

Midnight Sun Fly-In July 6-9

GETTING TO YELLOWKNIFE IS HALF THE FUN

BY HAL LOGSDON, *PRESIDENT NWT FLOATPLANE ASSOCIATION/COPA 108*



Canada's North is one of the most spectacular destinations to explore by airplane. Vast expanses of wilderness, 24 hours of summer daylight, a myriad of lakes and some of the friendliest folks around await the visiting pilot.

Since 1995, aviation enthusiasts in Yellowknife have held a bi-annual fly-in. Initially named the Midnight Sun Floatplane Fly-In, it has since been renamed the Midnight Sun Fly-In and organized to welcome all types of aircraft. Over the years, the fly-in has welcomed dozens of aircraft types, from Grumman amphib-

ians and a Travel Air biplane to a newly manufactured series 400 Twin Otter, from all over Canada and the USA.

Aviation has always been a part of the life blood of Yellowknife. The city was founded in 1934 when gold was first discovered. The town grew quickly, largely with the help of the floatplane, which provided the primary means of transportation for geologists and prospectors in their search for gold and other minerals. An airport was constructed in 1944. It wasn't until 1960 that a road connected Yellowknife with the rest of Canada. Aircraft remain essential to the Northwest



Territories, transporting people and supplies to remote mines and exploration sites and connecting many communities without road access to the South.

Our fly-in directors and volunteers include NWT Floatplane Association/COPA flight 108 members as well as other Yellowknifers interested in aviation. Everyone is currently hard at work planning the 2017 Midnight Sun Fly-In which will be held July 6-9. We plan to make it the best ever.

If you plan to fly your own aircraft to Yellowknife, the trip will be part of the fun. Many pilots choose to fly as a group in several airplanes. Whether you arrive on



wheels or floats, we'll help you get parked, registered and to your accommodation. Of course, you are welcome if you choose to come by a scheduled airline or by road. After your arrival you will meet other guests at a "meet and greet" and if you have been to a previous Midnight Sun Fly-in will no doubt see some old friends. Our guests often return year after year.

Over the weekend you can participate in numerous activities including a gala dinner and entertainment, a pancake breakfast, our memorial fly-past, and numerous sightseeing trips. Our July weather is warm and sunny and we have 24 hours of light.

The Midnight Sun Fly-In attracts lots of floatplanes but wheeled aircraft are welcome, too.

The main venue for the Midnight Sun Fly-In is the historic Wardair float base, where Max Ward started a small bush operation that grew into a national airline.

Keep an eye on our website <http://www.midnightsunflyin.com>. It contains details on the fly-in as well as other valuable information. As we finalize the 2017 events, we'll be posting them on the site. Come and join us in July. It will be a fly-in you will not forget. **CF**

B-17 EVENTS FUND COPA PROGRAM

REGINA FLIGHT GIVES \$1,000 TO FREEDOM TO FLY
BY RON WOOD



Saskatchewan COPA Director, Shane Armstrong was in Regina for the December COPA Flight 4 meeting. This was a great opportunity for Shane to update us on what's happening in COPA these days and new initiatives they are undertaking

Shane was also in Regina for the presentation of a \$1000 cheque from EAA Chapter 154 to the COPA the Freedom to Fly Fund.

After hosting a very successful B-17 tour stop this past summer the chapter was looking for a way to give back to the GA community and thank them for their support.

The Freedom to Fly Fund is a great way to do this as it helps protect the interests of all of us involved in aviation.

Regina would like to challenge aviators in other Canadian cities to match this donation. The Freedom to Fly Fund keeps proving its worth in defending our interests when nobody else will stand with us against those who think general aviation is nothing worth considering. **CF**