

## **Welcome to Alaska's Know Fly Zone!**

ANCHORAGE, AK-(March 23, 2010)-The Alaska State Aviation Tradeshow and Conference is coming up soon as vendors and aircraft owners line up for their spot on the floor of the FedEx hangar at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

Sponsored by the Alaska Airmen's Association this year's tradeshow will open the first weekend on May 1-2 which promises to offer every pilot and non-pilot something to see and buy.

"Last year we had 250 vendors and five of those grossed between \$50-100,000 in sales, so you can see Alaskans are spending money on aviation related items", said Dee Hanson, executive director of the Alaska Airmen's Association. "Things may have slowed down for the rest of the country but we are not seeing it here in Alaska."

With hundreds of vendors booths and numerous static displays the show which is free to the general public attracts over 21,000 people to its two-day show. The tradeshow offers static displays of popular Alaskan aircraft such as various models of the Piper Super Cub and others. Other popular vendors offer add-ons like tundra tires, skis, floats, and all the modifications possible for Bush flying in the north.

Additionally other aircraft manufacturers like Aviat, Beechcraft, Cessna, Pilatus to name a few are regular aircraft static displays. The show also features military aircraft used in Alaska by the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Force, the Alaska Air National Guard and FedEx and UPS aircraft open for public viewing.

To support the Begich Build-A-Plane project this year students from Begich Middle School will learn rib-stitching and how to use Ceconite fabric from Consolidated Aircraft Coatings in booths set up next to each other on the trade show floor.

The 2010 Trade Show is supported by FedEx, UPS, Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, and a host of other sponsors. This year the trade show will offer wi-fi Internet provided by Clearwire for exhibitors and participants at the show.

The highlight of the weekend is the raffle of a Piper Super Cub rebuilt by Dan's Aircraft repair on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Cub valued at \$240,000 will be raffled at 4:45 p.m.

"This aircraft comes with Alaskan Bushwheels, Landis skis, Aerocet floats and lots of other modifications," said Hanson. "Tickets are selling really well so those of you who want to get your tickets need to do so soon before we run out."

Hanson said that 7,500 tickets will be printed with single ticket prices of \$50 or a special five tickets for \$225.

“Some people are reluctant to buy tickets because they are afraid of the winner’s tax on the airplane,” said Hanson. “But shoot, all you have to do is sell the floats, or skis, or get a loan from the bank to pay the tax.”

Now in its 13th season, this is Alaska’s premier, must-see aviation event with attendance for pilots and aviation enthusiasts.

Alaska is the “flyingest” state in the union with more pilots and aircraft per capita than anywhere in the world. The Alaska Airmen’s Association Trade Show and Convention is the largest and best known aviation trade show in Alaska.

For more information on the trade show and raffle visit, [www.alaskaairmen.org](http://www.alaskaairmen.org).