

PRESS RELEASE

14th annual New England Seaplane Safety Expo

June 14, 2014

9am-3pm

Naples, Maine

Brandy Pond SPB (5ME)

On June 14, 2014 the 14th annual New England Seaplane Safety Expo will be held at Brandy Pond Seaplane Base (5ME) in Naples Maine. This day-long event will feature multiple topics on seaplane safety with a review of state regulations pertaining to float flying in Maine and New England. Subjects include, but are not limited to; seaplane accident prevention, aquatic invasive species and seaplane fly-in destinations.

Accidents are still happening in the seaplane community affecting pilots of all experience levels. We will examine two seaplane accidents that happened in Maine and New Hampshire last year. One was an amphibious Cessna 206 that landed gear down on the water and another was a Cessna 185 involved in a low-light glassy water landing accident. We will have the rare opportunity to hear from both pilots who will give us their perspective on the contributing factors, as well as steps that could have prevented these unfortunate accidents.

Our pilot training does little to prepare us for exiting a submerged aircraft. Participants in past seminars have expressed an interest in learning more about available ditching courses. Survival Systems USA out of Groton CT has created an eight hour course composed of classroom and pool training in a cockpit simulator. A representative from their organization will provide an overview of their program and a seaplane egress course will be scheduled.

SPA's Executive Director Steve McCaughey will be in attendance and will bring us up to date on happenings in the Seaplane world. Steve attends 12 events nationwide a year and we are privileged to have him in attendance.

Maine is the most heavily forested state in the lower 48 and when combined with it's 5000 ponds and lakes it makes an attractive spot to operate a seaplane. State law dating back into the early 1800's, dictates that any pond over eight acres in size belongs to the state of Maine. Named the Great Ponds Act, this law is the cornerstone that protects a seaplane pilot's right to utilize a body of water. It is the seaplane community's responsibility to maintain a good safety record, practice good environmental stewardship and operate the seaplane responsibly when sharing the waterways with other user groups.

Paul Gregory from Maine's DEP Invasive Species Program will give us an overview of the State's continued efforts to keep our waters free of aquatic invaders. Currently only 1% of Maine waters are affected, but there is a real threat at our door. Sixty percent of the lakes in Connecticut and 34% of Massachusetts lakes are infected. This is a critical

reminder that it is unlawful to transport any plant matter on your floats and that all boats and aircraft operating on inland waters are required to display a "Milfoil Sticker" They are available online at Maine's IF & W Online store. <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/#>

Maine's ACE Academy includes a Floatplane Day during both the Bangor and Portland programs. A representative will be on hand to inform seminar attendees of this year's activities at the Maine ACE Academy www.maineacecamp.com. ACE Academy (formerly ACE Camp) operates two summer camps—a Portland day camp for 12 to 16 year olds, and week-long, overnight, co-ed camp for 13 to 17 year olds based in Bangor. The camps are designed for students who have a strong desire to learn about aviation and explore possible aeronautical careers.

Also keep in mind the SPA Scholarship Program awards twelve seaplane scholarships to aviation career minded individuals. Know someone who would make a good candidate? Direct them to SPA's website at www.seaplanes.org where scholarship criteria and applications are available.

There will be coffee and pastries to start the day provided by the Maine Aeronautics Association and Katahdin Wings the Maine chapter of the 99's will provide lunch from the grill at noon.

Naples Seaplane Service is once again the site of this exciting event. Owner Mary Build says there is dockside seaplane parking and a ramp with parking for the amphibians. Visit them on the web at www.naplesseaplane.com. Get ready for the floatplane season and don't miss this premier event!

This seminar qualifies for Wings credit through the FAA FFAST Safety Team. Register online at www.faasafety.gov

For further information contact Maine SPA Field Directors Steve Williams at swilliams@mecoseal.com or at 207-350- 2120 or Dave Latham at 207 446-6286..