January 25, 2018

Registration is open
B2OSH XXIX Flight Leader
Formation Safety Officer

Registration for Bonanzas to Oshkosh XXIX is open.
We increased registration fees, to provide more bus service at Rockford, and to ensure B2OSH continues well into the future. Details are available on this website’s pages. Here’s a ‘rough draft’ of the schedule:

Friday, July 20 – Hangar Party at Emery Air RFD
Saturday, July 21 – B2OSH XXIX Formation Arrival – Unofficial Opening of AirVenture 2018!
  Upon arrival in North 40 – Margarita and Pizza Party, courtesy of O’Halloran Aviation
Sunday, July 22 – B2OSH Raffle and Party
Monday, July 23 – Official Opening of AirVenture (a formality – the real opening was our arrival)
Tuesday, July 24 – ABS Barbecue at Brighton Acres (not a B2OSH event, but ‘must-do’)

We will post details for regional practice sessions as hosts confirm dates and arrangements. First up is the Phoenix, AZ Clinic, hosted by Richard Schmidt, Bill Woods, and George Zuckauckas. Also posted are practice sessions in Kansas City, North Carolina, and Washington state. We expect to add California, New England, Texas, and Colorado soon. We hope to have an event in Florida.

We will post Rockford hotel arrangements as they are confirmed, also.

B2OSH XXIX Flight Leader.
Rob Mortara will lead us this year. Rob is either Capo Bastone (Underboss) of the Sopranos Flying Team or Capo Crimine (Don or Godfather), depending on whether you ask Capo Mortara or Capo Mark. There is no truth to the rumor Capo Mortara made B2OSH an offer we couldn’t refuse. We offered Rob leadership of this year’s flight before it came to that. It’s gonna be a fun year!

Formation Safety Officer
Please welcome Craig Wilcox as our official Formation Safety Officer. Craig earned the honor of leading our flight last year, and eagerly accepted our request that he also conduct the main flight briefing in Rockford. Craig is a former Air Force F-15 fighter pilot and currently flies 737s for Southwest. In the GA world, Craig founded the Beech Nutz formation flying group in the Kansas City area. Craig is one of 4 FFI check airmen with authority to approve Bonanza pilots for FAA airshow formation certification.

B2OSH is a social endeavor, with emphasis on families. But, it is not possible without effective practice sessions leading to safe flights. Without John Wiebener (Lt. Col, USAF – A-10, F-16) establishing this role and performing it for 17 years, Bonanzas to Oshkosh could not have grown larger than about 40 airplanes, in a gaggle. Wayne Mudge (Col., USAF, - everything they fly) took over the role and continued our progress toward being a disciplined formation, and expanded it to include emergency procedures.

We are truly blessed to have Weebs, Smudge, and now Craig “2B” Wilcox in this role. Craig is working with our clinic hosts to standardize our training, while respecting hosts’ authority over their events and recognizing differences in local training environments. More about this later …

Have fun, fly safely, register EARLY!
Larry