

Listen to the Thunder over Nampa

June 11, 2008

By: Dan Lea

NAMPA — Nose over tail, wing tip over wing tip, end over end ... gyrating through the sky, spinning, falling and diving.

Ten G's shifting from head to toe in a fraction of a second.
Thunder Over Nampa airshow

When: June 14-15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily (flying begins at noon)

Where: Nampa Municipal Airport, 116 Municipal Drive

Cost: \$5/pp suggested donation at the gate. Proceeds to benefit Idaho Meth Project

Attractions: Aerobatic pilots perform; Warhawk Air Museum open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; skydiving demonstrations; military and civilian airplane and helicopter displays; food vendors, children's activities.

Parking: Parking at the airport is limited. A park-and-ride service is offered both days from the Idaho Center parking lot.

Watch world class aerobatic pilots Greg Poe and Mike Wiscus perform their death-dying aerial maneuvers at this weekend's spectacular Thunder Over Nampa Airshow. Poe performs in his familiar Fagen MX-2 while Wiscus will fly a Pitts S1-11B.

Joining these aerial aces is Steve Appleton, chairman and CEO of Micron, flying a supersonic British Hawker Hunter fighter jet and local stunt pilots Bob Finer and Mark Peterson. Finer performs in his fabulous Pitts S-1T and Mark Peterson flies a P-51 Mustang.

Thunder Over Nampa returns Saturday and Sunday for two days of amazing aerial exploits — all to benefit the Idaho Meth Project. More than 10,000 spectators are expected to attend. Flying begins at noon each day.

A Boise native, Poe is a nationally-recognized aerobatic pilot. He's been featured on television's Modern Marvels and Ripley's Believe It or Not.

Poe has been selected for several nationally-televised airshow freestyle competitions, finishing second in the World Free Style Sport Flying Championships in 1999 and third in the World Aerobatic Federation contest in 2000.

Poe has been at the controls of everything from a Russian Mig-15 to a WWII B-17 Flying Fortress. He's flown the U.S. Air Force F-15, F-16 and F-18 fighters jets.

Other attractions include skydiving displays by the Boise Valley Skydivers and by Skydown Skydiving of Caldwell, radio-controlled planes, motorcycle stunts, along with military and civilian airplane and helicopter displays. The Idaho National Guard offers a variety of static displays and aircraft throughout the weekend

The Warhawk Air Museum is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days displaying an historic North American T-28 Trojan, and flying a P-40e Kittyhawk and P-40n Warhawk.

Food vendors and children's activities make this a perfect event to celebrate Father's Day weekend.

All proceeds from the 2008 Thunder Over Nampa help support the Idaho Meth Project's efforts to battle the state's No. 1 drug problem. The campaign's core message, "Not Even Once," is designed to heighten public awareness of the highly addictive nature of meth and aims to reduce first-time use. Idaho ranks fifth in the nation in meth use.

Thunder Over Nampa originated more than a decade ago as an effort to create a family-friendly event that highlights Nampa as a great place to live, work and visit, say organizers. Over the years it has gained a reputation as one of the premiere airshows in Idaho. This marks the second straight year the City of Nampa and the Nampa Municipal Airport are partnering with the Idaho Meth Project