

CARROLL SQUADRON “RELIVES HISTORY” AT THE “FLYING CIRCUS”

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On September 11, 2011, eight members of the Civil Air Patrol’s Carroll Composite Squadron (MER-MD-039), located in Westminster , MD , traveled to Bealeton , Virginia to experience the “Flying Circus” Air Show and Biplane Rides. For the past 30 years the Flying Circus has been performing old time barnstorming air shows with vintage aircraft.

The show opens with a parachute jumper carrying the American flag followed by comedy flying with examples of aerobatics and flying skills that thrills both the young and old. Later in the show a Wing-walker waves to the crowd while hanging from his ankles below the plane’s bottom wing! These are just a few examples of aerial show-man-ship, expertise and daring acrobatics for the cadets to see and enjoy.

Before the show began, one of the pilots, Joe Callen, introduced the Carroll cadets to all of the vintage aircraft used in the show. Joe described the engines, the planes wing construction and colorful history of each of the aircraft. The cadets were able to touch the wings and look over the instrumentation and ask questions as well as tour the hanger and the briefing room. Mr. Callen also discussed how this air show is planned, safety issues they must contend with and how the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) uses this particular show as a training ground for its air show inspectors.

As an added bonus, the DC Radio controlled Model Airplane Club did a demonstration prior to the show. The models were so detailed that from a distance you wondered if you were looking at the full sized aircraft and not the model!

The Air show was filled with many thrills and amusements with bi-plane formations, clowns skydiving from the planes, comedy flying and acrobatics, wing-walkers, hot air balloons and more. The cadets also enjoyed a leisurely lunch in their picnic area annexed to a Aerodome which boasts a snack bar and picnic area and small gift shop and hanger with relics from the Good ol’ days. Several of the cadets put together the old fashioned wood planes with the propeller turned by rubber bands and tried their hand at the “aerodynamics” of flight.

The attendees of this adventure were Rene DeLisle, Griffin Delisle, Joe Manning, Reese Zach, Ryan Zamecki, Kaitlin Smith, Ryan Smith and Owen McMann, with special thanks and appreciation to Mr. Rene DeLisle for arranging the trip.

This activity has become one of the popular trips for the Squadron and we hope to return next year to introduce other cadets, new and old to this flying history.