Terrific Tannkosh! Geoff Jones witnessed a varied mix of classics take to the air in Germany

Close to 1,000 aircraft converged on Tannheim's grass runway for Germany's - and probably Europe's - largest fly-in on August 27-29, popularly known as 'Tannkosh' after Oshkosh, its larger US rival. Disappointing weather did nothing to quell the enthusiasm of pilots visiting the event from throughout Europe.

Both historic and modern aircraft were present in good numbers, with event organiser Verena Doldera and her team even securing a flypast from an Airbus A380. There was a significant Red Bull aviation presence, their Douglas DC-6B N999D a particular highlight on Friday. Another popular participant was Carlo Ferrari's 1959 Beech G.185 N45CF. An eclectic mix of classics included the Weiner Neustadt, Austria-based Polikarpov Po-2 OE-CPO flown by Hans Drobiltsch and Olthmar Hanpl.

Walter Klocker was displaying his Morane Saulnier MS.317 D-EZOR, and Neumünster-based, 1937-built Stinson Reliant NCI8442 in Gullwing Airlines colours was a Tannkosh first. Five Pilatus P.3s led by Marco Guscio provided some excellent formation aerobatics.

Stinson Reliant NCI8442 departing for Neumünster.

Polikarpov Po-2 OE-CPO's five-cylinder, 125hp (93kW) Shvetsov rattling into life. ALL GEOFF JONES

For the predominantly German crowd, hearts raced when Klaus Plasa arrived overhead in the EADS Heritage Flight's Messerschmitt BF 109G-4 D-FWME (formerly on the UK register as G-AWHG). With its next show already confirmed for August 2011, Tannkosh just gets better and better.

Little Friends

At the Battle of Britain Air Display in Guernsey on September 9, the four Extra 330s of the Blades aerobatic team performed a 'first', flying in formation with Kennet Aviation's Supermarine Seafire SK36 and Douglas AD-4N Skyraider G-RADIR. The Blades team is made up of former 'Red Arrows' pilots who now fly commercially from Sywell. ozorr jones

UK Dates

October
2-3 ROUGHAM, SUFFOLK - Ploughs to Propellors 1940s Weekend - 01359 270524 www.roughamairfield.org

3 OLD WARDEN, BEDS - Shuttleworth Autumn Air Display - 01767 627927 www.shuttleworth.org

10 DUXFORD, CAMBS - Autumn Air Show - 01223 835000 www.iwm.org.uk

Please note: All events are subject to operating conditions and can change venue, date or even be cancelled at short notice. Readers are strongly advised to contact venues wherever possible, or at least check on the airshow's website prior to departure to avoid a wasted journey.

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