

# Watsonville anticipates 36th Fly-In

Fly-In

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**Spectators at the 1999 Watsonville Airshow and Fly-In got a close-up view of scores of classic and antique airplanes during the three-day event.**

Tarmo Hannula/  
Register-Pajaronian

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**WATSONVILLE** — When the San Martin-based "Wings of History" air museum announced last year that it would abandon its sponsorship of the West Coast Antique Fly-In and Air Show and relocate to Mountain View, three local organizations, including the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce, pooled their resources in an attempt to keep the show alive in Watsonville.

That attempt became a reality — and a successful one at that. The success of last year's Fly-In and Air Show merited it the chamber's "Event of the Year" award.

According to chamber President and CEO Bob Dwyer, the show lost much of its local flair and became a fundraiser for Wings of History when it was controlled by

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the museum. However, he adds, when the museum ceased its sponsorship, "the local community stepped in and took the event back over again. Now, it's a local Watsonville community event."

Plans for the 36th annual Watsonville Fly-in and Air Show, scheduled for May 26-28, took off Thursday at a public meeting at the Watsonville Fire Department's Station II, and included sign-ups for volunteers to lend their expertise on a number of committees.

This year's show represents 36 years of performances by some of the world's finest aerobatic pilots and opportunities to view hundreds of classic aircraft.

"Last year's (organizational) group was new at (planning the event)," Dwyer says, "so this year we think we'll be able to iron out

the kinks from last year. We also anticipate a bigger show."

According to Don French, executive director of the Watsonville Municipal Airport, one of the many highlights of the upcoming show will be the spectacular Friday night fireworks and air show at dusk.

"We're going to add more emphasis to the Friday evening activities," Dwyer says, by making that night's event less of an in-house pilot show and more of a community-wide one. "We're going to invite the public."

Friday's events consist of a spaghetti feed and presentation of aerial aircraft fireworks, which will be ignited from the wingtips of the aircraft while it performs aerobatic maneuvers, Dwyer says.

"It's hard to find this sort of an event anywhere," he adds. "This is quite a unique show. It's a wonderful event for the whole family."

*Events will take place throughout Memorial Day weekend.*