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Updated: 11:49 AM Dec 5, 2010

Planes Provide Sky High View of Marshfield's Holiday Lights

A group in Marshfield is offering airplane tours over Marshfield's Rotary Winter Wonderland in Wildwood Park.

Posted: 8:50 AM Dec 5, 2010
Reporter: Phil Levin
Email Address: phil.levin@wsaw.com

Holiday Light Flights

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Folks from all over the state are flocking to Marshfield to get a what staff call Santa's view of the Christmas lights. Font Size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

At Marshfield Municipal Airport, Duffy's Aircraft offers Light Flight tours over the Rotary Winter Wonderland in Wildwood Park, just a few blocks from the end of the runway.

Looking at 700,000 lights from the ground is just a walk in the park. Viewing them from the sky is something completely different.

Marshfield's Rotary began making its Winter Wonderland in 2006. Jeff Gaier, a local pilot, decided to share his view.

"The very first year we did it I actually had a five page waiting list," said Gaier. "I had two airplanes running and I couldn't keep up with the demand."

Gaier says crowds the last few years have not been as overwhelming. Nontetheless, Tammy Loberg tried to get her family on a light flight last year but they were completely booked. This year she made an appointment early.

"We've walked through two years in a row and we drove through the year before," said Loberg. "This year we thought we'd see it from the sky."

Veteran pilot Dave Wells has given hundreds of the tours, but that's nothing compared to the memories he gives to families.

"They're cool lights!" shouts Tammy's son Dayne as he stares transfixed on the park's lights and other local landmarks out the plane's window. "The cars way down there they are so tiny, they look so tiny that they look like toy cars."

Wells says the flights usually last about 15 minutes. That is enough time to loop over the park and get a look at downtown Marshfield's Central Avenue.

"Last year I flew I believe it was 790 people," said Wells. "At three at a time that takes quite a few flights. I enjoy it, everybody's unique and I like taking everybody who wants to go. Especially the kids, I love taking the kids."

The group says they don't make a profit from the rides. They just try to cover their fuel costs and spread a little holiday spirit.

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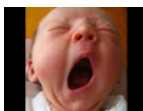
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