

Pylons and pits,  
big iron warbirds were everywhere



# RENO

**Bill Rheinschild fires up Race 117, *Bad Attitude*, for the Unlimited Gold race. Rheinschild flew the *Sea Fury* to a 403.5-mph sixth-place finish.**



N. VERONICO



N. VERONICO

Terry Tarditi turns wrenches on one of *Strega's* broken Merlins early during race week. The *Strega* team brought two racing engines with bearings from the same lot. Unfortunately, both sets of bearings were bad, preventing *Strega* from competing.

Racing at speeds rivaling the piston-powered Unlimiteds, the Jet Class is attracting a huge fan base. Sal Rubino's Race 104 sits in front of the home pylon after the races. Rubino flew his L-39 Albatross to a second-place finish at 447.9 mph in the Jet Gold.



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Although it didn't race, this OV-10B from the Cactus Air Force of Carson City, Nevada, was certainly one of the most unusual warbirds on the ramp. The aircraft sat in the pits most days, but made an evening flight and some impressive flybys on Saturday.



JIM DUNN

*Rare Bear* returns to the pits after finishing first in Heat 3A on September 17 at a speed of 461.6 mph. John Penney won the Unlimited Gold race on Sunday at a speed of 466.3 mph. Brian Sanders, flying *Dreadnought*, placed second in the Gold race.



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Dave Morss was at the controls of Gerry Gabe's P-51A, *Polar Bear*, Race 25. Morss placed second in the Bronze race at an average speed of 334.4 mph. This aircraft will be the subject of a future feature story in *EAA Warbirds*.



JIM DUNN

John Penney lifts off in *Rare Bear* for a test flight on Saturday. The aircraft was in top shape for Sunday's Breitling-sponsored Unlimited Gold race.



N. VERONICO



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**Danny Sommers' A1-E (AD-5) was on display in the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trophy competition. The aircraft won the People's Choice Award.**



JIM DUNN

**Race 1, *Big Bossman*, flown by Mike Brown, passes between pylon 8 and the home pylon during the six-lap Unlimited Silver race. The twin-R-2800-powered Navy fighter flew the race at an average speed of 371.7 mph. Brown also had his *Sea Fury*, Race 911, *September Pops*, in the Unlimited Gold competition, flown by Dan Vance. The aircraft posted a seventh-place finish at 400.1 mph.**