

Seaplane *Splash-in*

HALLOWEEN SEAPLANE FLY-IN – TAVARES SEAPLANE BASE (FA1)

by Matt Elia

The City of Tavares, Florida, known as America's Seaplane City, will be hosting the annual MONSTER SPLASH Halloween-themed seaplane fly-in on Saturday, October 29th. The event venue, the Tavares Seaplane Base (FA1), is nestled in downtown Tavares, along the shore of beautiful Lake Dora!

Typically seaplanes begin arriving at the seaplane base at 9:00 am, with a pilot briefing held later in the morning followed by the competition contests around mid-day. Following the competitions is a brief awards ceremony for the victorious pilots and then the visit seaplane depart and the event wraps up around 3:00 pm.

Serious question: How often do you get to toss a pumpkin out of an airplane?

Well if you take part in the Monster Splash Fly-In contests you'll be able to do just that.



There are four flying events that make up the competition, with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in each event all receiving awards!

First up is the "Fastest Takeoff Challenge." As the name of the event describes, this is a challenge for the pilots to see who can get their seaplane off the water (safely) as quickly as possible. The event is a demonstration of effectiveness and efficiency as pilots accelerate up to the step then climb up into the sky. A judge armed with a stop watch monitors each takeoff as the Air Boss calls for the departures.

Next is the famous, "Smashing Pumpkin Drop!" Pilots will make three approaches to 200' and their bombardier will jettison a pumpkin, with the goal of coming the closest to the marker buoy! Teams will make three drop runs, with the best single scores determining the winner.

Following the Pumpkin drop is the "Spot Landing" event. Another pilot-favorite, this

A large advertisement for Searey aircraft. The background is a blue sky with a red and white seaplane flying. The plane has the registration number N122SR. The text is white and blue, and there are logos for Tavares and the USA.

Searey
EXPLORE NO LIMITS

- Factory-built, certificated amphibious Light Sport Aircraft
- 23-year proven history with over 500 flying worldwide
- Extraordinary flight and water-handling characteristics
- Safe, reliable, and best-in-category performance
- Discover why Searey is the world's most popular light sport amphibious airplane. Made with pride in Tavares, Florida

searey.com | 352.250.9185 | sales@seareyaircraft

TAVARES
America's Seaplane City



Seaplane *Splash-in*

event simply requires pilots to touch down as close to the aiming buoy as possible. A judge on the dock will spot each aircraft as the pilots aim to touchdown precisely between a set of aiming buoys.

The final event is another classic, the "Accuracy Landing" event. This approach and landing is a simulated "engine out" type approach where pilots must master the ability to manage their energy to touch down at the aiming point. This contest is all about energy management, testing the piloting skills of the competitors to the highest level of mastery.

The Monster Splash isn't just for pilots! Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy an incredible event on a cool fall day in central Florida! Local residents and visitors are welcome to stop by Wooton Park and watch the seaplanes come and go throughout the day, with the main event of the contests serving as the highlight of the day. Bleacher seating will be available or you can bring your own chair or blanket and grab a shady spot on the grassy



shoreline to watch the events from the park.

Visitors are also encouraged to attend the City of Tavares annual Boo Festival the evening before the fly-in. The Boo Festival takes over downtown Tavares and provides a unique and fun Halloween experience for visitors of all ages. The highlights are the trunk-or-treat, movie in the park, carnival games, hay rides and a variety of other activities for children! The Boo Festival will be Friday, October 28th from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Dining and lodging accommodations are located within walking distance for pilots and visitors

who would like to arrive on Friday for the Boo Festival and spend the evening to take part in the fly-in events the next morning.

Access to the aircraft apron will be available for visitors to meet the pilots and check out the unique seaplanes attracted to the event. Exciting, insightful and sound-effect filled commentary will be projected over a public address system to keep spectators informed as the events unfold.

The City of Tavares is roughly 45 minutes northwest of Orlando by car. The Tavares Seaplane Base offers free tie downs at the docks, on the apron and along the lakeshore. Both AvGas (100LL) and Recreation fuel (90 OCT) is available, Jet A is available with 24 hours' notice.

Competition space is limited, so sign up soon! For additional information on the MONSTER SPLASH or to register for the event, contact the event coordinator at (352) 742-6176 or email fly-in@tavares.org.



America's Seaplane City®

SEAPLANE BASE • FA1

TAVARES, FLORIDA - ONLY A 45-MIN DRIVE NW OF ORLANDO

World's Smallest Airport?

Maybe, but our size hasn't stopped over 10,000 seaplanes from visiting FA1 since opening our ramps 6 years ago.

Pilots fly in to stay, play & dine all in walking distance of the SPB. Come "Land & See" the downtown today to experience a true one of kind - America's Seaplane City®.



FLY-IN@TAVARES.ORG • VISIT WWW.TAVARES.ORG