



**IN MEMORY OF OUR FOUNDER - DINO DI GIORGIO, SR.  
DECEMBER, 12-13<sup>TH</sup> 2008 - LOCATION: PORT ST. LUCIE, FL**

On December 15<sup>th</sup> 2008, the Sundancers R/C club located in a relatively small town of Port St. Lucie Florida was shaken at dawn with the roar of engines starting as the World Miniature Warbird Association (WMWA) opened the field to all Warbirds for a fun day of flying, fun, and a little bit of good ole camaraderie to say the least. As usual, I was looking forward to it! On my way in from Lexington Kentucky to West Palm Beach Florida, I wondered what kind of a turn out there would be this year. I mean, we have a great group of people and a great association, but with the past year and the economic strain on people, would there be much of a turn out? Would I get to see many of my old friends? Would the flight line be filled with awe-inspiring Warbirds just ready for a bite of action? Heck, would Dino remember to pick me up at the airport?

He did, and not a minute too soon. It was obvious that as soon as I got there, work needed to be done. Thursday morning greeted us with 80-degree temperatures and overcast skies. "This isn't bad" I thought to myself as we started to pack the truck. After all, it was 12 degrees in Kentucky! By the time we got to the field, the wind began to pick up, the temperature dropped and the rain started pouring down.



With the help of Sundancers R/C members Ron, Ken, Hector, Ray, Jack & Dino we were able to get the booths set up, tents up, and all the flags posted. I was ready to start the show come rain or shine! Still in the back of my mind, I kept wondering, "well, we built it.....but would they come"?

They came, and to our surprise Friday morning, they kept coming. Before long, I noticed the flight line full of planes even though it wasn't very warm and the



wind was blowing. I saw everything there from WWI Nieuport's fighting Fokker's to OV 10 Broncos strafing the runway. I even saw a jet or two tucked among the airplanes. And don't think we didn't have our fair share of WWII bird's ether! Among the pilots were several names we all know in the industry like Frank Tiano who brought a beautiful P-40 and

Skyraider along with Rich Uravitch who flew his famous Bronco! Spanky was on the microphone telling all about various areas of his expertise on aviation. He kept the crowd on their toes as he asked trivia questions for pilot prizes. To be honest, I think he made up some of the answers to the questions! However, it was all fun and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Speaking of prizes, in all of my years attending various meets, I've never seen so many pilot prizes! At the end of the show, we couldn't give away enough cool "stuff" from our list of sponsors! Pilots got prizes for answering Spanky's questions, having the correct raffle ticket, and showing up on the flight line to fly! You should always buy a raffle ticket. Mark Kusanic could attest to that! He with only two raffle tickets won the Hanger 9 B-25 followed by the Meister Scale P-47! Words escaped him, as he came up for the second time to claim his prize! Yes indeed, the event was simply awesome. As I looked across the flight line again, I smiled as I saw my friends and fellow modelers enjoying themselves, telling stories, slapping backs, laughing, shaking hands, and even giving good ole "man hugs"! As I saw this I couldn't help but think to myself, "I bet Dino Sr. is proud"!

Even with the wind, and weather; the air show was a great success. We all had a wonderful time enjoying each other, flying model Warbirds, and remembering the late Dino DiGiorgio founder of the WMWA. As the booth emptied of their prizes, the announcing speakers became quiet, and the flags were taken down, I knew this was something special and something I would remember. There is a unity that is shared among us who fly Warbirds and that unity could be felt the whole week. It seemed within a blink of an eye, I was boarding my flight to head back to Lexington as a wave of



emotions mainly depression sank in. "I'm leaving my friends, flying, and going back to the cold" I thought to myself as a crack of a smile could be felt, "oh, but there is always next time"!!!

- P.J. Ash  
lovetoflyguy