



Lee Lauderback heading across the Atlantic in *Berlin Express*. (The Friedkin Group)

# IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR

THIS YEAR HAS HELD MANY HIGHLIGHTS FOR STALLION 51

BY KT BUDDE-JONES

As 2017 draws to a close, those of us at Stallion 51 are looking back on a superb year. First, it was Stallion 51's 30th year of operation — an amazing fact. Some three decades ago, many people were saying that Warbirds would be around for only a few years. Were they ever wrong!

The 30th anniversary was honored at the annual Sun N Fun airshow where Stallion 51's regular corral of Mustangs was supplemented by numerous other P-51s whose owners, many of whom are Stallion 51 graduates, gathered to display their aircraft with spectators and do a lot of flying.

Literally thousands of people have flown in Stallion 51's Mustangs — from those making a "dream of a lifetime flight" to the select group that have undergone the full Stallion 51 training program.

One program offered by Stallion 51 that has not received all that much publicity but is proving popular is the UAT Program. Utilizing an Aerovodochody L-39 *Albatros*, this program offers real-time/real-life advanced upset prevention and recovery training in the specially modified jet. The purpose is to familiarize pilots with the recognition and recovery from unusual attitudes and in-flight upsets. Pilots are trained to recognize and respond accurately and quickly in both VFR and IFR situations before the situation progresses into one from which they are unable to recover. Many airlines are looking into this type of program.

Lee Lauderback made aviation history during 2017 when he flew P-51B *Berlin Express* across the Atlantic to attend the Duxford airshow in England. The full account of this epic crossing may be found in November 2017 issue of *Air Classics*.

So, what does the future hold? Stallion 51 predicts that interest in discovering, restoring, and flying historic aircraft will just keep increasing. Also, interest in flying in the Mustang just seems to keep growing and growing, so if you would like to

schedule anything from an introductory P-51 flight to a full Stallion 51 training course, then please get in touch with us at 407-846-4400 or visit the website at [www.Stallion51.com](http://www.Stallion51.com). **MI**

*Crazy Horse* and two other TF-51Ds enjoy a Florida sunset. (Scott Slocum)

