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Breaking News Council Bluffs Express moving to Lincoln

Fly Iowa air show to showcase World War II, aerobatic aircraft

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Posted: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 12:00 am |
Updated: 5:59 pm, Tue Sep 11, 2012.

By Mike Brownlee
mbrownlee@nonpareilonline.com | 0 comments

ATLANTIC – World War II aircraft will descend upon Atlantic on Saturday.

The annual Fly Iowa air show will be in the Cass County city this year, with about 50 pilots flying a variety of vintage and modern airplanes.

"We should have a great time," said Garry Pellett, a local pilot and chairman of the Atlantic Fly Iowa committee. "It should be an outstanding air show."

Since 1991, the Iowa Aviation Promotion Group – a nonprofit dedicated to growing aviation in the state – has hosted Fly Iowa, with the first event in Iowa City. The air show's come to southwest Iowa one other time – to Clarinda in 2005, according to Fly Iowa's Chuck McDonald.

The Atlantic event will feature a number of P-51 Mustangs and an A26 bomber, both aircraft that flew during the Second World War. The featured performer is aerobatic pilot Greg Koontz of Arkansas, who'll entertain the crowd with a pair of spin and loop-dee-loop trips through the air. Another aerobatic pilot, Rob Ator of Minnesota, will fly as part of the show.

The Fly Iowa event is free and open to the public, including any pilots interested in flying in.

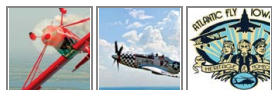
"We like to excite the public about aviation," McDonald said. "The best way is to bring them out to an airport and see what's going on."

Pellett and others discussed hosting the annual event



Submitted photo

Greg Koontz flies a Super Decathlon aerobatic airplane. Koontz, a professional pilot from Arkansas, will perform at the Atlantic Fly Iowa event on Saturday.



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during the summer of 2011 and have been preparing for the show for a year. Organizers expect anywhere from 3,000-5,000 to attend.

"This is a showcase for not only Atlantic but southwest Iowa," Pellett said. "It's an honor to have the opportunity to bring this to the community. We haven't had this large of air show in Atlantic before."

Along with the flying, local pilots, mechanics, airport managers, flight attendants and others have submitted biographies and photos of their aviation history that will be displayed at the airport terminal building. The theme for Atlantic Fly Iowa is "Heritage and Homecoming."

"We have a large number of pilots who've taken lessons here in Atlantic and moved on to careers in aviation," Pellett said. "And others who've gone on to different careers in aviation. We want them to share their stories."

The Fly Iowa show will start with a fly-in breakfast at 8 a.m. The static exhibits will be on display at that time

as well, while the air show runs from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

For more information, go to atlanticiowa.com.

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Posted in News, Council bluffs on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 12:00 am. Updated: 5:59 pm.

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