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The Michigan Aviation Association, a not for profit educational organization, will once again be sponsoring the Michigan Air Tour. The primary purpose of the Michigan Air Tour is to help promote and advance aviation in Michigan by highlighting the economic benefit that general aviation and airports provide both to the state and to the communities they serve.

Each year a new route is planned and flown over the course of a weekend. At each stop along the Air Tour, which is attended by the public, community leaders and the media, a presentation is made highlighting the economic importance of each airport. In addition, the presentation describes all that the airport has to offer in the way of public services such as business and educational opportunities and assistance to the community in times of hardship as sometimes, during a national disaster, the only way into a community is by air.

This year is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Michigan Air Tour which was held in 1929 and began at what is now Oakland County International Airport. It may interest you to know that the first Michigan Air Tour was issued a sanctioning certificate signed by Orville Wright, who was the chairman of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale which is the world governing body for air sports and aeronautics and astronautics world records.

To mark this occasion, we will once again begin the tour at Oakland County International Airport which is also celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the United States' first certificated airport. The Michigan Air Tour 2009 will be held September 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> and will include stops at Charlotte, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Owosso, Big Rapids, Oscoda and Lansing.

On behalf of the Michigan Aviation Association and myself, I would like to extend to you a personal invitation to meet the Michigan Air Tour at Capital City Airport as we celebrate aviation in Michigan. If I can answer any questions you might have or provide any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at [leftseat@comcast.net](mailto:leftseat@comcast.net) or 586.552.8118. You can also learn more about both the MAA and the Michigan Air Tour at [www.miavaition.org](http://www.miavaition.org).

I hope to see you on the Air Tour!

Sincerely,

Philip Seizinger