



THE 2010 MICHIGAN AIR TOUR IS COMING

The Bridges & Lighthouses Tour

October 1-3, 2010

On this 2010 air tour, pilots and their guests will visit **ST. CLAIR COUNTY AIRPORT** at Port Huron, **TULIP CITY AIRPORT** at Holland, **CHERRY CAPITAL AIRPORT** at Traverse City, **CHEBOYGAN COUNTY AIRPORT**, **SANDERSON AIRPORT** at Sault Ste Marie, **JAMES CLEMENTS AIRPORT** at Bay City and **GROSSE ILE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**. These airports are vital components of our state's air transportation system, providing valuable links to the nation and the world.

Michigan air tours have been around since 1929, creating publicity and goodwill for the airports they visit. One aircraft of each type being flown in the state of Michigan in the late twenties was on that first air tour. Forty-two planes and 125 pilots and passengers began their journey at Pontiac and visited 25 communities throughout the state. The purpose was to promote commercial aviation and airport construction.

In 1979, to commemorate the first Michigan Air Tour (MAT) and the 50th Anniversary of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission, 65 airplanes visited 66 airports. Three flights crisscrossed the Lower and Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This reenactment of the first Michigan air tour caused a resurgence of interest in the promotion of Michigan airports. A Michigan Air Tour has taken place every year since 1979.

It is customary for the Michigan Governor to issue a proclamation declaring the week of the air tour as Aviation Week in Michigan. A ceremony is held at each airport visited by air tour participants. At the ceremony a copy of the Governor's proclamation is presented to airport officials along with a plaque for them to display in their terminal. We encourage residents of the airport communities to attend this event and be part of the celebration. They will enjoy the opportunity to inspect the many types of aircraft and interact socially with the flight crews. Different models of aircraft including high-wing, low-wing, rag-wing, war birds, twin-engine and home-built will be on display.

The Michigan Air Tour is flown under FAA visual flight rules and is open to all pilots that are qualified under FAA regulations. This year the tour will begin at St. Clair County Airport on Friday morning, October 1 at 8:30 a.m. with registration and refreshments. The next stop will be Tulip City Airport where lunch will be served. Friday's afternoon flight will take the tour north along Lake Michigan to Cherry Capital Airport. The pilots and their friends will overnight in Traverse City where they will enjoy a tour of the Coast Guard Air Station and a fantastic dinner gala with line dancing. On Saturday morning we will fly to Cheboygan County Airport for a presentation and lunch, then on to Sault Ste Marie for an overnight stay. Sunday morning we launch for James Clements Airport. Following our presentation at Bay City, we will depart for Grosse Ile. There we will have a ceremony, enjoy lunch and bid farewell to our flying friends while looking forward to the next air tour.

More details can be obtained from our website: www.miaviation.org.