

Sun N Fun 2014 Lakeland, FL

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We visited Sun N Fun 2014 on opening day, April 1, 2014. We wanted to see what was new for flight simulation and see what the manufacturers were doing.

The first booth we stopped at was AOPA. They had the AOPA Jay by RedBird flight simulators set up in their booth with different scenarios that you could fly. They are working with Flying Magazine, RedBird and others to provide flight scenarios and training programs for their simulator. Price is \$2,490 each.

<https://www.aopa.org/Products-and-Services/About-the-Jay.aspx>



Simple Single Screen unit or multi screen unit with current Garmin electronics installed

Using Lockheed Prepar3D Flight Sim

Cessna 172SP with traditional instruments and Garmin G1000

Mooney Bravo with traditional instruments and Garmin G1000

Piper Cub (tailwheel)

Maule M-7 260C (tailwheel)

Extra 300 (aerobatic)

Cessna Grand Caravan (turboprop)

Beechcraft Baron 58 with traditional instruments and Garmin G1000

Beechcraft King Air 350(twin turboprop)

Lockheed Constellation
"Connie"(four-engine, piston airliner)



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The new 182 by Redbird was on display at Sun n Fun right next door to the AOPA booth. We met with Todd Willinger, CEO of REDBIRD Flight Simulations, Inc. and discussed future plans and ideas for flight simulation. He is looking for ways to get more people interested in aviation.

We discussed our airline, VATSIM, our Flight Academy, etc. At present, they have a complete line of full motion simulators and also table top models. They are presently using the Lockheed Prepar3D Flight Sim and plan to add additional aircraft to their fleet. For more info on Redbird Flight Simulations, go to <http://www.redbirdflightsimulations.com/training-devices>

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Redbird put together a Flying Challenge Cup and announced it on Tuesday, April 1, at the Sun 'n Fun International Fly-In and Expo. Pilots and non-pilots were invited to try three flying-skills scenarios on Redbird simulators - precision landing, steep turns, and lazy eights - honing their abilities and possibly winning a free trip to EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2014.

For more information go to:
<http://airventure.org/news/2014/140402-redbird-launches-flying-challenge-cup.html>

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There were a number of other simulator products and companies being displayed. Elite Simulator Solutions introduced their [ELITE Piston Helicopter Trainer Debut](#) at the show. They also displayed a number of their products and simulators. Goto: <https://www.flyelite.com/>.

Precision Flight Controls showed their [CRX ProMotion AATD](#) simulator and other sim products.

Saitek was there selling their yokes, joysticks, throttles, pedals, and radio stacks and said that there was a big surge in sales as FSX and Prepare3D pilots are growing. Pilots are using these systems for non-FAA approved currency training so that they can ace their BFR (biannual flight review). Also, retired commercial captains like to keep their skills current and find that using FSX or Prepare3D is an easy and inexpensive way to continue to enjoy flying their big iron. The Saitek booth was jammed both times we passed it on our rounds. It seemed that there was a lot of interest in their products by the gray haired attendees of Sun N Fun.

SkyVector introduced their new high def charts during the show. We have used their charts, etc for our flight academy programs. They have been very helpful in providing charts, airports, flight plans, etc...Did you know that they now show TFR's for sporting events/stadiums. Take a look at what they have to offer the Sim Pilot at <http://skyvector.com/>

Overall it appears that a number of companies are trying to get more people interested in aviation through the use of flight simulation. We found that most of the companies support FS9 and FSX, but the newer simulators appear to be moving toward the Lockheed Prepar3D Flight Sim platform. So, there are a number of ways to go to build your simulation platform.

Log into <http://www.sun-n-fun.org/FlyIn.aspx> to see what you missed. We are looking forward to seeing you at Sun N Fun Lakeland, FL April 21-26, 2015.