

4. - 6. September 2009

German Seaplane Day

Media Info

25. Mai 2009



What it is about...

Can you fly seaplanes in Germany? That was the usual question we got when we presented the idea of the first German Seaplane Day. Worldwide.

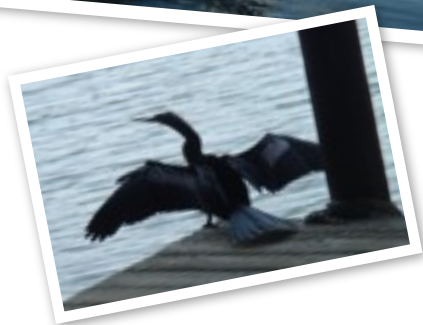
It is a valid question. Alas. In the world famous, technology driven Germany so far there is only one officially noted seaplane base, located in the very east close to the Polish border. (Sedlitzer See). At four other sites only designated planes are allowed to land and the pilots also need a license for motor boats (Sportbootführerschein). This is the situation as it has been since the past decades in this country, which once was famous for its seaplanes. Worldwide.

What difference shall the GSD make?

Yes, there were FlyIns, even in Germany, where the focus was to meet the few other seaplane pilots. The German Seaplane Day will meet higher demands: we also want to present seaplane flying to the general public and to conventional pilots. We want to light the spark of this wonderful way of lifting up into the sky. We want to show with videos, fotos and seminars what seaplane flying is about. We want to have a hands on real live presentation of seaplanes and their owners. Pilots from different countries in Europe and overseas will tell their unique stories and answer all of your questions. And maybe some of the visitors are then already hooked enough to take a short flight right away or at one of the nicely presented flight schools for their next birthday.

The schedule

Pilots will arrive on Friday and have an informal get-together Friday evening. There is room for discussion how the





seaplane situation in Germany can be improved in the future and to exchange tips with fellow combatants to get new seaplane landing areas registered. Saturday is the big day for the public and for conventional pilots flying into the airfield of Trier-Foehren.

We will show videos, fotos and seminars about seaplane flying. Different flight schools will present their location and what is so special about it. At the airfield there also will be amphibians to see and their pilots to answer all of your questions about the wonderful world of seaplane flying. Amhibians are seaplanes with an additional retractable gear for regular landings. Such the pilot always has to be aware of on which kind of runway he or she is going to land. And retract (!) the gear if it is a regular landing – on water.

Planes on straight floats can be seen on the site at river Mosel (Schleuse Trier). For visiting pilots arriving by conventional plane we will provide transportation to the river. Saturday night will be the big night in Bernkastel-Kues, a close by lovely town at river Mosel. Fireworks at the same time from the castle on top of the hill and from the river will illuminate the scene. An event you surely will remember for a very long time.

Sunday will be departing time for the seaplane participants.



History

Background information about the times, when even Germany was still a (known) seaplane nation you can find at links on our webpage: www.german-seaplane-day.com

And if, according to your opinion, there is too much about history and it really lacks the now and the future – then you understand why we put all our efforts into the making of the first German Seaplane Day. That is exactly the focus we want to set: To get seaplane flying to be a matter to the public as common as skiing or skydiving today.

What about the pictures here?

Besides the very first picture (of Norbert Klippel's plane D-EGOR) all pictures have been taken either



in the USA (Brown's Seaplane Base in Winter Haven, Florida, and Kermit Week's FlyIn) or at the biggest seaplane meeting worldwide outside the US, in Biscarrosse, South West France. Seaplanes and their pilots are magnets everywhere, to all audiences. No matter if they fly for a living or they are just walk-ins.

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Where does a journalist find the sound bites, the story, the protagonists?

When you are looking for THE story, for something untold so far, for exciting people with an unique background – that is the subject and the location.

There is at least one marvellous story that has never been told and written before behind every seaplane pilot. Reveal it and get famous yourself.

Facts

Despite the barely existing places to land seaplanes Germany has quite a bit seaplane rated pilots. The biggest flight school for that on river Mosel (Norbert Klippel) alone taught successfully more than 72 pilots in the past three years.

Those pilots just lack opportunities to go places with seaplanes in Germany.

So usually they just complete the required check flight once every two years and that's it. Or they travel to other countries within Europe or the USA or to Canada, where seaplane flying just is another way of regular transportation.



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