



AIR SHOW REPORTS

TANNKOSH 2008



Europe's largest general aviation fly-in is now well established at the small south German town of Tannheim, a grass airfield where Matthias and Verena Dolderer operate a flight training and aerobatic training school. Each July under Verena's enigmatic leadership, their Tannheim base becomes the focus of private pilots from most of the European continent so Geoff Jones took a trip and sampled the delights.

WITH another big aviation event taking place at a similar time, namely Oshkosh, the name Tannkosh was coined several years ago and has stuck. This year's event, held on July 18-20, was not the biggest in terms of attendance but with an estimated 1,200 aircraft visiting it was a real master-class in organisation, parking and aeronautical interest. First held in 1993, Tannkosh has always been pilots' event – although the local public are encouraged to attend and visibly favour the fascinating sights and sounds of an eclectic mix of every conceivable kind of general aviation

aircraft, plus some larger military types as well.

Cirrus and Cessna both had trade stands and ultralight manufacturers such as Dornier, Remos and Zlin/Savage had large displays. The informal atmosphere enables flight demos to proceed with relative ease. Every hour there is a 15 min 'display' of some type, mainly aerobatic, but a chance for some of the high-end visitors to perform. Major sponsorship by Red Bull means some of their Corsair (OE-EAS) and Stearman. *Luftwaffe* and German Navy participation



Above: Dieter Gehling's wonderful PZL-106 Kruk (Raven) D-FOAB in its original Interflug colours. The airline of the former German Democratic Republic operated 54 Kruks. (Photos, Geoff Jones)

Below: Two examples of the three-place, Oberlerchner JOB-15 flew to Tannkosh. An Austrian design from 1961, this example (D-EKCI) is a JOB-15-180/2, one of three fitted with a larger 180hp Lycoming O-360 instead of the 150hp engine used in the other 19 examples built.

is popular with several helicopters and as last year, a Transall freighter dropped in.

With visitors from Norway, Denmark, Romania, the Isle of Man, Italy and most other European countries, the fact that Tannkosh is at the heart of Europe encourages the international variety. It is also a chance for some rarer vintage and classic types to appear, the highlight this year being two Fairchild 24Ws, one 'Yellow Fever' (NC19109) and the other recently restored by Hienz Dachsel (D-ELDL) which only flew again after 35 years on May 20, 2008. Two Bf 108s plus a Bücker Bestman flew in with a Klemm 35D (D-ECIC) and an Fw 44 Stieglitz (D-EMIL). Several Stearman biplanes joined a Beech 18 from Denmark (N21FS) and many weird and lesser-known types from the 1950s and 60s. Two Austrian-built Oberlerchner JOB-15's (both based in Germany), a French-based Beagle

A.61/2 (F-AZTJ/ WE591), three ex-Swissair (for pilot training) SIAT 223 Flamingos, a DH.82 Tiger Moth, a Yak-3 and, most unusual, an ex-Interflug (former East German airline) PZL-106 Kruk crop-duster (DDR-TAB). This is now D-FOAB with Dieter Gehling from near Magdeburg and for €60 you could buy a 15 min flight, the chemical hopper in front of the pilot now being converted to a cockpit, as is the space behind the main cockpit, now with a rearward-facing seat. The Italian Pioneer Aerobatic Team (using four Alpi Aviation Pioneer 300s) was part of the aerial activity throughout the three days of the event, Look out for 2009's Tannkosh details on the website: www.tannkosh.com



Above: Hienz Dachsel's Fairchild 24W-41A D-ELDL was originally built in 1941. He has owned it since 1978, but only recently restored it to flying condition.



Left: Classic German aircraft were in abundance, epitomised by this beautiful Klemm 35D-160 (D-ECIC, c/n 2013), ex-SE-BHU, and operated as part of the German Historic Flight.

Right: Morava LET L-200D OK-NXX was the only example of this Czech twin at Tannkosh (ex SP-NXX and HA-LDA).



Below: A view on finals to Tannheim's runway 26 at midday on Saturday, approximately 1,200 aircraft on the airfield and parked across in nearby fields.

