Doolittle's Raiders who bombed Tokyo in April 1942.

The tragedy of the the bombing group did not end with Zeuske. Of the initial six B25Cs sent to Kunming, only two made it. Three of the six were lost in bad weather only to crash in the mountains, the fourth to eventually crash after running out of fuel.

Zeuske was not the only one from Shawano to become a member of the AVG; Fritz Wolf joined the AVG at its beginning, was a Flying Tiger and eventually a war ace in a P-40 Warhawk. Wolf was on hand in Kunming awaiting the arrival of his friend from Shawano only to discover him dead on arrival in the bottom gun turret.

The Flying Tigers were active from April 1941 to July 4, 1942.

To commemorate the service done for the country, especially in the air, the Shawano City-County Airport has taken the name Wilmer Zeuske Field.

The airport was founded in 1940 and chartered in April of that year, holding its initial open house July 6-7, 1940, attended by an estimated 5,000 people. Wilmer H. Zeuske Field was added to the name in 1954. Over the years, the field has grown from what was once an 80-acre plot of land into an airport of more than 340 acres.

Zeuske Field is unique as it is a seaplane landing area because of the location of the airport on Shawano Lake.



Visitors surround an airplane as they stop to look, touch and learn more about the aircraft during the 2022 fly-in at the Shawano City-County Airport. This year's event will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 19.

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