



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2017

**Contact:**

Ethan Huffman

(208) 716-4594

[ethan.huffman@gmail.com](mailto:ethan.huffman@gmail.com)

Kerry Hammon

Cell: (208) 821-6321

[khammon@idahofallsidaho.gov](mailto:khammon@idahofallsidaho.gov)

### Matt Younkin & Gene Soucy Performing at the Idaho Falls Air Show

**Idaho Falls, ID** – A father’s legacy performance and a major motion picture stunt pilot were added to this year’s Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show roster, July 22 and 23 at the Idaho Falls Regional Airport.

Russell Johnson, chairman of the Idaho Falls Air Show Board of Directors states, “We are less than a month away from the 2017 air show and we couldn’t be more excited to bring all the wonderful acts to Idaho Falls! Online ticket sales have already surpassed the 2010 air show numbers, and we have guests coming from as far away as Holland!”

Two more acts were added to the already impressive lineup to include Matt Younkin, a third generation pilot. He is the son of legendary airshow pilot Bobby Younkin, who is famous for his amazing aerobatic displays in the AT-6, Beech 18, Learjet 23, Samson, and most recently, the Super Decathlon. Bobby is considered one of the greatest airshow pilots of all time.

Younkin learned to fly at the age of 14 in a Piper J-3 Cub. On his sixteenth birthday, Matt soloed his grandfather’s 1928 Travel Air 4000 biplane. Matt is now proficient in over 80 types of airplanes ranging from the Piper Cub to the North American B-29. He is also a fully rated flight instructor and now has almost 4000 hours of total flying time.

During the Idaho Falls Air Show, he will perform an aerobatic display in the Beech 18 that his father Bobby perfected so many years ago. Many have described the performance as “the most graceful and beautiful performance the airshow industry has to offer.” The performance is almost a mirror image of the one his father Bobby pioneered and flew for over 15 years. This is truly a show-stopping act and has been a major highlight in every airshow it has participated in for years.

Bobby always said, “An airshow act must be unique and original to be successful. People come to airshows to see the impossible take place.” Matt is keeping with the Younkin Airshows tradition by performing unique aerobatics in precision aircraft and precision aerobatics in unique aircraft.

Gene Soucy is one of the most well-respected and proficient airshow pilots in American aviation. He is a former member of the record-setting Eagles Aerobatic Flight Team and has been a member of two World Champion U.S. Aerobatic Teams. Affectionately nicknamed, “Mr. Airshow,” he has won more awards than any other active airshow pilot. Innovation and versatility are Gene’s style.

Soucy began professional airshow flying in 1968, and since then he has appeared in every major airshow in North America. His 3000+ airshow performances have seen versatility with the wide range of airplanes he has flown. Perhaps his most outstanding performances came with his involvement on both the Red Devil and Eagle Aerobatic Teams, which he flew for an unprecedented twenty-five years!

In 1988, Soucy looked to be unique once again and began developing a new airshow airplane for his performances – the “Showcat.” By extensively modifying a Grumman Ag Cat, a bi-plane traditionally used for crop spraying, Gene emerged with a tremendous airplane built for the rigors of a wing-walking act and a “Fireflight” night performance, not to mention the most unbelievable solo act of smoke and noise ever to reach the skies.

He also worked as a stunt pilot on major motion pictures and television movies as a member of the Screen Actors Guild. Some of his projects include *Aces/Iron Eagles III* with Louis Gossett, Jr., and *The Pancho Barnes Story* starring Valerie Bertinelli. Furthermore, he and wing walker Teresa Stokes have been featured on the Discovery Channel’s *World of Wonder*, Real TV, Good Morning America, ESPN, and National Geographic Today. Even more than that, Gene is a captain for Northwest Airlines when he is not performing at airshows.

The 2017 Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show will be held at the Idaho Falls Regional Airport on Skyline Drive. The show will feature the U.S. Navy’s Blue Angels and the U.S. Air Force’s F-35 Heritage Flight Team accompanied by the P-51 Mustang. Other performers include [Brad Wursten](#), [Julie Clark & her SMOKIN’ MENTOR T-34 Aerobatic Team](#), and a local favorite Driggs’ [Mig Fury Fighters](#).

Ticket prices from June 1-July 21 are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. Tickets will be available at the gate for \$30 for adults and \$15 for children. Children (ages 5 & under) are free.

Tickets are available [online](#). Tickets can also be purchased with cash or credit card at all Westmark Credit Union locations. Pricing for tickets purchased at Westmark will be identical to the prices available online. After operating costs, proceeds from the air show will be donated to local non-profit organizations.

Each ticket is good for one day, either July 22 or July 23, but not both days. Gates open at 9 a.m. on both days. Static displays, vendors and merchandizing will be available throughout the day. The show concludes around 4:30 p.m. To ensure everyone can view the performance, the air show will be an open-seating environment.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PERFORMERS

[Extreme Blue Thunder Air Show Website](#). Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

[Mig Fury Fighters](#) / [Photos](#)

[Julie Clark & SMOKIN’ MENTOR T-34 AerobaticTeam](#)

[Brad Wursten/“Elevate Your Life”](#)

[U.S. Navy Blue Angels](#)

F-35 Heritage Flight: [B-Roll](#) / [F-35A Factsheet](#)

The show is sponsored by: Westmark Credit Union, Fluor Idaho LLC, DocuTech, Idaho Falls Regional Airport, Watkins Distributing, Citizens Community Bank, Hartwell Corporation, EMI Services, Pepsi, Wackerli Subaru, Nadler Law Office, C-A-L Ranch Stores, Riverbend Communications, Cableone, American Fabrication, Conrad & Bischoff, Key Bank, AeroMark, Zions Bank, Queen Bee Air Specialties Inc., Les Schwab Tire Center, Eagle Rock Indian Motorcycle, North Wind, Sandhill Media Group, Rich Broadcasting, NPG of Idaho/Local News 8, Idaho Falls Magazine, IE Productions, Post Register, TEC Distributing of Idaho, Apple Athletic Club, Action Motor Sports, LeRitz Hotel & Suites, and Keefer's Island Restaurant and Catering.

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