Iowa City Air Show Offers Thrills, Information About Flying

By Steffi Lee, KCRG-TV9

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Oskaloosa native Erik Edgren says flying is his heaven.

"I gotta say, I felt closer to God there than I ever have in a church," Edgren said.

He’s a farmer by trade, but on Saturday, he was one of several air show performers at Fly Iowa 2014. Fly Iowa is an annual event throughout the state.

"It showcases a different airport every year and it showcases the great things going on in aviation," Edgren said. Fly Iowa pilots perform aerobatics with their aircraft, which is flying for entertainment. It’s nothing like a regular airplane flight.

There’s spinning, twirling, and flipping — all in the clouds.

Edgren says there’s nothing like loopsing his plane in the blue skies over the state. To him, the thrill means beauty and freedom. It’s been his hobby for decades, just like Darrel Massman. Massman came back to his home state of Iowa all the way from Wisconsin to be in the show. He’s originally from Decorah.

Massman says, "It’s a rush I never get tired of."

For these pilots, Fly Iowa keeps their passion for planes alive.

"I have no regrets. There’s two types of flying — there’s air show flying and there’s competition flying. I’ve done a lot of competition flying and I enjoy it all," he said.
And that love for aerobatics is what took over the skies of Eastern Iowa for the airshow.