

So, I don't know a lot about planes . . .



I don't claim to know a lot, but I do know this . . . men like their toys! Profound statement? Nah . . .

So, it seems like it doesn't matter whether it's cars, motorcycles, guitars, guns or airplanes . . . yes, I said airplanes! It's no different. You have the classics, the customs, the vintage and the ones you stand back and wonder if it even works.

We spent Saturday mornin' at the Will Rogers/Wiley Post Fly-In at the Will Rogers Birthplace Ranch out in Oologah, Oklahoma.

First let me tell you a little bit about Will Rogers. Besides havin' "Never meeting a man he didn't like," he was born in November of 1879 to a prominent Cherokee Nation family in Indian Territory, now part of Oklahoma. He liked to say that his family "didn't come over on the Mayflower but they met the boat." He is known as an American cowboy, actor, humorist, syndicated columnist and avid aviation advocate.

In 1935, Rogers and friend Wiley Post, were both killed in Barrow, Alaska when the small plane, piloted by Post, crashed.



Each year, the Will Rogers Memorial Museum hosts a Fly-In featurin' vintage aircraft, World War II trainers, experimentals, bi-planes, as well as some antique and classic cars from the local Model A and Model T clubs . . . Oh, and a few Cushman's. Yeah, I said Cushman's . . . awesome lookin' Cushman's!



Also there were tours of the home where Rogers was born, Cherokee storytelling and the usual concession and music.

So, I don't know a lot about planes . . . actually, I don't know anything about planes, 'cept I want the one I'm in... to work!

This was so cool. These little planes are landin' on a grass field, just yards from where we're standin' and they taxi right past and park. This is like standin' on the edge of the drag strip or bein' in the pits! This is some really awesome stuff.

Well, to say these 'Fly-Guys' are 'Gear-Heads' with wings is an understatement. You can see them, out there sittin' next to their plane, tellin' ya all about it, comparin' with the other 'Fly-Guys', oh, and some even have displays . . . it's a flyin' car show!

There were 3 or 9 Cessnas, some Pipers, and a couple of other planes you'd expect to see at your local Municipal Airport and then there was everythin' else!

You have the guys that are all about



makin' it perfect and just like it was new. 'The Classics,' those who want to make it eye catchin'. 'The Customs,' there were the retro planes, kinda like 'The Greasers' and then when I looked at some of the experimentals . . . I could only think 'Rat . . . Plane?' Yes, Rat-Plane! (I'll take credit for that term!)



I really liked the Greaser Planes with the Retro WWII paint and the pin-up girl graphics. Maybe that's because I like that same period car or that I like the artwork.

And then there were the experimentals, which we discovered is an aviation term for home built. These things are built in garages and barns and are somewhere between cutting edge and scary as all get out! I mean open cockpits or NO cockpits at all! Just a chair bolted to a few pipes and foot pedals.



Well, I had fun and I learned a few things, like . . . well, I'm just gonna say, I LOVE Southwest Airlines!