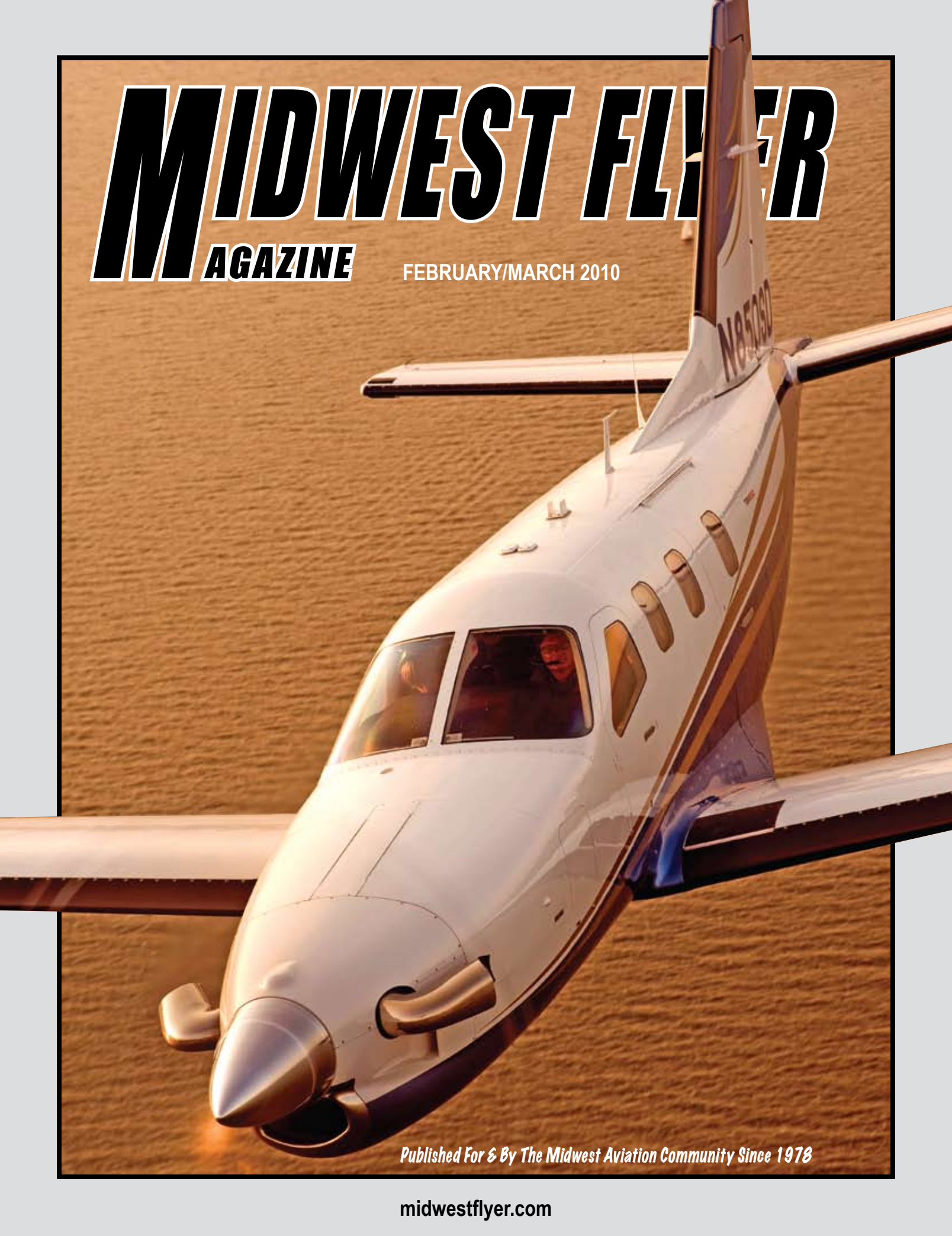


# MIDWEST FLYER

**MAGAZINE**

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010



*Published For & By The Midwest Aviation Community Since 1978*

[midwestflyer.com](http://midwestflyer.com)

# Joe Dooley... He Got It Right!

by Dave Weiman

Air show performer, Joseph Patrick Dooley, 56, of Hutchinson, Minn., known throughout the country as the “Flying Irishman,” took his final bow Christmas Day, December 25, 2009, after a 20-month battle with cancer. Dooley flew a Red S1S Pitts Special, an economical aircraft that enabled him to provide exceptional aerial entertainment at reasonable rates.

At a time when many small towns gave up trying to fund and organize air shows, Dooley and his wife, Cheryl, made a name for themselves by helping these communities overcome the many hurdles of putting on a small town air show. Dooley found a niche, and became a tremendous advocate for small town shows. He was always doing anything he could to help produce the show, from coordinating safety on the field, to obtaining FAA waivers, and even solicited sponsors.

Dooley obtained his pilot certificate in 1977, but quickly grew bored with normal flying and taught himself to fly aerobatics by reading everything available and practicing endlessly.

Dooley started performing in air shows in 1990, and it quickly became apparent to him that there were a small number of air shows around the country, compared with the number of performers seeking work. So he started looking for communities where no one was doing a show, and helped establish one. Once a show was established, they would hire Dooley back year after year, for his showmanship as a performer, and for always giving more back to the community than he ever took in fees.

“What I found was an untouched market – small communities with populations of less than 5,000 people,” said Dooley in a 1990 interview with *Midwest Flyer*



*Magazine.*

“When I contacted managers of these small town airports, I found enthusiasm high, but knowledge on how to put on an air show, low.”

So, to make the airport managers’ jobs easier, Dooley took on the responsibility of getting all of the paperwork together for the FAA waiver.

“This seems to be the most intimidating task for these managers, and allows them to concentrate on contacting the local business community and civic organizations to raise money and promote the air show,” said Dooley.

“After doing a few of the small shows, we realized that most communities do not have the best sound systems and were lacking capable announcers,” said Dooley, so he took care of getting sound and an announcer, as well.

It doesn’t take a lot of money to

put on a good one, two or three-act air show, noted Dooley, and most civic organizations are looking for projects to enhance their communities. Most of these shows have terrific attendance, because it’s a big event for a small community.

Another untouched market Dooley found was “county fairs.” Back in the 1950s, many of the barnstormers performed air shows at county fairs around the country, and Dooley helped bring air shows back to rural America.

“I found the reception by the county fair boards to be very positive,” said Dooley. “Bring an unusual event, such as an air show to a county fair, brings larger attendance, and increased revenue.”

Prior to and during the infancy of his air show career, Joe Dooley was a carpenter, and he and his wife own a successful real estate business. So together, they put their business

experience together to build the air show entertainment industry.

During the 17 years he spent on the air show circuit, Dooley flew 500 performances at 260 locations. Of course the pinnacle of any air show performer's career is to perform at the world's largest air show, EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wis. Dooley performed at Oshkosh in 1996, 1998, and 2000.

In recent years, Dooley focused his attention on flight training, and his first student was Jessica Miller, also of

Hutchinson, Minn., who recently completed landing at all 130 publicly-owned airports in Minnesota, becoming the first person to do this under the State of Minnesota's "Fly Minnesota Airports Passport Program." Miller is currently enrolled at St. Cloud State University majoring in professional pilot and aviation management.

Hundreds of people showed up for Joe Dooley's funeral – family, neighbors, his students, friends from the air show entertainment industry, people he built homes for, and people he built air shows for. □

## Air Show Air Boss, Jim Brady

POWERS LAKES, WIS. – James "Jim" Joseph Brady, 68, died January 9, at his home in Powers Lake, Wis. He was a well-known figure in the air show entertainment industry throughout North America, coordinating air show performances at air shows as an "air boss!" Among the shows he worked at in the Midwest was EAA AirVenture-Oshkosh for 33 years as a member of the air operations team, and as the air boss at the Eau Claire, and Manitowoc, Wisconsin air shows. He also produced air shows throughout the United States, and was once a member of the Westosha Flying Club, Westosha, Wis.

Brady was born July 26,



1941 in Chicago, Illinois. He married Madelyn "Maggie" Malinowski on November 26, 1964 in Chicago, where they lived before moving to Powers Lake in 1971.

Brady graduated from the Vandercook College of Music. He was manager of the Wilmot Mountain Snow Sports School for the past 14 years, and was active with the National Ski Patrol at Alpine Valley. Brady was also a member and past commander of the Powers Lake Yacht Club where he was an active sailor and race committee member.

Brady is survived by his wife "Maggie;" seven brothers and sisters; an uncle; and many nieces and nephews. □

**PROP SHOP**

NEW & USED PROPELLERS FOR SALE  
REPAIRS ★ EXCHANGES ★ OVERHAULS  
★ GOVERNOR EXCHANGES ★

**Maxwell Aircraft Service**  
Propeller Rating Class 1 & 2, Limited Accessory FAA Approved Station # UF2R211L  
CRYSTAL AIRPORT, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA  
CALL 1-800-964-4247 OR (763) 533-8611

New Design

One-Piece  
**HYDRAULIC DOORS**

Great Prices!

**SCHWEISS**  
THE DOOR LEADER

visit us at  
**bifold.com**

800-746-8273

...Lift Straps