

Reading Air Show

By
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The first weekend of each June brings a mass influx of aircraft to Reading, Pennsylvania. The occasion is the annual Reading Air Service Maintenance and Operations Meeting. While it is not intended as an air show in the strict definition of the word, the heavy itinerant traffic and the demonstrations of the products of the aviation manufacturing industries give it just such a flavor.

Each year the latest in business aircraft appear to be lauded and, it is hoped, sold by their builders. The importance of this meet cannot be overemphasized. This year, over 5,700 aircraft operations were recorded by the overworked controllers in the control tower. To the aviation industry, however, the most significant indi-

cation of the importance of the air show was the fact Pan American flew their brand new Mystere Falcon Fan Jet in from Paris for the occasion. This marked the Falcon's first public appearance in the United States.

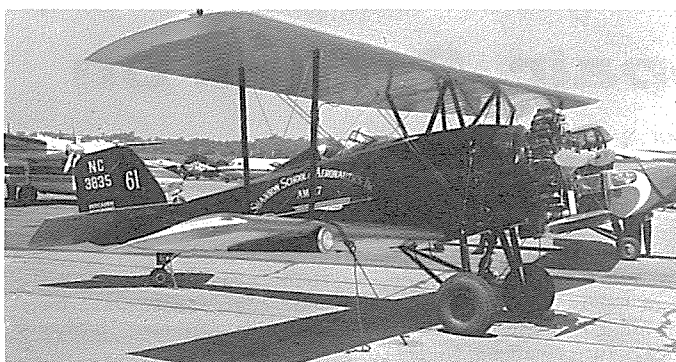
Although brand new types abound, ranging from the Riley Dove to Comanche conversions and from Lear Jet to Hawker-Siddley 125, to the historically minded aviation buff the stars of the show are the WW II conversions and the antiques. Among the latter, six of the most interesting examples are portrayed below as they appeared at Reading during recent years. It is one of the big features of the Reading Air Show that there is always ready access for photography or close study of the aircraft.



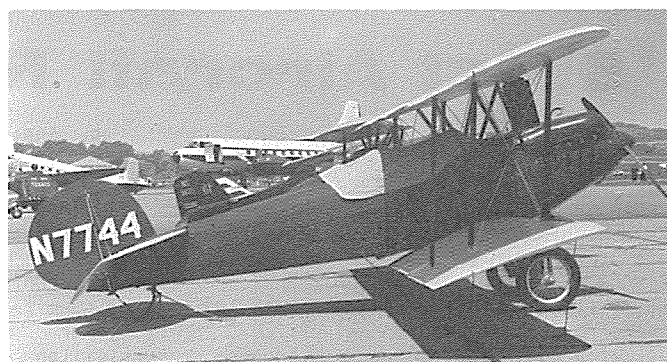
Monocoupe 70, N 6731, c/n 134. Black and red. 1963.



Beechcraft G-17S, N 80321, c/n B20. Maroon. 1963.



Pitcairn PA-5, NC 3835, c/n 9. Blue and yellow. 1962.



Kreider-Riesner KR-31C, N 7744, c/n 219. Red & White.



Spartan 7W, N 17617, c/n 16. Natural metal & red. 1961.



Ryan STA, N 18904, c/n 188. Natural metal. 1962.