

Aerobatics Contests

50th National Stearman Fly-In

Gen-Air Park, Geneseo, IL, Thursday, **September 9**, 2021 Pilot Briefing: 1:30pm Gen-Air Park Pilot Lounge (Geneseo, IL) Contest Start: 2:00pm

Welcome to the 50th National Stearman Fly-In Aerobatic Contests! We have been graciously invited back to Gen-Air Park in Geneseo for a fun filled afternoon of aerobatics!

The contest briefing will be in the pilots lounge at 1:30pm. Pilots will need to fill out and complete a contestant registration form which will be available at the Stearman office throughout the week as well as at the briefing.

All maneuvers are to be conducted above 1500 ft. AGL. Altimeters shall be zeroed prior to take off. The contestant chooses five maneuvers to be performed and lists them on the entry form in the order they will be performed. Each maneuver is judged individually and does not be strung together air show style. Maneuvers strung together gain no extra points, so use the opportunity to do your best on each maneuver and gain back altitude when needed. Maneuvers linked together will be judged separately, e.g. a snap roll followed by a split-S is two maneuvers, so plan accordingly.

The aerobatic box diagram is attached. The approximate 1 mile by 1 mile with the floor being 1,500 feet and the top is 5,500 feet. Reference points will be discussed while viewing the attached map.

Maneuvers are judged on symmetry, accuracy, crispness, difficulty and overall presentation. A loop, for example, needs to be round, a hammer-head straight up and down, a slow roll shouldn't lose altitude; you get the idea. Plan your routine so the judges can clearly see each maneuver to accurately judge it. Difficulty is a critical factor, so a loop will not score as high as a four-point roll to the right. However, a perfectly performed loop *will* score better than a totally sloppy four-point roll to the right. Safety is always our main concern, so we ask pilots to recognize and remain within their personal difficulty and skill level limitations. Use of smoke, if installed, is highly encouraged.

We ask that all contestants wear a parachute. If you need to borrow, one let us know. If you have a coach ride with you during your performance, they need to be in compliance with FAR's as well.

The aerobatic contest has always been intended as a fun and safe amateur event. It is a way to demonstrate the wonderful handling of the Stearman and have a lot of fun. All contestants will be recognized at the Saturday night banquet along with awards for the top finishers, so please plan to attend.

As an amateur event, if you have ever held an ACE card in any aircraft, you may fly for exhibition only (not judged), or we highly encourage you to compete in the Masters Aerobatic contest. Additionally, if you'd like to fly in the contest and not be judged, please advise us at the briefing. You will not be in the running for trophies, however your aerobatic maneuvers will be enjoyed by all. Again, please remember this contest is for fun and to show off the Stearman, safety is our number one consideration!

OBTAIN REGISTRATION FORM AT STEARMAN FLY-IN OFFICE OR CONTEST BRIEFING

Masters Aerobatic Contest

During significant anniversary years of the Fly In, a Masters Aerobatic contest is usually held. This contest is intended to be for competitors who have previously won 1st place in the NSFI Aerobatic contest as well as for pilots who currently hold, or have ever held an ACE card for airshow performances. The Masters contest will take place at the

conclusion of the regular aerobatic contest and those wishing to participate should attend the full aerobatic contest briefing. A second briefing for the Masters contestants will follow the conclusion of the main briefing. The rules for the Masters contest are as follows:

Contestants have up to 4 minutes to complete their routine, however not all 4 minutes must be used. Maneuvers shall be strung together rather than performed individually, however one break in the routine is allowed to regain altitude if necessary. Maneuver difficulty and precision will be judged similarly to the regular contest, however showmanship, style, and flow will be given significant consideration. The floor of the aerobatic box is still 1500ft. AGL, regardless of what level ACE card is held by the contestant. Parachutes shall be worn by all contestants. Coaches are not permitted on board for the performances. Use of smoke, if installed, is highly encouraged.

The Masters Aerobatic contest has one award for First Place.

Again, even the Masters Aerobatic contest is intended to be a fun competition for more experienced Stearman pilots. Participants are reminded to recognize and respect their own skill levels and limitations and to keep safety as their main focus and top priority.

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