



# Germany's Big Show

Picture Special By Geoff Jones

With the Bavarian Alps visible away to the south and onion-domed church towers dotting the surrounding Swabian countryside, the small town of Tannheim has become synonymous with European sport flying's biggest annual fly-in. This is all thanks to one family and in particular one family member: Verena Dolderer and her superb grass airfield.

2011's Tannkosh (think Tannheim plus Oshkosh) was the largest and most successful yet. The British used to do prestigious fly-ins, the PFA's Cranfield event attracting flyers from all over Europe. Now the tide has turned and

Germany has taken up the crown. Over 1,000 aircraft flew in this year, making Tannkosh the biggest pilots' event outside the USA.

With Verena's brother Matthias as event organiser, it is not surprising that a varied selection of aerobatic types was present, many of them performing during the designated air display slots. Matthias is a Red Bull display pilot, and he brought along the beverage company's superb Vought Corsair, accompanied by their Bede BD-5J and Bölkow Bö 105 helicopter. Tannkosh is *the* pilots' party, and being a German do, the drinking of

beer is an important part of the Friday and Saturday night events.

Even the sun obliged for arrivals on Thursday and Friday, although a 20°C drop in temperature and rain over the weekend had the campers shivering.

Around twenty aircraft and pilots made it from the UK despite persistent poor weather to the north-west, the trio of Ikarus C.42s from the Cheshire area deserving a special mention.

The Dolderas and their team organised a superb event, lightly controlled and pilot-friendly, a great advertisement for European general and sport aviation.





**Opposite:** the Airbus A380 company demonstrator followed the precedent set in 2010, when a Lufthansa A380 performed a fly-by (Photo: Frank Herzog)

**Top:** notable visitors included would-be earthrunder Bill Charney, who arrived in the Beech Staggerwing he is flying from New Zealand back to his native USA.

**Clockwise from below:** Ryan STA, one of a trio of vintage types operated by Mengen-based Antique Aero-flyers; a rare new aerobatic trainer in the form of the Votec MSW from Switzerland; host and organiser, Verena and Matthius Doldera; the Super Constellation Flyers Association Lockheed L1049 performed one fly-past en route from Basel to nearby Memmingen, and came back to do another later in the day; and the weird and rather wonderful ATOS-VX Silent, developed from a flexwing paraglider and featuring a low-drag 'cockpit' pod, electric pusher motor and retractable undercarriage.

