

## New Hampshire catches “Warbird Fever”

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New Hampshire’s first-ever Warbird meet is now a reality. Spearheaded by Don Sage, Event Coordinator, this new event took place on September 26, 2009 at McAlister Field in West Deering, NH. Fifteen registered pilots brought 32 aircraft from both WWI and WWII (see photo 1); everything from mono wing planes, biplanes, and triplanes from WWI, and lots of heavy metal from WWII including the most popular such as P-51s and P-47s, plus a host of others.



One treat was the OV-10 Bronco flown by pilot Kurt Forauer from Hartland, VT who put on a really nice show with scale maneuvers. The pilot who spent the most “time in the air” was Matt Lupri from Boston who put in 5 fantastic flights with his 1/5 scale Hanger 9 P-51 and FW 190 Folke Wulf.

Photo 1. View of the many warbirds at the meet

One of the objectives of the Warbird event was to honor those who have served in our armed forces. In an effort to do so we asked all the veterans in attendance to pose for a photo with all the airplanes. (see photo 2).



Photo 2. Honored veterans and pilots pose with a flock of warbirds.

Honoring our military men and women was further accomplished by a surprise flyover of the Collings Foundation P-51B flown by Frank Morrell, who made a high speed pass right over the runway at low altitude. What a sight – be still my heart !! We were awe-struck having such a close encounter with this beautifully restored warbird. Frank was presented with an award by Don Sage and Ross Power for his absolutely heart-stopping fly-by. (see photo 3)



Photo 3. L-R: Ross Power; Frank Morrell, P-51 pilot; Don Sage; Don's friends.

This event could not have taken place were it not for a lot of hard work and dedication by the Warbird Fever Staff:

- Don Sage – Event Coordinator
- Jon Auger – Co Event Coordinator
- Ross Power – Co Event Coordinator and Security
- Dick Smith – Safety Coordinator
- Kevin Perry – Registration and Impound
- Harry Newman – Co CD
- Doug Titilah – Warbird Fever Webmaster

We also owe a debt of gratitude to our announcer, Scott Westover, who made each flight come alive with his picturesque commentaries. Feedback from the pilots was very positive: they liked the site and the overall organization, and many said they would come back next year. We also want to express our heart-felt thanks and gratitude to Chester McAlister, who sponsored us and allowed the use his farmland for this event. He and his family watched from across the road and said they enjoyed every minute of it.

Submitted by Joe Marrone, CD