

## **Wired brings groundbreaking Russian flight to the world through its Internet Mosaic service.**

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15 July 1994, San Francisco – In what promises to be one of the most outstanding adventures of the 20th century, a team of Americans and Russians today began a journey across northern Russia and Siberia on a month-long exploration of areas long forbidden to Westerners – and *Wired* will fly right along, bringing daily bulletins from the flight to the world on its *HotWired* Internet service.

In a 30-day "Friendship Flight," two 12-person, Russian bi-planes will barnstorm around the periphery of Russia, visiting the Arctic Circle, Siberia, then south along the border of China and Mongolia.

People can access the daily chronicles of the journey posted each day on *Wired's* World Wide Web site on the Internet (<http://www.wired.com>) and through America Online (Keyword: *Wired*). Along the way, the crew will visit early-warning radar installations, fly over secret missile sites, and meet native Siberians who have little or no contact with Westerners.

"This expedition will bring people from Russian and America together," said Shane Lundgren, expedition leader and pilot. "We hope to build lasting bridges of trust as well as opportunity for progress among people in both countries."

Sponsors of the expedition include the Institute for the Study of Material Culture, and the State Research Institute for Nature Conservation of the Arctic and North, both based in St. Petersburg. InCA films of London – highly regarded in the world of scientific and aviation films – plans to make a documentary of the trip.

In addition, Ron Davies (aviation author and curator of the Smithsonian Air-Transport Museum) intends to write a book detailing the "Friendship Flight" route and compare it to the historic Arctic flights of Russian Polar Explorers.

In addition to the daily postings on *Wired's* Internet sites, the flight is receiving support from a number of sources. Donated equipment includes a global positioning system from Trimble Navigation, a satellite telephone from Magnavox, a DCS 420 digital camera from Kodak, an Apple Powerbook 540C to handle the communications and photo processing, and vodka from Absolut.

The London-based *Guardian* newspaper has also signed on to carry the daily reports in the UK.

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*Wired* is winner of  
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**UPDATE:** *Wired's* "Friendship Flight" Internet Sites have been visited by over 18,000 users during the past month!