

RED BULL AIR RACES WON'T BE HELD IN 2012

When the Red Bull Air Races were canceled for the 2011 season, it was expected to be a one-year hiatus, but now officials are saying the races won't return until 2013. "There will be no races in 2012," spokeswoman Nadja Zele said. "A revamped concept and a fixed race calendar will be revealed in 2013. ... Currently a core team is working intensively to bring Red Bull Air Race back better than ever." The *Times of India* recently reported that race organizers have been conferring with officials in Mumbai about staging a race there for the 2013 season. The tragic accident at the Reno Air Races earlier this year has triggered speculation among many Red Bull Air Race fans about whether or not either event will ever return. But because the Red Bull and Reno races are so different, with completely different setups, there is no reason to believe what occurs at one event would have any bearing on the other. (Information adapted from Flying Magazine eNewsletter 11/15/11 and AVwebFLASH 11/24/11)



GARY WARD WILL FLY HIS MX TO ALASKA

Take a look at this schedule: Gary Ward 2012 Air Show Schedule:

Jan. 28-29: Panama
Feb. 4: Cozumel, MEX
Feb. 11: Iztapa, Guatemala
Mar. 17-18: Columbus, GA
Mar. 24-25: Punta Gorda, FL
Mar. 27-31: Sun-N-Fun, Lakeland, FL
May 12: Atlanta (PDK)
May 19-20: Florence, SC
Jun. 9-10: Evansville, IN
Jul. 13-14: Pensacola Bch. FL
Jul. 21-22: Whitecourt, Alberta, CAN
Jul. 28-29: Anchorage, AK
Oct. 20: Dallas, GA
Oct. 21: Augusta, GA (Boshears)
Nov. 3-4: Puerto Vallarta, MEX
Several others are pending

FAA TO CHARGE COMPANIES FOR ONLINE CHARTS, NO ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS

The days of inexpensive navigation and chart apps for your mobile devices appear to be numbered now that the FAA announced that it will begin charging for downloads that were previously free starting April 5, 2012. The Aeronautical Navigational Products Directorate, which currently makes the latest charts and other navigational products available online for free, says it has to recover the costs associated with developing and hosting the products. That means charging fees to companies for those downloads and no longer allowing individuals access to them at all. As of April 5, only those with distribution contracts with Aeronav will be able to download the data. The most noticeable impact will likely be on the small but increasingly popular industry segment (like ForeFlight and WingX) that develops flight-related apps for iPads and other consumer electronics. It will also have an impact on Websites like RunwayFinder that use the data for their online products, some of which are currently available for free.

(Information adapted from Flying Magazine eNewsletter, AVwebFLASH, and EAA e-Hotline)



YARD DECORATION

(We purposely left this out of the December newsletter so as not to upset any children – or members – waiting for Santa Claus!)



ST. MICHAELS, MD – DECEMBER 13, 2011 – Santa’s packed holiday sleigh and eight reindeer crashed with a US Air Force/ St. Michaels (MD) Air National Guard Plane on Talbot Street in St. Michaels, Maryland. Or so it appears in a fun, holiday-themed display set up for more than two weeks now outside the pillars of River House near Oak Creek Bridge in Talbot County, Maryland. Santa is there, as is the Air Force pilot sitting next to a banged up Radio Flier wagon while an elf fishes a damaged tricycle caught in the plane’s tail mechanism. Even Dasher, Dancer and friends are at the “crash scene”, tethered together next to the fence they brought down.

It’s all in good fun. The display is capturing the imagination of local residents as a steady stream of passersby stop to capture the creative collision on their phones and digital cameras. Enjoy this offbeat display set up by a private St. Michaels resident who enjoys elaborate yard décor for several holidays each year. This particular scene is worth a drive – as long as you reassure young children that Santa is fine and will back on his appointed rounds in time for Christmas! Have a Merry Christmas!

FAA May Charge \$150 per Pilot for iPad App Data

The FAA's AeroNav division put forth a plan to charge end users — pilots — \$150 a year for the iPad App data. Currently the data is essentially free to developers and even end users. AeroNav said it has a \$5 million budget shortfall this year that it is trying to fill, and the \$150 per user fee was calculated based on 33,000 users, which one developer called a laughably low number. “It would have taken two phone calls to figure out the approximate number of users there actually were,” one app developer told us, “calling into question the quality of AeroNav’s preparations for the plan.” EAA is keeping a close eye on any FAA fees on digital aviation charts that could affect aviators. “EAA completely understands the economic impact such fees could impose on all recreational pilots,” said Randy Hansen, EAA government relations director. “We have been working in close partnership with AOPA and the FAA to understand all sides of this issue. We’ll keep all our members up to date as to in-depth details when the FAA proposal is formally presented to the public in a Federal Register notice, scheduled to be published in the first three months of 2012.” (Information adapted from Flying Magazine eNewsletter 12/15/11 and EAA e-Hotline 12/16/11)

