



2008 SUN 'N FUN PHOTO ROUNDUP

BY JIM BUSH

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JIM BUSHA PHOTOS



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The annual warbird migration to central Florida, known as Sun 'n Fun, is a time for many of us to escape the long cold days of winter. Unfortunately, Mother Nature held many of the northern based warbirds hostage as vicious storms ravaged that part of the country, preventing many of our members from making the trek down to sunny Florida. Those that did make it were treated to storm clouds that covered much of Florida the day before the official opening of the convention, as rain fell over the grounds as if it were poured from a fire hose. When the clouds finally parted, the sunlight revealed that the once dry grounds had quickly turned into a muddy quagmire. With hard surface parking at a premium, the tireless volunteers had no other option than to commingle liaisons, trainers, fighters, bombers, and jets like one big happy family on the

concrete ramps, taxiways, and inactive runway.

Although the rain had dampened the convention grounds, spirits remained quite high throughout the warbirds area as old friends and acquaintances shook hands and embraced one another as they enjoyed the beginning of another flying season together.

A total of 216 warbirds were registered and on display during the week, with a dozen of them making the short flight up to Leeward Air Ranch Airport. For those lucky enough to attend this annual event, all were treated with wonderful hospitality and fine food by Jimmy Leeward, along with an impromptu aerial display of rat racing that was performed by three P-51 Mustangs and a Hawker Sea Fury. Sun 'n Fun 2008 had it all: rain, mud, sunshine, warbirds, and a great group of volunteers! Make plans to attend next year's event April 21-26, 2009.



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DICK PHILLIPS
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GREGORY S. MOREHEAD



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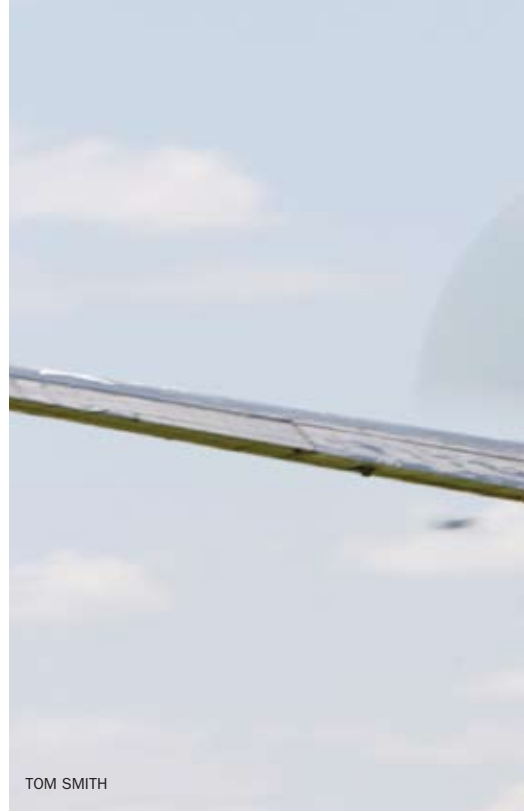




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