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Enjoy Eastern Iowa from Above During Freedom Fest Event

By Nadia Crow, Reporter



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Story Created: Jul 1, 2012 at 11:08 PM CDT
(Story Updated: Jul 1, 2012 at 11:08 PM CDT)



MARION, Iowa - More than 100 planes and 2,000 people celebrated Freedom Fest at the Marion Airport's annual Fly-in Drive in Breakfast on Sunday. They climbed inside planes and helicopter to get a bird's eye view up, up, and away.

"I like airplanes. They're very interesting. And I like going fast," said 11-year-old Eve Nettesheim.

"It's a great day, everybody has fun," said Marion Airport Co-Owner Jan Walton.

It's the allure of the roaring engines, the speed of the blades, and the effortless gliding in the clouds.

"It's in your blood and everybody likes it," said Walton.

Whether you're a pilot...

"I like flying helicopters the best," said Walton.

Or you're a novice passenger...

"This is the first time we've taken a plan ride so my granddaughter is with me for the first time so it's kind of a special time for us," said Brown.

"I was kind of nervous but after I looked out the window, it looks really awesome," said Nettesheim.

That's why so many didn't mind waiting to see Eastern Iowa from above.

"We flew over Marion seeing the football field and Lindale Mall. It was a lot of fun," said Brown.

The fly-in is a fun, family-oriented Sunday.

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"It's all about being with family and getting together and enjoying the time together," said Brown.

And from Walton it's about educating the public, too.

"Expose them to aviation to the airport so everybody knows the Marion Airport is here. It's nice and it's safe," said Walton.

The day gave people the chance to create dreams or cross off one more item on a wish list. On the ground, people got a chance to get in the medevac helicopter from the U-I-H-C and tour antique planes as well. The fly-in is mostly supported by volunteers.

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